

BREA NEWS

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

Volume 17, Issue 5

September/October 2017

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

September 12, 2017

October 10, 2017

November 14, 2017

BREA Officers

President

Liz Seubert

liz.and.ev@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Kinsey

bobkin@optonline.net

Secretary

Arnold Moodenbaugh

moodenba@optonline.net

Treasurer

Steve Shapiro

shapiro@bnl.gov

* * *

Newsletter Editor

Mona S. Rowe

msrowe.hi@gmail.com



Elena and Ron Dobert sighted a blue-footed booby on their Galápagos adventure. See their travel report, starting on page 2.

From the President

by Liz Seubert, liz.and.ev@gmail.com

Greetings, everyone!

I am writing to you on August 16, the trees still full of summer, two weeks more of potential beach days ahead – yet fall looms in the ads for school supplies and one wonders whether the heat bill will be much larger than the cost of the air conditioning was. Especially if, like me, you only have one elderly air conditioner that barely cranks out coolth, so fans are the mainstay of the house.

That somewhat gloomy feeling is not helped when we read that Brookhaven Science Associates announced plans for a voluntary staff reduction program for up to 175 volunteers, with the possibility of involuntary separation to follow if not enough volunteers respond. Times seem to be getting harder.

(continued on page 3)

Our South American Adventure: The Galápagos Islands

November 4-14, 2016 – After a seven-hour flight from New York, we arrived in Quito, Ecuador, where we took two days enjoying the capital city and the surrounding Andes mountains. We spent a couple of hours at the equator, seeing the associated physics of standing equidistant from the North and South poles. Watching the iPhone GPS scroll to latitude 0° was interesting!

On day three, we set out for the Galápagos Islands, part of Ecuador. A two-hour flight from Quito took us to Baltra, smallest of the islands and home to the commercial airport and military activities. The islands are 500 nautical miles off



Elena and Ron Dobert at the equator



the east coast of Ecuador. The Galápagos archipelago consists of 18 major and three small islands spread over a large area in the Pacific Ocean. All of the islands are volcanic; some are lava fields, some dry and barren, and others green with vegetation in the rainy months.



In eight days, we did 550 miles and five of the islands. Our 286-foot ship had accommodations for 90, was very comfortable and had great dining. It was perfect for both inland-bay and open-ocean cruising.



Day-to-day activities were reviewed the evening before with a talk by the guides illustrated with video. The guides were well-informed and accompanied each group on every outing. Everyone had a choice as to the length of the hike and whether



(continued on next page)

you would snorkel or swim or spend longer times exploring in a small boat. At night the ship would travel to a new island, and we would wake to the sound of birds and the hustle of launching the four 20-foot pontoon boats carried on deck. Each day we would visit a new island, boarding an inflatable for morning and afternoon trips.

Many species of rare birds and lizards along with penguins and sea lions make their home here. The island of San Cristobal has 5,500 native Ecuadorians and hosts a museum, fishing ports and, of course, tourist knickknacks. A large population of giant tortoises lives at the remote far end of this island. You can also volunteer to help plant native trees and vegetation in the area.



If you enjoy sea and land birds, wildlife in a natural setting, Galápagos is a great trip!

– Elena and Ron Dobert, rondobert@aol.com



President's Message (continued)

To cheer myself up, I went to BNL on the web and looked at the science news. It's as exciting as always. Great discoveries are being made, new beamlines are being completed for more esoteric experiments at NSLS-II, and the site is humming with promising new ideas.

Just two examples: One team has successfully tested small-scale accelerators that can transport multiple beams at a wide range of energies through a single beam pipe. Why so important? This achievement could increase the versatility of both physics research and cancer treatment.

Also, early this year, at BNL's Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, physicists with the STAR experiment reported that the ultra-hot whirling fluid called quark-gluon plasma that results from colliding gold ions has an average "swirliness" – the physics term for this is vorticity – of about a billion trillion radians per second – incredibly more than any other known fluid. For example, the core of a supercell tornado swirls at only 0.1 radian per second. I had never heard of a radian, but I think it's great that the STAR team found out that the

quark-gluon radians are so much swirlier than any others! You never know what that can mean in the future.

To learn about the main headlines of BNL's science, in terms that you can fairly easily understand, go online to www.bnl.gov and search for "Brookhaven News." You can then pick out items that are most interesting to you. Even a five-minute glance is worth the effort. You realize that inspiring exploration and pioneering work are both very much alive at the Lab. And it's not fake news!

This year, 2017, Brookhaven is celebrating its 70th anniversary. For the occasion, *Newsday* published a special supplement available online, titled "Discovery at Your Doorstep." Be sure to read it!

We have a very interesting newsletter as usual, including recent info on a retiree's trip to the Galápagos Islands. Also, check out the BERA website to join in activities and learn about events.

Next time I write, I'll be moaning about raking leaves, so we should enjoy their greenness still glued to their branches while we can.

– Liz Seubert, liz.and.ev@gmail.com

Renew BREA Membership

Membership expires on December 31 of every year no matter when you paid your dues (which are requested by January 31 of the following year). To stay on BREA's mailing list, complete the form below and mail it to me along with your payment. Include your email address so BREA can send you timely information.

If you have questions or if your contact information has changed, send me an email at hellobylin@yahoo.com.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: _____ First name: _____ MI: _

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip+4: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership type:

annual (\$10) 5 years (\$40) Life (\$95)

Dues cover year(s) _____

Date: _____ Check amount: _____

MAKE CHECK OUT TO BREA

I want to receive BREA News by mail via the U.S. Post Office.

I want to receive BREA News by email only. Do not mail it to me via the U.S. Post Office.

Mail form and check to:

Beth Lin, BREA Membership Chair
81 Westchester Drive
Rocky Point, NY 11778

– Beth Lin, Membership Chair
hellobylin@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

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

Harvey McChesney, 98, July 8, 2017

Satoshi Ozaki, 88, July 22, 2017

More information may be found at BREA's website:

www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea

To post an obituary for a deceased BNL employee or retiree, send information by email to msrowe.hi@gmail.com or by snail mail to BREA's address in the panel below.

BERA's Here to Help Keep the Momentum Going!

BERA has great post-Labor Day events, programs and classes! Register today or call for a tour or more information: (631)344-5090 or (631)344-8481.

- *Fitness*: You don't have to be flexible, just willing to shake off the cobwebs! Yoga for all levels, Pilates, kick boxing, and aqua Zumba. You don't have to know how to swim or even get your hair wet!
- *Events*: Atlantic Antic, Brooklyn Street Fair, Army Football at West Point vs. Texas, The Cloisters/The Met, Bronx Zoo, and more
- *At the pool*: Adult swim lessons, swimming lessons for 4-year-olds, aqua fitness for seniors

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

BREA c/o BERA
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Bldg. 400
Upton, NY 11973

Phone: (631) 344-2873

E-mail: breabnl@aol.com

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

