The tradition of Boulder Solar Day has been passed down via the mostly-digital scrawlings of generations (well, maybe a fraction of one) of studious solar researchers laboring long sunspot-less rotations by the meager scattered light from dusty heliostats. The true origins of the ritual are, unfortunately, buried in myth, legend, and the collectively poor memories of the indigenous inhabitants from the local founding agencies, whose forefathers strove to forge some semblance of cohesion to the regional solar tribes via an annual ceremony held near the Spring Equinox. Thus, in those dark and pre-historic (i.e. pre-iPhone) times, was formed the “Boulder Solar Day.”

The Boulder Solar Day has been held annually since 2006 thanks to the Boulder Solar Alliance as an attempt to bring together local solar researchers, technicians, and any other interested parties. There was one prior meeting in 2004 (I believe) from which the official Boulder Solar Day grew. This workshop-style meeting was held at HAO’s Foothill facility, and all subsequent events have been graciously hosted by HAO with financial support from HAO, LASP, NWRA, and SWRI. I have records of planning the event from 2007 onward. Yes, I have been – purely by default and not for any specific talent – chairing the BSD organizing committee, but the event really is the culmination of the many collective ideas and desires of those on the committee. The meeting’s intent continues to be to encourage local interactions among the diverse researchers, engineers, and students in – and visiting – the area.

The 2014 Boulder Solar Day marks the meeting’s 10th year with a record-high enrollment.