

BREA NEWS

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

Volume 15, Issue 4

July/August 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

July 14, 2015

September 8, 2015 (tentative)

October 13, 2015

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More photos inside

From the President

by Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

About a hundred members attended BREA's annual luncheon on June 10, 2015. As usual, it was really nice to see old friends and acquaintances, and meet some members I had not previously known. The luncheons are really a pleasant afternoon out, and we welcome more retirees to attend next year. If history is repeated, save the latter part of the second week of June 2016 for our next luncheon. We will set the exact date early so members can lock it in. In addition to the photos in this newsletter, a complete set of luncheon photos are on the [BREA website](#).

One of the best parts of this year's luncheon was the talk by Peter Bond, who recently retired. I've included highlights of his talk at the end of my message. Dr. Bond's insights and observations were both interesting and informative, and we all greatly appreciated his sharing his experiences.

Thank you to Lillian Kouchinsky, who arranged and ran the luncheon and also provided extra raffle items. Kathy Einfeldt and Elaine Zukowski sold raffle tickets, which was a big help.

BREA has a committee that meets to make recommendations about the use of our funds. After discussion among ourselves and with Christine Carter, the Lab's Recreation Supervisor, BREA decided to support the "Science Laser Light Spectacular," one of the special events associated with the July 19 Summer Sunday featuring the new light source at the Lab, NSLS-II. This satisfies the committee's interest in paying for a specific activity/program, preferably related to science and aimed at children. Also on that day, BREA members will greet visitors and

(continued on page 3)



BREA Luncheon June 10, 2015





President's Message (continued from page 1)

answer general questions about the Lab. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering for a few hours on July 19.

Some retirees have shared their medical care and prescription insurance experiences, and their input is very helpful. We will be providing information that may assist retirees as the annual insurance sign-up period approaches.

Highlights of Peter Bond's Talk, BREA Luncheon

Dr. Bond joined BNL in 1972, became chair of the Physics Department and later served as interim Laboratory Director. In addition, over the past 15 years he has been the "go to" person to solve management and organizational issues.

Peter began his retrospective talk by stating, "There's a tendency to look back and say things were always great in the old days. In fact, some things were great in the old days and some things weren't." He then made observations in three areas. I'll paraphrase some of what Peter had to say.

Non-science: Old buildings have come down and new buildings have come up — certainly a positive change. Environmental issues are handled much more responsibly than we used to. Over the years, there have been swings in the level of security. Bureaucracy has increased everywhere, at DOE and at Brookhaven, and indirect costs have grown. Safety is a major focus of Lab management now . . . I personally enjoyed reading the weekly Bulletin and regret its loss.

Science: Scientific facilities continue to be state of the art and one of the joys of working at Brookhaven . . .

(continued on page 4)

President's Message (continued from p. 3)

Every Democratic administration has had an emphasis on applied research and every Republican administration has had an emphasis on basic research, so the Lab has had to adapt. That's why it's extremely important to have major user research facilities to provide a stable base — currently RHIC and the new Light Source, which can be used for both basic and applied research. . . . As computers have become more prevalent, it seems to me that too many scientists spend their days staring at their screens and not getting out of their offices and interacting, except maybe by email. That's a significant loss . . . Brookhaven lectures were intended to let people know about work outside their own fields. Today, attendance at lectures is lower as scientists are so focused on their own specialties.

Lab atmosphere: The atmosphere at the Lab was academic-like and is now more corporate. For example, there is an increased emphasis on growth of funding over growth of scientific achievement. In some sense, we've gone too far in that direction, and I'd like to see us change the emphasis . . . The concept of "one Lab, one team" is wonderful. In 1997, it really was one Lab and one team because of outside attacks from politicians and activists. That feeling of teamwork has diminished, and it is important to work to restore it without the need for external pressures.

Peter concluded, "Despite my concerns, Brookhaven has been a great place to work, and I enjoy going in to take advantage of its multidisciplinary activities."

- Ken Mohring, kenwadingriver@gmail.com

In Memoriam

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

Harold A. Atkins, 88, May 1, 2015
 John J. Barry, 66, May 27, 2015
 Louis E. Repeta, 83, November 24, 2014
 Lawrence "Larry" Toler, 77, May 10, 2015

More information may be found at BREA's "In Memoriam" website: www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea

To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, send name, date of death, any published obituary or a web link, and (optional) a photo to Anita Cohen:

Email: afcohen@optonline.net

Snail mail: Use BREA's return address below.

Events Coming Up

Summer Sundays, July 12, 19, 26 and August 2: The Lab opens its doors to the public on these Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. BREA is sponsoring the "Science Laser Light Spectacular" on July 19. BREA volunteers will be on hand to talk to visitors.

Volunteers Needed for Science Camp, August 17-21: The local council of Boy Scouts has organized a Science Day Camp at Baiting Hollow on August 17-21, 2015. Volunteers are needed to help with science activities. Contact Cliff Locks at (631)338-2114 or clifflocks@yahoo.com. For information, go here: <http://goo.gl/euKWS7>.

Plum Island Tour, August 27, 2015: Steve Shapiro already has a full roster from the previous notice in BREA News, but he will put you on a waiting list if you are interested in taking the tour. Contact Steve at shapiro@bnl.gov.

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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