

## Live from the field: Capturing Images and Data from a Barrier Island via Wireless Networking

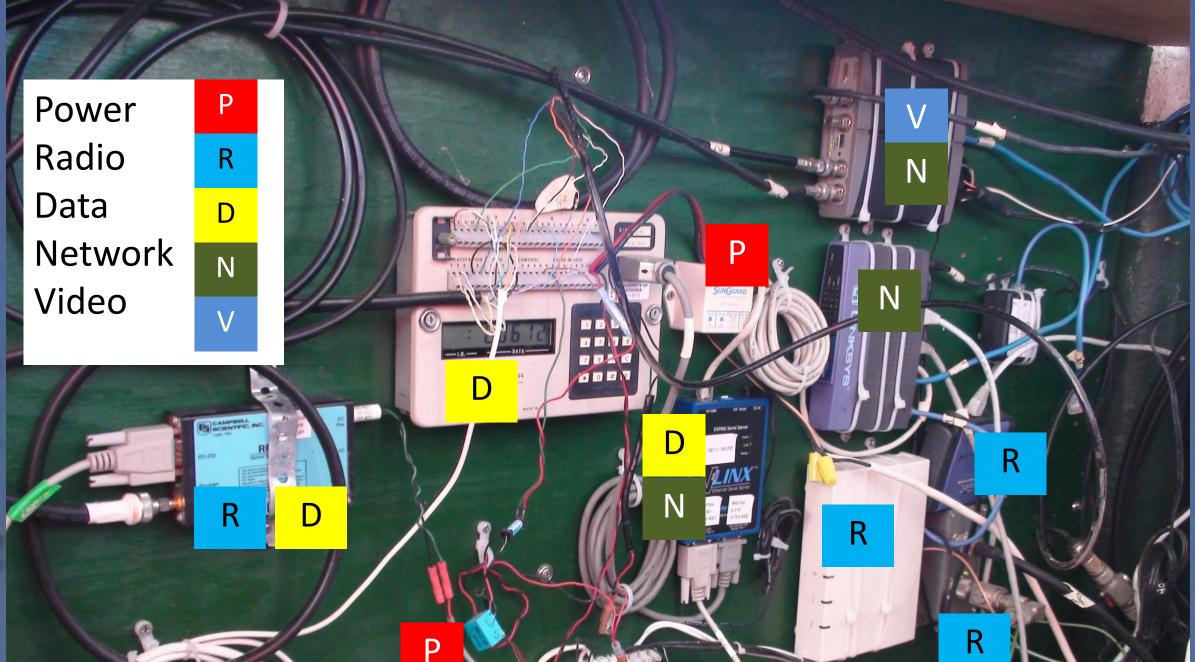
LTER John Porter, David E. Smith, University of Virginia & Thomas Williams, Airnetworking.com

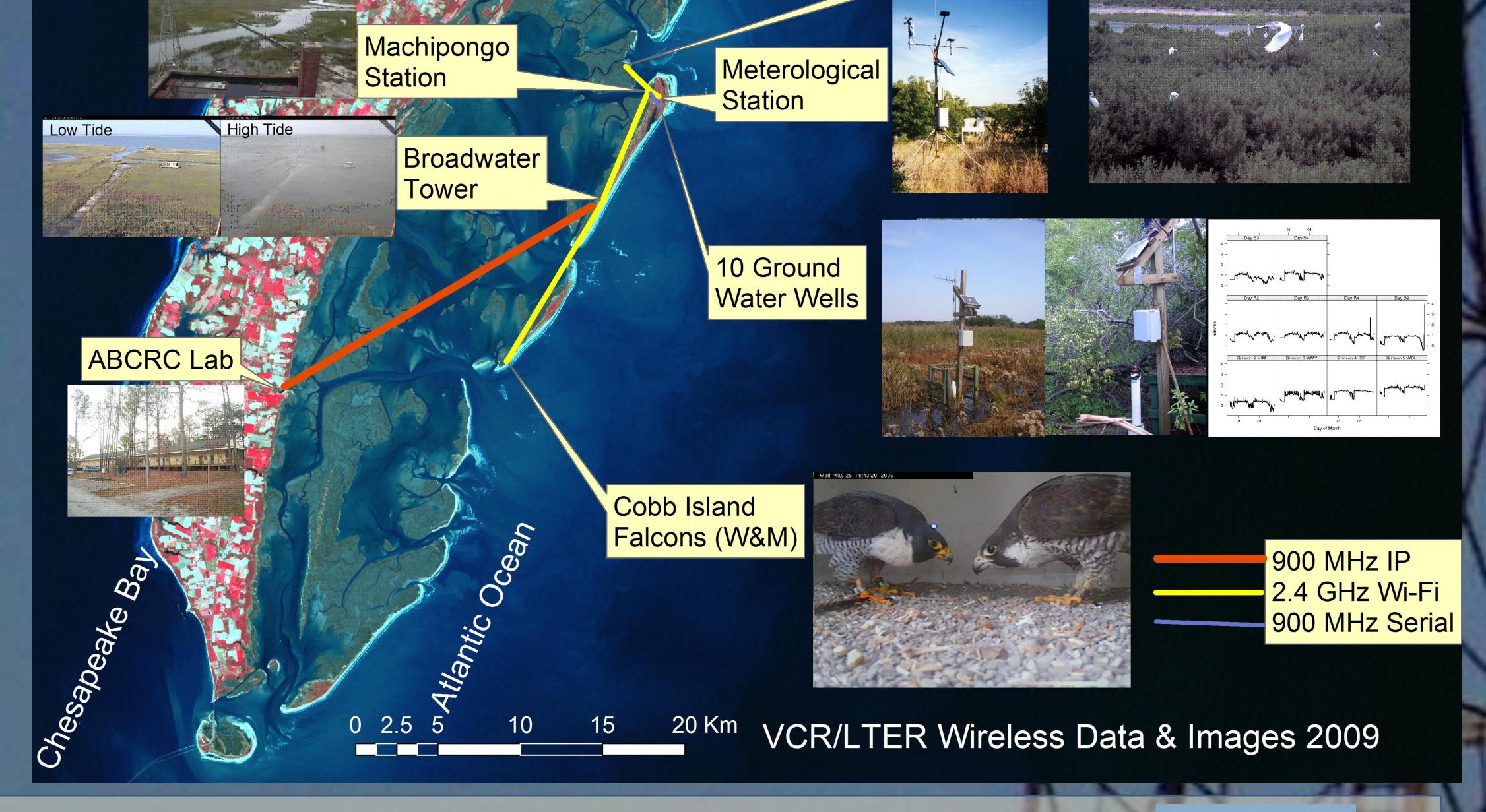
Chimney-Pole

Marsh Birdcam

## **ABSTRACT:**

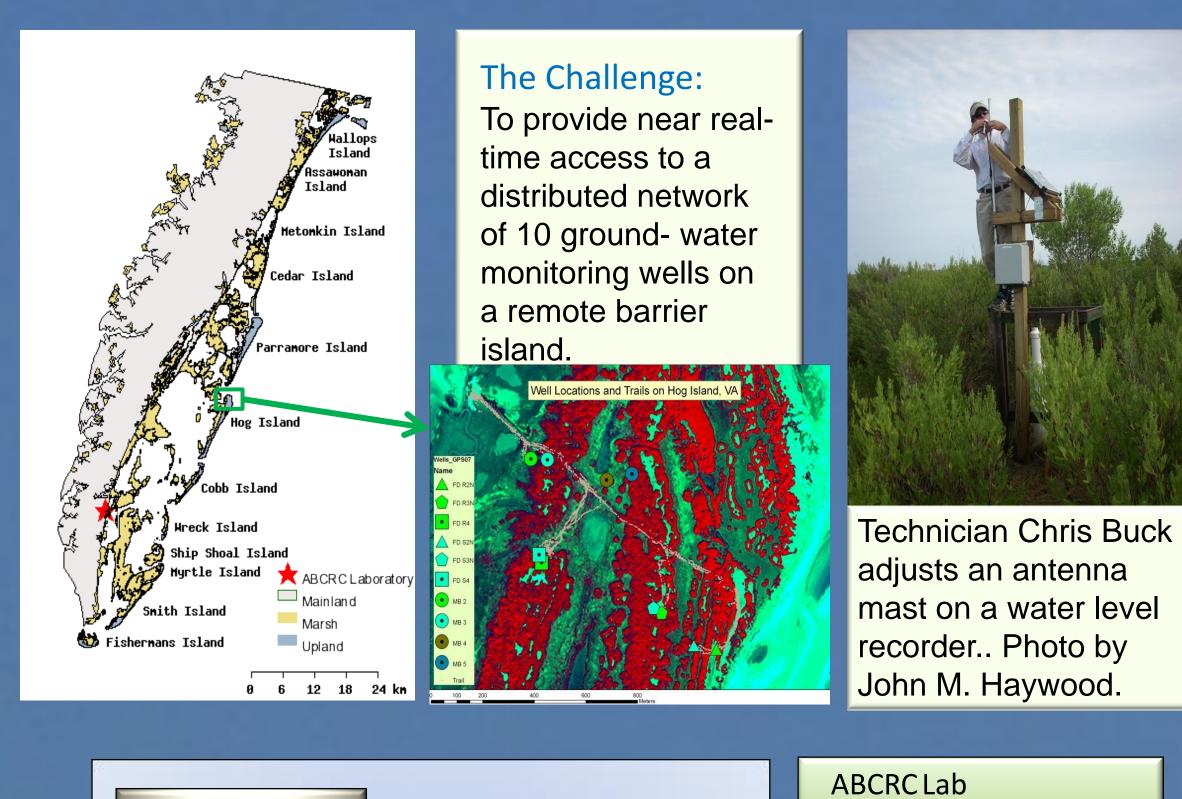
Wireless networks provide new opportunities for retrieving data from the field - and to support new types of data. At the Virginia Coast Reserve Long-Term Ecological Research Project we have employed wireless networks to connect to three barrier islands, with some connections spanning over 20 km. The wireless network is used to integrate a variety of data sources. A network of ten wells, meteorological and tide stations produce data that is automatically processed to create a dataset or graph on the World-Wide Web. We also use webcams to produce a variety of time-series image series, capturing changes in landscapes, as well as monitoring animals (e.g., birds) and extreme events (e.g., flooding). Images are archived and indexed with a relational database to create a variety of animations and index pages.





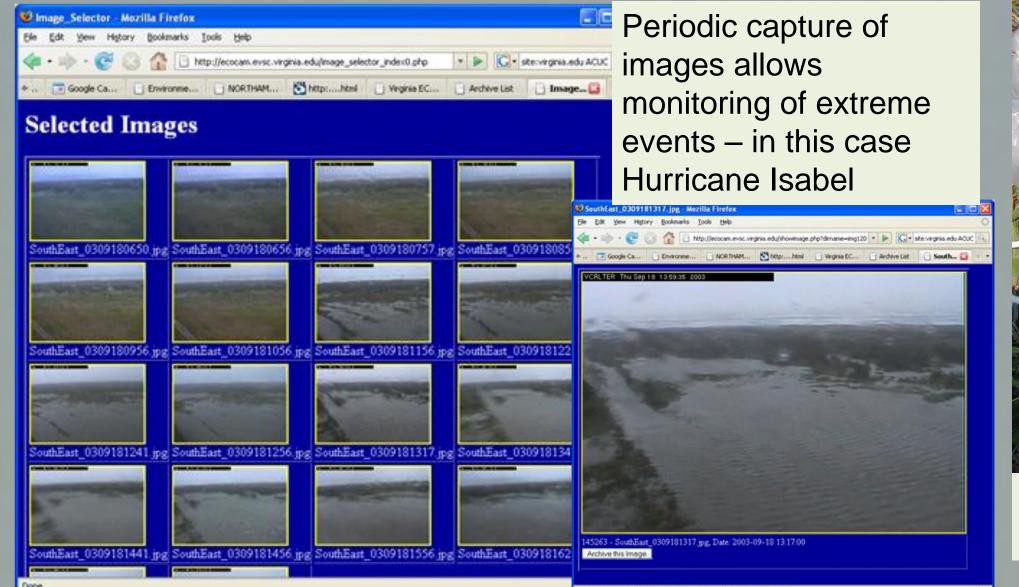


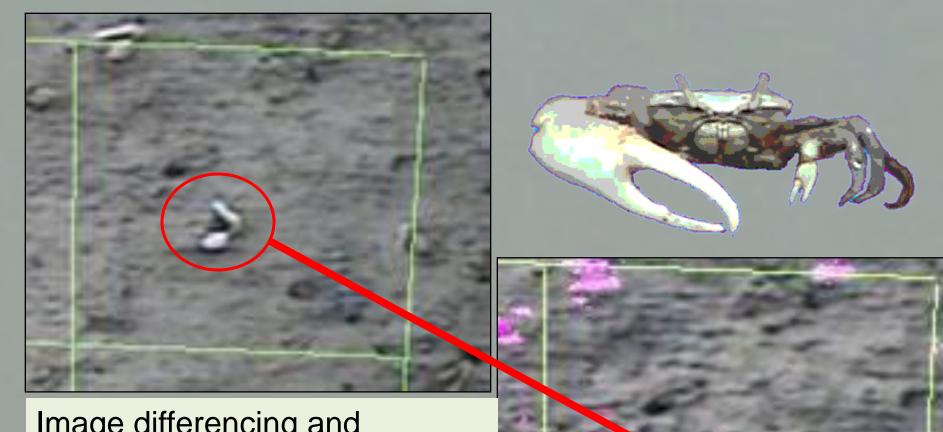
A wireless node at the Machipongo Station combines radio, network, video, data and power systems. Some components play roles in multiple systems.



Serial Radio

Data Logger







Wi-Fi connection 1.3 km using a directional flat-panel antenna

Camera Locations	Cameras	# Images per Harvest	Frequency of "Live" Data/ Bandwidth Required	Frequency of Archival Collections	Archived Dates	Number of Images Archived
Broadwater Tower – Landscape	1 PTZ	20	5 seconds / 3 KB/sec	Hourly	April 2002- present	708,938
Machipongo Station – Landscape and CrabCams	1 PTZ, 1-3 fixed	6-8	10 seconds /6 KB/sec	Hourly	April 2003- present	108,688
Machipongo Station Landscape/Birds	Scan of PTZ camera	132	N/A	Bi-Hourly	July 2006-present	960,920
Chimney-Pole Marsh – Heronry	1 fixed	1	5 Hz / 1 MB/sec	Variable (change detection)	July 2003-August 2003	10,329
Cobb Island - FalconCam	1 PTZ, 3 fixed	2-4	2-10 seconds / 12 KB/sec	10-minutes to Hourly	May 2005- present	85,581 (stored but not archived)
Other FalconCams	3 PT7 9	1 /	5 10	Not	Not archived	Not archived

