

Progress on the “Save the 30-foot Parabolic Dish Antenna Project”

By Elaine Hambly K0ARR, 6 July 2024

On Saturday, 6 July 2024, several members* of (DSES) Deep Space Exploration Society hitched up their trailers of dish parts and pieces and traveled to the DSES site in Haswell, Colorado to unload and store them for safekeeping. It was another hot day with temperatures reaching the low 90s and no clouds to break the sunshine until just before the job ended. Many thanks to Bill KC0FHN for his supply of water and Gatorade.

The first order of business was to decide the right spot to store the antenna so that the parts would be safe without interfering with normal traffic flow around the building. Once decided, the job of unloading began.

RC AI0RC, Ray AA0L and Vlad KX4TH stacked the pieces that comprise the bottom section of the dish’s pillar on the ground until the only piece left was the heavy upper pillar section with the dish’s az-el rotor. Ray, Chas WD0C, RC and Vlad hooked one end of a chain between the pillar on the flatbed and Ray’s vehicle. With a bit of careful jockeying of the two trucks, the tower easily slid off onto the waiting timbers that held it off the ground.



Next came the petals and struts that Rick K0GD towed. Ray and RC dragged more railroad ties over next to a small dish antenna and Rick, Ray, RC, Vlad and Bill began the job of removing the petals and stacking them on their side using a ladder to keep them upright during stacking.

In the previous article, I mentioned numbers that Myron KL7YY painstakingly wrote on the struts to make it easier to match up parts during reassembly. If you look closely at the photograph to the right, you can see some of those numbers.



The final job was to unload the remaining struts, cables, weights and rotors from Ray's trailer, tuck them into the assembly with the petals and lash them all together. Once done, we left the site knowing the dish was safely stored for future reassembly.

Once again, we thank you for your generous contributions. Achieving this project could not have happened without your help and we are grateful for your commitment to saving the dish. This project will allow us to devise educational programs to incentivize interest in radio astronomy and science for everyone.

*Participants in the unloading: Chas Barrett WD0C, Vladislav Fomitchev KX4TH, Richard Hambly K0GD, Bill Miller KC0FHN, RC Teal AI0RC, Ray Uberecken AA0L and Elaine Hambly (photographer) K0ARR.