

Notes from TOW Teachers dinner, May 9, 2019  
Notes by D. Behrend

Notes are in order of teacher remarks, as we went around the table. Relevant comments are indicated by rectangular brackets.

### Individual Remarks

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Mike Poirier, Pre-checks and operations, Failure recovery, Feedback:

This was my 10th TOW. I worked with Roger Hammargren and Alex Burns this time. It went very well. The students were very attentive. The Groton Inn is expensive. The Failure recovery class should be held after the Pre-checks class.

Andy Sargent, Correlator feedback:

This was my second TOW, the first time teaching. It went smoothly. I shared teaching with Phillip Haftings. I would like to read the talks in the notebook ahead of time.

Bob Campbell, Pointing and Amplitude Calibration:

This was my second TOW, but there were eight years in between. I missed a whiteboard in Conf B. The Amp calibration is getting more pertinent for geodesy because of source structure. At JIVE now also Mark IV format is output. Correlation for IVS is a separate issue (to be addressed by Paco Colomer as an IVS Board member). It was a pleasure to be back. It was a good experience.

Mario Berube, Feedback:

This was my second TOW after returning to VLBI. I moderated the Feedback session. Getting the operators to talk remains a challenge. It was good having a beer during the session. I enjoyed the rest of the TOW. The organization was great.

Harro Verkouter, VLBI Data Acquisition:

This was my third TOW as a teacher. Thanks for the invite. The level of knowledge in the classes is very high. The students were very attentive. Thinking of cooperation between geodesy and astronomy, there is an over-lap.

Rick Hambly, Time and frequency:

I have a knee problem; it was a challenge to stand for my 4.5 hours of class. But I will get my knees repaired. Tom Clark didn't come this time. We will invite him next time. Everything went perfectly. The hallway discussions are very valuable.

Pedro Elosegui, VLBI Basics:

Thanks to everyone for coming. It is great to see students coming back as teachers.

Alex Burns, Pre-checks and operations, Failure recovery:

I agree with Mike on the order of classes. The hallway meetings were very good.

Roger Hammargren, Pre-checks and operations, Failure recovery:  
The TOW went well. To perform a show-and-tell without all equipment at hand is a problem.  
[There were no DBBCs.] Maybe a screen recording would do.

Dirk Behrend, Program coordination and Web site support:  
This was my eighth TOW. I was responsible for the overall program and the class assignments. It felt like it was an optimal size for the TOW (neither too many, nor too few folks). It was good to have the correlator people attending as well. It may be a good idea to repeat this setup. The program itself went to more VGOS content. Overall I thought it was a very good coverage and many excellent presentations. I do like the Groton Inn; it's very close and has high quality.

Michael Lindqvist, Antenna Gain Calibration:  
I'm happy to be back. The students were quite interested. The order of classes should have theory first, then practice. I would like to see more demonstrations or hands-on.

Ed Himwich, Pointing, FS Coding, FS plans, Operations impact on analysis:  
I recommend to arrange birthdays during TOW. I reworked some of the material. The Advanced Pre-Checks and Operations class needs some work. We should cover more tools for pcal extraction. I had more time for attending classes.

Jose Antonio Lopez-Perez, RFI, Instrumentation Development at Yebes:  
This was my first TOW. It was a real pleasure to be invited. I attended some of the classes. I'm going back with more knowledge and new friends. It was a nice atmosphere.

Ganesh Rajagopalan, Phase Cal Basics, Advanced Pre-checks and Operations: This was my second TOW. This time I didn't lose my voice; thanks for reducing my teaching load. I reduced the demonstration part. It is not so easy to figure out how to speak to foreign language speakers.

Javier Gonzalez-Garcia, student:  
I'm a spy here, because I didn't teach. Thanks for all the efforts. Keep it going.

Sven Dornbusch, DBBC3 Operations:  
This was my second TOW; last time I participated via Webex. I had a very pleasant experience. I had time to listen to other talks. I want to come back.

Uwe Bach, DBBC2 Operations:  
This was my fourth TOW. My last TOW was four years ago. Now it is much more digital. It appears the transition is over. The DBBC2 and DBBC3 classes should be merged; they are not too different. We should have the DBBCs here directly.

David Horsley, Linux System Administration, MAS, FS Display Server:  
Chet's lunch runs were great. There was a wide range of different teachers. When teaching, it was a boon to have other teachers in the class asking questions.

Christian Ploetz, Cryogenics:

I taught the cryogenics class. Thanks for having me; it was a pleasure to teach. The classes consisted of two groups: experts and novices. The cryo class was a good experience for novices. It's good to be up-to-date with VGOS.

Alexander Neidhardt, e-RemoteCtrl, Programming Station Code:

I attended my first TOW ten years ago. This one was one of the best. It would be good to have more hands-on classes where students touch and do things. To have a VGOS correlation workshop with TOW should be continued.

Mary Reynolds, local coordinator:

I enjoyed the TOW very much. Thanks to Heidi. I love doing this.

Heidi Johnson, local coordinator:

There is the dilemma with the hotel cost. Perhaps next time we should have the icebreaker at Haystack. We should time the TOW with the home schedule of the Red Sox.

Phillip Haftings, Correlator feedback:

This was my second TOW and my first time teaching. It was fantastic to see the station side of things. Two years ago was a transition period. Now the transition is completed.

Chet Ruszczyk, Mark 6, R2DBE, Haystack VGOS signal chain:

More runners are needed. I had a high teaching load. It was difficult to find time to attend other classes. Having the correlator people here was good.