

BREA NEWS

www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

Volume 15, Issue 2

March/April 2015

BREA Meetings

BREA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except for August), at 1 p.m. in one of the conference rooms in Bldg. 400 (except where noted).

All BREA members are invited to attend and participate.

Meeting Schedule

March 10, 2015

April 14, 2015

May 12, 2015

BREA Officers

President

Ken Mohring
kenwadingriver@gmail.com

Vice President

Liz Seubert
liz.and.ev@gmail.com

Secretary

Louise Hanson
hanson.louise@gmail.com

Treasurer

Steve Shapiro
shapiro@bnl.gov

* * *

Newsletter Editors

Mona S. Rowe
mrowe@bnl.gov
Anita Cohen
afcohen@optonline.net



Why is everyone staring at the old house? See story page 2.

From the President

by Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

I know everyone may not yet be “settled in” with the new insurance systems and especially with your individual Health Reimbursement Account (HRA). The Lab has reached out to those who have not yet signed up for an HRA. If you haven’t yet completed all the necessary documents to begin using your account – including setting up the procedures to receive payments from your account – you should seek help and complete the process. Call Acclaris Reimbursement Center at (866)479-8317 and choose option 2. It is your money. Claim it!

During recent BREA meetings, we heard from various retirees about their experiences with the change in medical benefits. Several have helped others sign up for medical insurance plans and for HRAs. A number of you reported that the quality of the agents varies widely.

Many people are still very confused as to how to set up an HRA and what documentation is needed to receive reimbursement. One person had his request for reimbursement denied. Some who are now insured through AARP’s UnitedHealthcare had to get a letter from AARP stating that the payment was for both spouses. Several have received reimbursement checks already, even though they had

(continued on page 3)

Retirees' Book Encourages "Ambling Around"

by Anita Cohen, afcohen@optonline.net

People familiar with the south-shore community of Brookhaven hamlet are aware of its two distinguishing characteristics – a long and fascinating history dating from its Indian beginnings as “the Fire Place” and an environment that entices you to explore.



In front of the Brookhaven Free Library, (from left) Marty Van Lith, Anita Cohen, John Deitz and Tom Williams proudly display the book they created: Ambling Around Brookhaven Hamlet.

– Photo reprinted with permission of The Long Island Advance.

Toward the mid-20th Century, when scientists began flocking to the new Brookhaven National Laboratory, many settled in Brookhaven hamlet. This new wave of residents was active and involved, intent on preserving the best of their community. In that tradition, three Lab retirees – John Deitz, Marty Van Lith and I – along with Tom Williams, son of one of the early BNLers, physicist and former Deputy Lab Director Clarke Williams, have published a book titled *Ambling Around Brookhaven Hamlet: Self-Guided Tours of Our Historic Hamlet and Its Hospitable Habitat*.

Deitz and Van Lith, co-founders of the Fire Place History Club, envisioned the book as a way to share three popular walking tours that Deitz had created and led a few years earlier. I volunteered to edit the compilation and began doing so late last September. By then,

Williams, a board member of the Post-Morrow Foundation, had heard about the project and suggested the book could include trails developed throughout the hamlet on land Post-Morrow owns.

Our original goal was to have the book ready for distribution by the beginning of spring, when cabin fever can be cured by taking walks without freezing. But after Van Lith learned that the project might benefit from a Suffolk County grant promoting tourism, Williams worked with Legislator Kate Browning to secure it. This made it possible to print all 80 pages in color, but the grant money had to be used before the end of the year.

Two always-available historical resources made it possible for me to meet the deadline despite the holiday crunch: Deitz's website of the Brookhaven-South Haven area – brookhavensouthaven.org – and my husband, Marty Van Lith, who is also the historian for the Brookhaven Village Association and maintains a trove of historic photos in digital form, perfect for the digital file I sent to an online printer on December 11.

InstantPublisher.com did not disappoint us: The book arrived shortly before the New Year, and we quickly made it available to the public, for free, at Post-Morrow Foundation headquarters and the Brookhaven Free Library.

Leading a walking tour of Brookhaven hamlet in 2007, John Deitz shared the history of the Brookhaven Town park the group gathered in and the nearby Memorial Triangle.



Health Benefits for Veterans from the VA

If you served in the active military, naval or air service and are separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for health-care benefits from the Veterans Administration (VA).

You can apply for VA health benefits by completing and submitting an application online. To get started, go to: <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits>.

Benefits for veterans include drugs, glasses, and hearing aids.

- George Oldham, oldgo2@aol.com

President's Message (cont'd from page 1)

requested direct transfer of the funds to a bank account. Again, people are receiving different information from different Acclaris agents (as was reported earlier about SelectQuote). For example, one person was told that she and her husband had to set up separate accounts. That's not true.

For those of you with drug coverage through Humana/Walmart, the recommended way to receive your medications is by mail order from Right Source. Shipments are prompt.

Another BREA member has reported that starting on January 1, 2015, New York State requires that all prescriptions be sent in electronically. They can no longer be mailed in by the patient.

Now that retirees are served by different medical insurance companies and various types of plans, it's not easy to monitor retiree experiences. But please feel free to contact me with your positive or negative experiences. Call me at (631)929-6744 or send an email. I will save and present (without identifying sources) all the information received. If you feel more comfortable, contact another BREA officer or someone who attends monthly meetings and can pass on your information.

You will find several notices in this newsletter about upcoming events. I note in particular our annual luncheon and a day trip to the Plum Island research facility. Both are "low key" retiree-friendly experiences. Consider joining us.

- Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

Ahoy, Mates! Watch Sailing Video

Enjoy a video of Eric Forsyth's latest sailing adventures on Tuesday, April 28, at noon in Berkner auditorium. The video captures Forsyth's exciting ten-month cruise in 2013/14 to reach Antarctica.



His original crew had family problems and dropped out. In order to make Antarctica in time for the southern summer, he was forced to undertake a 3,600-mile solo passage across the Atlantic. With new crew, Forsyth left the Falkland Islands bound for Antarctica but ran into very bad weather that almost sank the boat. Then came steering failure. Abandoning the voyage to Antarctica, they sailed over 4,000 miles to Cape Town for repairs. On the way home, Forsyth stopped at rarely visited volcanic Ascension Island.

Tour Plum Island

Steve Shapiro has arranged a tour of Plum Island on Thursday, May 21. Send in your reservation to Shapiro, shapiro@bnl.gov. Attendance is limited so act now.

BERA Activities

The Brookhaven Employees' Recreation Association (BERA) oversees the clubs at the Lab and assists in administering the overall program and the use of recreational facilities on site. BREA is a BERA club.

For a list of upcoming trips and events, go here: www.bnl.gov/bera/recreation/trips.asp. The current listing goes through November 2015.



Launch!

On January 17, 2015, an Atlas V rocket launched at about 8 p.m. from Cape Canaveral. This photo was taken from our patio on the Indian River in Port St. John, Florida. The Atlas V was used to put a Navy communication satellite into orbit. Kathy and I spend the winters here and have seen a number of launches. With the launch pads about 6-7 miles away over water, we see them all and get the shock wave and the noise.

- Nate Carter, encarter@optonline.net

In Memoriam

We deeply regret to inform you of the passing of the following retirees:

George Julian (“Jay”) Dienes, 96, December 4, 2014

Robin R. Gianopoulos, 85, September 29, 2014

Walter Kato, 90, November 29, 2014

Carl J. Klamut, 88, December 27, 2014

Henry P. Stemm, 85, February 3, 2014

Doris E. (“Dorry”) Tooker, 78, January 11, 2015

Albert Velasco, 85, December 25, 2014

More information about these passings will be posted on the BREA website – www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/ – along with others previously reported to BREA or on the listing formerly maintained by *The Bulletin*.

BREA accepts notices from family members as well as published death notices. Please send the name, date of death, the published obituary or a web link, and (optional) a photo for the website posting to Anita Cohen:

Email: afcohen@optonline.net

Snail mail: Use BREA’s return address below.

A Lunch Date

BREA’s annual luncheon will be held at the Bellport Country Club on Wednesday, June 10, 2015. Organized by Lillian Kouchinsky, the luncheon will include hors d’oeuvres, a salad, a choice of entrees (beef, chicken, fish, and vegetarian), dessert, and tea or coffee. *BREA News* will carry a registration form in the May/June newsletter. Sign up!

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA c/o BERA

Brookhaven National Laboratory

Bldg. 400

Upton, NY 11973

Phone: (631) 344-2873

E-mail: brea_bnl@aol.com

Web: www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/

