In the late fall of 2009, we took possession of a slightly damaged, surplus C-band TV antenna, donated to us by Utah Public Radio, to use as a radio telescope. Initial work on the site (the roof of the Science & Engineering Research Building) went on until snow fell in December, and has picked up again with the return of warmer weather. Twelve SPS students have worked on the project to date.

The following are the team’s accomplishments as of June 2010:

* Dish refurbishment is complete. We are currently working on designs for mount to enable pointing the dish along the meridian for drift scan operations.

* We held a mini Radio Astronomy Workshop led by Dale Hooper (USU-SDL), a local amateur radio astronomer with a backyard setup using a refurbished C-band antenna similar to ours.

* Led by Thomas Martin, the team made a poster presentation about the project at the Zone 15 meeting in Pocatello on April 9-10. See below.

* We completed a thorough survey of available radio astronomy receivers, matched them against our project requirements and selected the SpectraCyber 1420 MHz Hydrogen Line Spectrometer from Radio Astronomy Supplies in Texas (cost: $2525.00 -- $525.00 from a donor). We’ve placed an order; these instruments are assembled from scratch and lead time is 2-3 months. We expect delivery in mid-summer.