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

January 14, 2020
February 11, 2020
March 10, 2020

BREA Officers

President
Arnold Moodenbaugh
moodenba@optonline.net

Vice President
Lillian Kouchinsky
lkouchin@yahoo.com

Secretary
Pat Flood
pat@leonhardts.com

Treasurer
Leslie G. Fishbone
lgfishbonenn@gmail.com

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Newsletter Editor
Mona S. Rowe
msrowe.hi@gmail.com

From the President
by Arnie Moodenbaugh, moodenba@optonline.net

To fellow BREA Members,

The candidates nominated for BREA office by the nominating committee were elected to two-year terms. Incoming officers are Treasurer Les Fishbone, Secretary Pat Flood, Vice President Lillian Kouchinsky, and me, President Arnie Moodenbaugh. Thanks to those who voted and to the nominating committee. As the new president, I would like to wish members as well as all BNL retirees a healthy and happy New Year.

We thank the outgoing officers, President Steve Shapiro, Vice President Bob Kinsey and Treasurer Lillian Kouchinsky. I am the retiring secretary. We also appreciate the efforts of BREA News Editor Mona Rowe and Membership Chair Beth Lin, both of whom will continue in their positions. BERA Supervisor Christine Carter handles all general emails to BREA membership. She also arranges for space for BREA meetings on site. BREA Webmaster Renee Warno posts BREA News, meeting minutes and other items to our website, https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/.

The BREA bylaws state our intention to “... further retiree interests and benefits.” BREA representatives have met with BNL Human Resources personnel to protect access to the Lab site for retiree spouses and to emphasize the value of the BSA retiree health benefits. We believe that BREA provides support to the BNL community and feel that BNL management values our presence.

(continued on page 3)
BNL Co-Hosts 2019 Cyber-Defense Competition

The digitization of the U.S. power grid has made electricity generation, transmission and distribution increasingly susceptible to cyberattacks. Protecting our nation’s critical energy infrastructure from hackers requires a significant investment in cybersecurity. This investment must be made not only in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) but also in trained professionals who are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and skills to handle rapidly changing threats and vulnerabilities. Today, more than 300,000 cyber jobs are open in the United States.

The 2019 CyberForce Competition™ is the latest in a series that the Department of Energy (DOE) began in 2016 to help train the next generation of cybersecurity specialists in the energy sector. College students stationed at national labs across the country defend a simulated energy infrastructure from cyberattacks launched by cybersecurity experts while maintaining email, file sharing, and other basic services for end users. National lab and cybersecurity industry staff help the students set up their infrastructure, inject anomalies into the network infrastructure, and judge the competition.

BNL first co-hosted the competition in 2018. The Lab returned as a co-host for this year’s competition, held from November 15 to 16. Seven teams came to Brookhaven: Columbia University, New York University, Northeastern University, St. John’s University, the State University of New York at Albany, Suffolk County Community College (SCCC), and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

The Brookhaven-hosted teams competed against each other and against teams located at nine other DOE labs: Argonne, Idaho, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore, National Energy Technology, National Renewable Energy, Oak Ridge, Pacific Northwest and Sandia.

Teams were scored based on their ability to thwart cyberattacks, maintain usability of services, complete anomalies, share information across different infrastructures, and present a strategy for responding to a hypothetical incident.

The national winner of the competition was a team from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, which took first place locally at Brookhaven last year; the local winner was a Northeastern University team.

To read the full story and see a video, visit https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=216840.

– Ariana Manglaviti, amanglaviti@bnl.gov

Left to right, Kyle Sferrazza, Matthew Kline, Simon Bruklich, Brianna Weinstein, Guevara Noubir (professor), Fiona McCrae and Anuj Modi from Northeastern University

Sean Plankey (back middle), principal deputy assistant secretary for DOE’s Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, with Brookhaven Lab Office of Educational Programs Manager Kenneth White (back right), Suffolk County Information Technology Commissioner Scott Mastellon (back left), and SCCC team members (clockwise from left) Nolan Smith, Melissa Fisk, Justin Lavery, Eric Muller and Eric Greco. Not pictured: team member Austin Wolrath.

– photos on pages 1 and 2 by Roger Stoutenburgh
Cybersecurity for Consumers

Cyber Monday 2019 was Amazon's biggest shopping day in the company's history. It's a growing trend.

Are you using your computer or your smartphone to shop online? It's convenient, the selection is incredible, shipping is fast, returns are a breeze. But can anything go wrong? Plenty!

In April 2019, the FBI reported that its Internet Crime Complaint Center received 351,937 complaints in 2018 – an average of more than 900 every day. The most frequently reported complaints were for non-payment/non-delivery scams related to online shopping, extortion and personal data breaches.

The article in this newsletter about a recent cyber-defense competition (see page 2) shows how Brookhaven Lab and other Department of Energy (DOE) labs are helping to train the next generation of cybersecurity specialists. DOE is focussed on protecting our nation's critical energy infrastructure from hackers.

Says BREA member Susan Wong, “From outages to the nation’s power grid due to a cyberattack, to unauthorized access while you Skype with your grandkids, to posting a comment on a friend’s Facebook page, you are at risk.”

Wong works in BNL’s Information Technology Division, which handles cybersecurity for the Lab. (Editor's note: Wong’s son is a graduate of Northeastern University, which fielded the local winning team in the cyber-defense contest described on page 2.) “Seniors are particularly vulnerable because we did not grow up in the digital age and hackers are aware of that,” she added. “Fortunately, there are simple steps one can take to minimize the risk of unauthorized or unwanted use of our personal information. Don’t become a target!”

Here are some simple tips for shopping online safely.

- **Use trusted websites** – If you know the site, chances are it's legitimate. Nowadays, major retailers have online stores. But beware of misspellings or websites using a different top-level domain (instead of .com you might see .net).

(continued on page 4)
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 info has changed, email me at hellobylin@yahoo.com.

PLEASE PRINT

Last name: __________ First name: _______ MI: ___
Address: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________
Phone: __________ Email: __________________________

Membership type:
[ ] annual ($10)    [ ] 5 years ($40)    Life [ ] ($95)
Date: ______________ Check amount: __________

MAKE YOUR 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 (made out to BREA) 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.
  John Allen Benjamin, 81, November 3, 2019
  Otmar Casper Kistner, 89, November 25, 2019
  Edward S. Miezianka, 87, December 18, 2018
  James Powell, 86, May 27, 2019
  Seymour Rankowitz, 94, November 25, 2019
  Mary Smith (Semerjian), 97, December 6, 2019

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, email information to msrowe.hi@gmail.com or mail it to BREA (see panel below for address).

Cybersecurity for Consumers (cont’d)

• **Look for the “s”** – Never buy anything online using your credit card from a site that does not have a form of security called “secure sockets layer” (SSL). Look for “https” instead of just “http” at the beginning of the address of a webpage.

• **Don’t share unnecessary personal information** – You don’t need your Social Security number or your birthdate to buy something online. Give out as little personal info as possible.

• **Check your bill statements regularly** – Go online regularly to look for any fraudulent charges. Also, buy online only with a credit card. If your debit card is compromised, scammers have direct access to your bank funds.

– Mona S. Rowe, msrowe.hi@gmail.com

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Brookhaven Retired Employees Association

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

Phone: (631) 344-5090
Email: BREA@bnl.gov
Web: https://www.bnl.gov/bera/activities/brea/