

RADIO ASTRONOMY

Journal of the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers

Author's Guide

Radio Astronomy is published six times per year as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. A tentative publication schedule is provided in each issue in the Editors' Notes section. *Radio Astronomy* is a copyrighted work; however, authors retain ownership of and copyright to their works published in *Radio Astronomy*.

We are always looking for basic radio astronomy articles, radio astronomy tutorials, theoretical articles, application and construction articles, news pertinent to radio astronomy, profiles and interviews with amateur and professional radio astronomers, book reviews, puzzles (including word challenges, riddles, and crossword puzzles), anecdotes, expository on "bad astronomy," articles on radio astronomy observations, suggestions for reprint of articles from past journals and other publications, and announcements of radio astronomy star parties, meetings, and outreach activities. We would like to publish photographs of your radio telescope, including antennas, receivers, accessories, and software screen shots.

We are glad to assist authors with their articles and papers and will not hesitate to work with you, however, we cannot write your article for you. We reserve the right to make editorial changes in grammar, format, and layout. We may edit English word spelling to that used in the United States. Prior to publication we will provide a proof copy for your review to ensure your intended meaning is not inadvertently changed during our editing process.

It is the Editors' prerogative to accept or reject submissions for *Radio Astronomy*. If your article is rejected, it is because we have judged its quality or contents unsuitable for our publication and we will tell you our reasons for rejection. The rejection may be appealed, first to the SARA President, then to an appeals committee, and ultimately to the SARA Board of Directors.

Submissions should be made as a Microsoft Word document (.doc) file, a Rich Text Format (.rtf) file, or a flat text (.txt) file. Other formats may be accepted with prior arrangements but may introduce delays in publishing.

Photographs (.jpg, .tiff, .gif, .png, .bmp) should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at full size. If your images do not meet these requirements, we can still work with them; but, be aware that the published image quality may not be as good as you expect.

There are no article length or file size limitations. If your images are large, that is fine; we will do the compression required to maintain quality while reducing file size. There is no minimum article length requirement.

We ask that you follow the following additional guidelines:

- ◇ Advanced articles should be novice-friendly by providing clarifying statements and/or links to web sites offering good basic background material.
- ◇ Define all acronyms on first use except the most obvious ones such as SARA and NASA.
- ◇ Use three-quarter-inch page margins (top, bottom, left, and right).
- ◇ Use Times New Roman, 11 point font for text, 10 point for figure and table captions.
- ◇ Use single space after periods (not double spaces).
- ◇ Use single space between a number and its units (e.g., 1.41 GHz, 0.12 W, 2.5 MH).
- ◇ Use superscripts for exponents (e.g., do not use x^2 for "x-squared," use x^2 ; do not use E-4 for "ten to negative four power," use 10^{-4}).
- ◇ Do not write subscripted variables or chemical formulas on a level line, use subscripts wherever necessary (e.g., H₂O should be written H₂O and "x-naught" should not be written as x_0 , but as x_0).
- ◇ Use Microsoft Equation Editor or Math Type to create equations in Word (if your version of Word does not have Equation Editor installed, see <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/228569>).
- ◇ Illustrate your work; color is okay but different line types or annotations should be used for chart curves so they can be identified if printed in black and white; color images should be checked to ensure they render acceptably in black and white.
- ◇ Number figures (Figure 1), tables (Table 1), and equations (1).
- ◇ Cite illustration and photograph credits if applicable (Note: the author is responsible for obtaining permission to publish illustrations and photographs not belonging to the author).
- ◇ Verify that web links are functional.
- ◇ Do not use footnotes, but endnotes are okay.
- ◇ Use a spell-checker, proofread your work, and—if possible—ask someone else to proofread your work.
- ◇ Include abstract, biography, and contact info; a head and shoulders photograph is desired, but not required.

A Word document suitable for use as a template may be found here: http://www.radio-astronomy.org/publicat/RA-JSARA_Article_Template.doc. Submit your article and image files as attachments to an email with "[RA-JSARA]" in the subject line. Send submissions or inquiries to editor@radio-astronomy.org. If your image files are too large for an email (larger than 10 MB total), please contact us to make arrangements for upload.