

Bridle

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

Charlottesville, Virginia

February 2, 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: Distribution

From: P. Vanden Bout *PVB*

Subject: Y2K

At this point I think everyone would agree that we are safely past any possible Y2K problems. The timely electronic deposit of my paycheck for January is proof enough for me. So I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Y2K effort at the Observatory. The list of individuals who participated is so long, I will use Alan Bridle's account of what happened and who made it happen:

"At one time or another, I think EVERYONE in the computer division did some remediation or investigative work, or both. Bruce McKean and Chuck Beverage coordinated a major Y2K operations test of Fiscal's AS/400 systems that involved ALL personnel in Green Bank Fiscal. All of the on-line groups operations-tested their telescopes: Ken Sowinski at the VLA; Jeff Hagen, Tom Folkers, Jeff Mangum, and Paul Hart at the 12 Meter; Joan Wrobel, Barry Clark, and John Benson coordinated a Y2K day (and its correlation) for the VLBA that involved many of the VLBA staff, Bob Vance rewrote a Y2K-ready o/s for the 140 Foot just in case (after he retired!); Frank Ghigo remediated the GB interferometer. Richard Simon did the initial hardware inventory across the whole Observatory, which was then maintained by Carolyn White with ongoing input from all of the sites. Pat Murphy, Tracy Effland, Gene Runion, James Robnett, and I did the software inventory. A fair amount of dead-lined upgrade work had to be done to the PC's and their software at all sites...Marie Glendenning, Warren Richardson, Carolyn White, and Charlie Myers all worked on that.

"Y2K compliance information was gathered from key NRAO service providers by the Business Division staff at every site. Ruth and I got contacts and compliance information from Amy Shepherd in C'ville, Mike Holstine and Jim Gibb in GB, Dale Webb in Tucson, and from Skip Lagoyda and Terry Lopez in Socorro (for AOC, VLA, and VLBA).

"Ruth Milner and I basically rang the alarm bells in all divisions of the Observatory, then coordinated and documented all this work and reported it to AUI's auditors, insurers, and the NSF (as well as doing vendor compliance research ourselves). Monroe Petty also did some reporting to AUI recently on our insurance liability issues. All of the site computer division heads: Pat Murphy, Gareth Hunt, Gustaaf van Moorsel, and Jeff Mangum/Ricardo Martinez worked on triage and priority-setting that made sure the immovable deadline was met in the critical areas and that contingencies were planned for. Carl Bignell and Rick Lively checked out compliance in various database systems that are important to NRAO operations.

"In Charlottesville we do owe a special note of gratitude to Gene Runion and Tracy Effland. They volunteered to come in at the rollover midnight to make sure C'ville and the Intranet had no power-up or power-down problems, and to deal with the possibility of any increased hacker attacks around the rollover itself. Mary and I saw the Millennium in with them here at Edgemont Road. When we went home at 1 a.m., Gene and Tracy were both still checking systems out and making sure that everything was OK! Their extra effort went beyond the formal contingency plan for Charlottesville and ensured an absolute best-case for NRAO's whole computer network being undisturbed either by Y2K or by hacker intrusions (or by the undesirable side-effects of powering-down systems that normally run 24x7)."

I apologize to anyone this account fails to mention; my fault, not Alan's. And thanks to all on behalf of the Observatory for their time and effort.

/bmr

Distribution:

ADs
J. Benson
C. Beverage
C. Bignell
A. Bridle
B. Clark
M. Clendenen
T. Effland
T. Folkers
F. Ghigo
J. Gibb
M. Glendenning
J. Hagen
P. Hart
M. Holstine
G. Hunt
T. Kelly
J. Lagoyda

R. Lively
T. Lopez
T. Mann
J. Mangum
R. Martinez
B. McKean
R. Milner
P. Murphy
C. Myers
M. Petty
C. Plumley
W. Porter
H. Reigel
W. Richarson
J. Robnett
G. Runion
A. Shepherd
R. Simon

K. Sowinski
G. van Moorsel
B. Vance
D. Webb
C. White
J. Wrobel