

Staff in Focus - Dana Richter

Lana Walsh - *CHESS, Cornell University*

**More than a decade and a half at CHESS,
and he just keeps on going...**



Dana Richter

When asked to write this profile for the CHESS newsletter, I wrestled with the question for days before concluding that it's not possible to recount in a list of credentials and progression of responsibilities, the innumerable contributions Dana Richter has made to the CHESS Lab and our User Community in over fourteen years serving in Operations.

Dana came to us as an Operator in May of 1986 after receiving his BA in Applied Physics at SUNY Binghamton. CHESS was young and growing fast. As the lab continued to expand its capabilities, so did Dana. He was pulled out of the Operator pool to manage the A-line reconstruction project with responsibility for oversight of the rebuilding of the hutches and shielding walls. Again in 1995, he oversaw the construction upgrades of B and C lines. It was during this time he was promoted to his current position of Assistant Operations Manager. On a typical day, Dana might be found anywhere from tuning up the A-1 optics or interviewing operator candidates, to giving some advice on construction methods.

As the newsletter deadline approached, I realized I still did not have a way to express what I knew to be true about Dana. In the space of a page, I could not even begin to list the tasks encountered in a typical day in the life of a member of the CHESS Operations staff, let alone one of its managers.

Consistently facing the challenges of a fast-growing experimental facility, Dana can't seem to get enough of being called on. He's consistently accessible to staff and users alike. Working closely with individuals, calmly determined to give support through the frustrations of intense activities, Dana is an inspiration to others with his own easy-going style; guiding, supporting, or changing

course when needed. Even more challenging, in this creative atmosphere where intellects can easily become opposing and powerful emotions generated, Dana possesses the unique ability to neutralize intense situations. How many times I've observed him during one of those "getting nowhere" discussions- when asked his opinion, he'll most likely grin that slow, shy grin of his and quietly suggest a possible approach to join many seemingly incompatible, individual interests into a cohesive, collective, course of action, satisfying us all with a productive solution.

On the home front, Dana and his wife Penny, run a 20 acre farm in Barton, manage a herd of beef cattle, produce a large garden, and are raising two gorgeous kids, Allison and Christian. Dana is currently Assistant Fire Chief for the Tioga Center Fire Dept. and Captain of its ambulance squad, duties which frequently call him out for rescues at all hours, in all sorts of weather to serve the community, many times in life-or-death situations.

Amazing what one quiet guy can do!

I feel I speak for all of us at CHESS in saying we are privileged to work with Dana. His many areas of expertise, long-time dedication, integrity, and community spirit immeasurably benefit us all.