

The Homer F. DaBoll Award

Recognizes significant contributions to occultation science and to the work of IOTA.

The award name honours Homer F. DaBoll (1920-1990):

- Organizer of grazing occultation expeditions in Midwest USA beginning in the late 1960s
- Coined the name “International Occultation Timing Association”
- Founding Officer of IOTA 1975 (secretary/treasurer)
- First editor of Occultation Newsletter for 16 years from 1974 to 1990.

Previous Awardees for the Homer F. DaBoll Award were:

2007	Dave Herald, Australia
2008	Edwin Goffin, Belgium
2009	Steve Preston, USA
2010	Hristo Pavlov, Australia
2011	Scotty Degenhardt, USA
2012	Kazuhisa Miyashita, Japan
2013	Graham L. Blow, New Zealand
2014	Brian Loader, New Zealand
2015	Gerhard Dangl, Austria
2016	Derek Breit, USA
2017	John Talbot, Steve Kerr, Eric Frappa, Tsutomu Hayamizu and Brad Timerson
2018	No awards presented
2019	Jan Manek (Czech Republic), Mitsuru Soma (Japan) and also Dave Gault (Australia)

In 2020, five candidates were nominated.

The 2020 IOTA Homer F. DaBoll Award was presented to ...

Tony Barry



Tony Barry's background:

- Became involved in observing occultations in 2009 after attending a presentation by Dave Gault
- Saw the need for a low-cost accurate timing device
- Developed two devices toward this goal — the IOTA-VTI and SEXTA - Southern Exposure Timing Array
- SEXTA used to calibrate and verify accuracy of timestamps
- To date, over 300 IOTA-VTI's have been sold.

From Tony:

I am very pleased to accept the Homer F. Daboll prize for 2020, and appreciate the expression of support from the community of occultation observers.

I would not have been able to make the IOTA-VTI or SEXTA without the help of Dave Gault, whose fanatical attention to operational quality made the VTI and SEXTA work as they ought to. Thank you Dave!

Walt Morgan and the late Sandy Bumgarner (vare) turned the original prototypes of the VTI into production units that IOTA can be proud of, and Vince Sempronio continues the task of production as IOTA requires. To these fine gentlemen I extend my grateful thanks for their meticulous work.

Dave Herald worked the licence details so IOTA can continue this work into the future. His foresight in future proofing the design and implementation is greatly appreciated.

I am also indebted to the many other workers who have taken occultation observing and recording from its beginnings as a private avocation to its present accepted status. Amateur observers are now seen as a helpful adjunct to professional work by the scientific community. Such acceptance is largely due to a consistent emphasis on quality and reliability that the occultation observer must of necessity put into the craft. It is a privilege to be associated with such careful workers, and I am glad my contribution has been of use.

Regards,

Tony Barry

Western Sydney Amateur Astronomy Group.