

About 2000, Duncan McIver & Vectec web developers began our 1st LAA Website using *WordPress* “middleware” to simplify coding. This served LAA well for 20 years, but cost LAA \$614/yr. Retiring from LaRC in 2005 for a 2nd career at Oak Ridge National Lab, I recently joined LAA to serve on our Board & as Webmaster. Why? At a 2020 LAA Zoom meeting I suggested LAA’s website cost may be reduced to \$49.95/yr using *HDL* as I’d done for years by creating/hosting *Family History*, *Travel*, *Church*, *Sons of Norway*, *Beekeeping* & *Ecology* Websites on HDL & 6 home servers. LAA supported the idea saving \$600: 6 \$100 LAA life memberships

Our talented Web team of retired NASA techies are sticklers to optimize LAA website speed. Our WordPress Website code initially took *9.8 sec vs 1.4* for our native HTML Website code and Google’s PageSpeed Analyses rating of *51%* for our WordPress Site vs *100%* for our HTML Site. HyperText Markup Language (HTML) is the native language of the Web, the fastest possible. On May 11, Steve Scott, a veteran WordPress expert, helped us and deactivated all WordPress plugins, reducing our time to *1.3 sec*. Thanks Steve! For web security, we did need to reactivate the required Web security plugin, WordFence which brought our final time to *1.5 sec*.

Five questions reveal our LAA Website goals & show what our future holds.

### **1. Why does LAA have a Website? Who’s involved?**

Our LAA Website shares and communicates info to/from LAA members. Not just a one stop for ‘All LAA”, but soon we’ll have online forms & forums so not only can officers share info but members will have options to ask questions, participate in online polls & sign up for events, an alternative to email which is easily lost. You’ll find LAA history, officers, how to join, accomplishments, meeting minutes, current & future events and slides & video recordings of speakers at past meetings you may have missed. Former Webmaster Duncan offers sage advice & computer-savvy Rick Ross is invaluable updating our Website plus editing the inaugural issue of LAA’s Newsletter to appear in June. Wayne, Damodar & Dan also offer advice and encouragement along the way and we welcome others.