

# EPO\*: NRAO's Community Connection

\*Education and Public Outreach

April 2005

## 2005: World Year of Physics

2005 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Albert Einstein's 'Miraculous Year' during which he wrote his legendary articles providing the basis of three fundamental fields in physics: the theory of relativity, quantum theory and the theory of Brownian motion. The purpose of 2005: World Year of Physics is to raise the worldwide public awareness for physics and inspire a new generation of scientists.



NRAO will be collaborating with White Sands Missile Range and Skeen library in presenting a variety of exhibits and tours to celebrate the World Year of Physics.

On Saturday, July 16, White Sands will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the explosion of the first atomic bomb at the Trinity Site. Activities will begin Friday night with an exhibition at the Skeen library of WWII code talker photographs from the National Atomic Museum and a lecture on the history of the Trinity Site. On Saturday, both Trinity and the VLA will be open for public tours. Saturday night NRAO will host a lecture on the history of the VLA (celebrating 25 years!).

Another collaborative event will take place the first weekend in October when Trinity and the VLA have their regular autumn open houses spiced up by the one-man, full-length play, "Einstein: A Stage Portrait," by Willard Simms, and starring Tom Schuch, sponsored by NMT's Performing Arts Series.

See [www.vla.nrao.edu](http://www.vla.nrao.edu) for more information!

## Public Tour Success

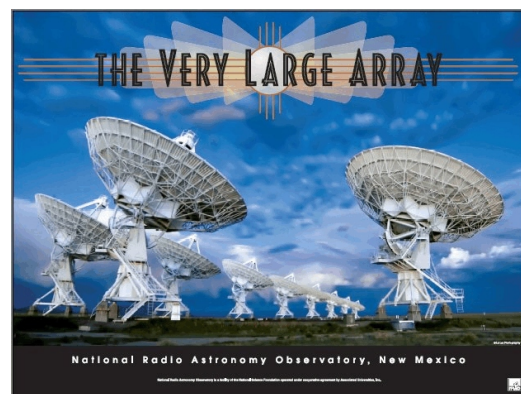
We had a record turnout for the spring tours held Saturday, April 2. 408 people attended ~100 more than usual! Thanks to Edward Boyce, Mike Revnell, Peggy Perley, Urvashi Rao Venkata, and Dave Finley for acting as tour guides.

## Looking for a Few Good Engineers and Scientists...

Wednesday, April 27, we will be hosting 10 Women In Science and Engineering students from UNM. We need 10 mentors from the AOC willing to spend from 10:30 to noon showing a student what scientists or engineers at NRAO do. If you're interested in this unique education opportunity, contact Robyn at 7243 or [rharriso@nrao.edu](mailto:rharriso@nrao.edu).

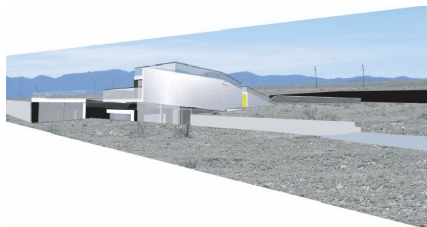
## New VLA Posters on Sale Now!

Thanks to the digital photography of Kelly Gatlin (La Luz Photography and former Pie Town site tech) and the graphic arts expertise of Bill Saxton (Green Bank), a new full color poster of the VLA is now on sale at the gift shop. The 18x24 poster sells for \$5.00 (\$4.50 to employees) and is printed on heavy cover stock. Call Prescilla at 7410 to purchase.



## New VLA Visitor Center in the Planning Stages

The VLA Visitor Center committee has been hard at work for the last several years putting together a



proposal for building a new Visitor Center. Last summer, with the help of the UNM School of Architecture, they came up with a design concept and hammered out a business and operations plan. The site for the new visitor center, tentatively, is south of the center of the Y, a bit to the northeast of the current ALMA prototype antennas. The cost is projected to be \$5.6 million.

The building is designed to take full advantage of the spectacular view of the antennas. This is a “concept” however, and “actual results may differ materially from the results predicted.”

Members of the committee include Mark Claussen, Dave Finley, Robyn Harrison, Frazer Owen, Lew Serna, Guy Stanzione and Greg Taylor,

## Summer Hours

Summer season for the gift shop will begin Monday, May 9, when the gift shop will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Summer students will be arriving in early June and the summer weekend tours are set to begin Saturday, June 18.

## EPO all hands

In early March, members of Education and Public Outreach from across NRAO met in Socorro to develop program plans for the next five years. Coordinating programs across the observatory is a more efficient use of resources and sharing ideas will strengthen future education and public outreach efforts.



Prescilla Mauldin, Dave Finley, Robyn Harrison, Sue Ann Heatherly-GB, Cara Rose-GB, Andrea Gianopoulos-CV, Mark Adams-CV, Bill Saxton-GB

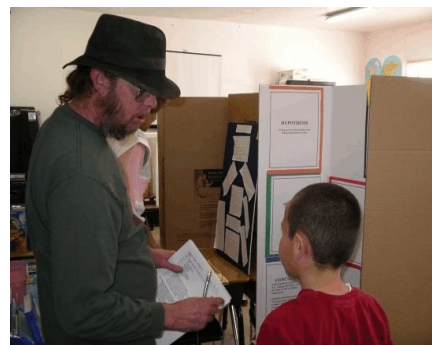
## 2005 Science Fairs

The State Science Fair this weekend at Tech will mark the end of the science fair season this year (whew!). NRAO supplied judges for the Socorro high school, middle school and Zimmerly elementary fairs, Magdalena middle school and high school, as well as the state fair

(and maybe others Robyn doesn't know about!)

Many thanks to all of those who

volunteered their time to make this year's science fairs a success!



Charlie Barham questions a student at Zimmerly Elementary.

**“The mission of the NRAO is to design, build, and operate large radio telescope facilities for use by the scientific community; to develop the electronics, software, and other technology systems that enable new astronomical science; to support the reduction, analysis, and dissemination of the results of observations made by the telescope users; to support the development of a society that is both scientifically and technically literate through educational programs and public outreach; and to support a program of staff scientific research that enables leadership and quality in all these areas.”**