

## 2017-08-12 DSES Open House Event Report

**Location and Time:** The DSES open house and site outing was held from Friday August 11<sup>th</sup> about 2PM through Sunday Aug 13<sup>th</sup> at the Haswell, Co. Paul Plishner Radio Astronomy and Space Science Center. The public open house started Saturday morning and continued until rain out at about 9 PM with several new members taking shelter in the communication trailer with us until it cleared.



**Members attending were:** Gary Agranat, Dr. Richard Russel, Ed Corn, Dave Molter, Bill Miller, Ray Uberecken, Floyd Glick, and Myron Babcock. Four new members; Phil Coker, Skip Crilly, Doug Ducote and Jim Madson joined after coming out and seeing the 60 ft. dish and the rest of the Plishner site.

A number of hams from Colorado Springs V7 amateur radio group and others stopped in and several families from the local Eads and Haswell communities also attended.

**Food:** Myron brought all the food.

On Saturday Morning Dave Molter made breakfast burritos for all the encamped members.

Bill set up a coffee mess and kept everyone caffeinated throughout the weekend.

Myron, Dave and Ray's granddaughter, Megon set up the Saturday open house public picnic with hotdogs, chili, beans, potato salad, macaroni salad and condiments and there was plenty of food to go around.

### **Preparations:**

Ed Corn arrived early Friday and started a number of projects. Ed installed a toilet in the bunker, water pump timer switch, air compressor, bunker battery AC charger, cleaned out the ramp mud and did maintenance on the generator and kept everything running. Ed had a very



productive weekend. Bill came in about noon Friday and cleaned the bunker corridor and moved some junk out of the way. Bill set up his Itty Bitty Telescope and started working that. Members started flowing in with campers and motor homes Friday afternoon getting stuck in the wet clay soil in the Diane Uberecken Memorial Park near the dish. This was a good challenge but all personnel and vehicles survived.



Gary set up the ham station in the comm. trailer and started working contacts with digital modes.



Friday afternoon Dr. Rich Russel set up for his Armature Radio Astronomy Certification course and several of us started on that. We tried for the most part to stick to Dr. Russell's Event Schedule below but had some interference from the weather and technical challenges.

#### **8/11/17 Friday**

1200 – 1700 Prep team Arrives

1) Setup optical telescopes (Rich, Floyd, Bill)

2) Setup Meteor detector (Ray)

3) Setup Ham Radio Contacts (Gary)

1700 -1900 Dinner and Socializing

1900 – 2400 Observing

#### **8/12/17 Saturday**

0000-2400 Observing

0800-1000 Breakfast and socializing

1000 Solar observing training (Rich and Floyd)

1100 Itty Bitty Telescope

Training (Rich)





1200 Lunch  
 1300 SuperSid Training (Rich)  
 1400 Meteor Detection Training (Ray)  
 1500 Radio Jove Training (Rich)  
 1600 SpectraCyber Training (Rich)  
 1700 Total Power Receiver Training (Rich)  
 1800 Dinner  
 1900 Ham Radio Training (Gary)  
 2000 -2400 Optical Telescope and Meteor Watching with Guests

### 8/13/17 Sunday

0000-0800 Observing  
 0800-0900 Breakfast  
 0900 -1100 Cleanup and  
 Shutdown  
 1200 Close Down Site



### Tours, Presentations and Events:

On Friday night we had a presentation by Skip Crilly. Skip pictured here with Ed Corn, is from Hew Hampshire, and is a volunteer worker, engineer and mathematician, working with the SETI project at the National Radio Observatory in Greenbank, West Virginia. He took a road trip after meeting Dr. Russell at Greenbank and drove out to spend two days with us on site. He brought his receiver and Picoscope and attached them to the dish feed. After doing some manual and questionable alignment we may have seen a pulsar with his setup attached to the 60 ft. dish. This would be a first for our site. He also gave the presentation he will be doing at Berkley this week on strange numbers in triplet signals he has captured on the Greenback 10 meter dish. This was a real treat! Skip's trip and looking at our capabilities prompted him to propose a joint project with his Greenbank 10 meter dish where he would provide equipment that our site



would use to coordinate and confirm signals with Greenbank.

It was somewhat cloudy and we didn't do much meteor observing Friday night.

On Saturday just about everyone who visited got the full tour of the site including Bunker, Generator Shack, Battery Room, Solar System, Communication (Comm.) Trailer and the Dish Pedestal.

**Solar Observing:** Saturday morning we set up two eight inch Celestron and 4 inch refractor Optical Telescopes and there were two additional sets of excellent astronomy binoculars all with solar filters for viewing the sun. Everyone had a good time looking for solar prominences or sun spots.

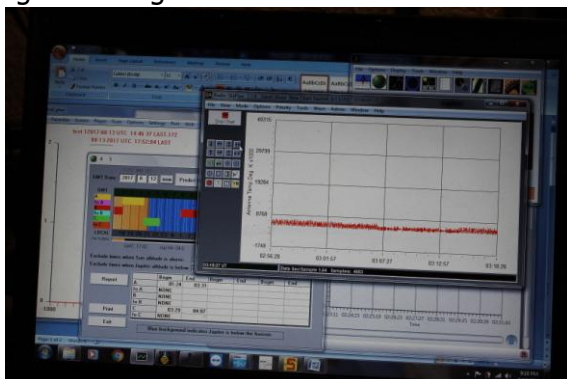


We had a nice relaxing dinner with guests Saturday night. The air was clear and calm with nice temperature. The plan was to do some radio Astronomy experiments looking for the galactic plane crossing and other radio sources and to do an optical star party for our guests.

The weather didn't hold and just as dark came a huge storm roared in with wind, rain and incredible lightning. We had to scuttle the telescopes and all the equipment and take cover ending the open house and what was a very nice day. The adjacent photo is the storms eerie backlighting of the dish.



On Sunday the Dave and Myron out did themselves with an excellent pancake breakfast off the grill as we tiptoed around in the mud. We continued some of our Radio Astronomy training and began looking for a list of radio sources that Floyd and Rich had compiled. Ray and the team started using the dish to find beacons on 144, 440 and 1296 MHz bands with some success but had trouble discerning the 1296 beacons. By noon everyone packed up and we left the site around 1:00. A great weekend and open house overall with only a few of the Perseid Meteors seen through the clouds.



That concludes the minutes from the open house on August 12.

**As usual if I have omitted anyone or miss represented anyone or anything here please feel free to correct me.**



73, and keep looking up!

Bill Miller

KC0FHN

DSES Secretary

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