

EPO*: NRAO's Community Connection

*Education and Public Outreach

November 2005

VLBA Site Techs Do Their Part for EPO

In an e-mail August 30, Bill Brundage told us of an interesting ham radio interaction...

“While tuning the 20 meter amateur band, I heard a loud signal from NP2I in St. Croix. Among the 20 or more hams calling him, he responded to my call. After the usual exchange of ham info, I asked Dave Wyatt, Christiansted, if he was aware of the radio telescope antenna at the east end of the island. He said he certainly was. In fact he often took visitors out to the VLBA site. Usually while standing at the gate gazing at the antenna, Greg and/or Peter would come out and describe the antenna, electronics and operation, and even give a quick tour. Dave went on and on about how great it was to receive such attention from the antenna techs and what great PR it was for the VLBA. At least 20 plus hams around the country heard all of this while waiting for their chance at a contact with the St. Croix ham.”

Thanks to ALL the site techs who take the time to talk to our tax-paying public!

World Year of Physics

On two recent occasions, NRAO collaborated with White Sands Missile Range (the Trinity Site), New Mexico Tech Performing Arts Series, and the Skeen Library to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Einstein's *annus mirabilis*. For our part, Jim Ulvestad spoke on the history of the Very Large Array at the Skeen Library on July 16, following a day of

public tours at the VLA. Mark Claussen, Dale Frail, Miller Goss and EPO staff served as tour guides and Larry Brothers and Steve Steele fielded questions in array operations.

On Saturday, October 1, following a Friday evening performance of *Einstein: A Stage Portrait*, the VLA was once again open for public tours. Thanks to tour guides Mark Claussen, Michael Johnson, Leonia Kogan, Mike Revnell, EPO staff, and array operator Steve Steele, everyone left with a greater appreciation of the science done at the VLA. Our next tours will be held Saturday, April 1, 2006.



Miller Goss speaks with visitors after a tour.

Visitor Center Numbers

These are our visitor numbers at the VLA in the past few months. Remember, it's a great place to bring visiting friends and relatives this holiday season....

	2005	2004
July	3316	3544
August	1953	2062
September	1350	1667
October	1906	2160

What are they up to?

So what is it they do in the EVLA front end shop? And those Servo Techs—what are they responsible for? You can learn about the EVLA front end group by reading the poster by the mailboxes while you're throwing away your junk mail. The Servo group is spotlighted in the new exhibit at the Visitor Center. Both can be found at the "What Does it Take to Keep the VLA Working" website, <http://www.vla.nrao.edu/genpub/work/>



Dave McKee repairs a receiver

Christmas Shopping Ideas from the VLA Gift Shop

The VLA Gift Shop has some new items that would be just right for Christmas. There are two new "one observatory" T-shirts in brown and natural; there are really cool blank books and 2006 appointment calendars with holographic solar system covers; our red or blue glow pens would be great stocking stuffers; we have several mugs to choose from, and even a shot glass! You can take a look at all of these in the AOC hallway display cases or first hand at the gift shop. You might even find something for yourself.

Employees get a 10% discount, but please tell the gift shop clerk you are an employee BEFORE she rings up the transaction.

New Shirts, Great Price, Limited Time...

Just in time for cooler weather, the VLA Gift Shop will be taking orders for denim work shirts for employees for the low price of \$22 per shirt. This is a one-time-only deal, so get your request in now! Prescilla will have the shirts available at the Gift Shop so you can try them on and choose a color (light or dark). There also will be a set in Dave Finley's office November 7-15 and in Theresa McBride's office at the AOC-west November 16-23. Order forms will be available there as well.

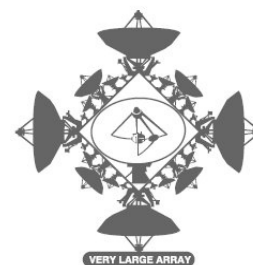
The NRAO logo will be embroidered in white above the pocket. The shirts are pre-shrunk 100% cotton, Jerzee brand, in sizes small, medium, large, X-large and XX-large. You can also see the shirts and print your own order form at:



<http://www.vla.nrao.edu/genpub/shop/workshirt.shtml>

We will place our order November 28 and expect to have them in before Christmas.

Our VLA Snowflake Ornament will be available soon....



Watch for details....