

# Block Island Workshop on Cooperative Control



Spring House Hotel  
Block Island, Rhode Island  
June 10 – June 11, 2003

There is growing interest in understanding on the one hand, how various animal aggregations such as fish schools, bird flocks, deer herds, etc. coordinate their collective motions to perform useful tasks and on the other, how groups of mobile autonomous agents such as AUV schools, UAV flocks, etc., might be instructed to cooperate in a similar manner. In broad terms, this is the issue to which this workshop is addressed. The workshop's objective is to bring together a small number of individuals from animal biology, robotics, automatic control, communications and sensor networks, artificial intelligence, dynamical systems, algorithms, etc. with interests in group coordination and cooperative control – not primarily to present their current work, but rather to delineate common ground and to identify fundamental unresolved problems in the rapidly evolving, cross-disciplinary field of cooperative control of natural and man-made groups.

**Island Ambiance:** Block Island is a small rustic New England island, named by the Nature Conservancy as “One of the 12 last great places in the Western Hemisphere.” It is a place to bring spouses and children. Dress is informal everywhere on the island, even at restaurants. Shorts, jeans, sweatshirt, sandals and sneakers are common. It is possible to get around by taxi. Moped and bike rentals are readily available. It is also quite easy to bring your own bike on the ferry. It is possible to bike the entire island in one day. There are about ten inns, some private homes, a large sand beach for swimming, lots of typical New England rocky shoreline, a bird sanctuary, several hiking and walk-about trails, wild deer, and some nice cliffs overlooking the water. There are almost no stores or concessions. June is usually a beautiful time of year in New England. More information about block Island can be obtained from [www.blockisland.com](http://www.blockisland.com)

**Logistics:** Block Island is about 70 minutes by ferry off the coast of Rhode Island. The island can also be reached by air. Because of limited air and ferry connections, participants should plan to spend the nights of June 9 through June 11 on the island. Those travelling from the west coast may prefer to spend the night of the 8th enroute. On the other hand it is not difficult to travel *from* Block Island to any destination in North America within a single day.

**Accommodation:** The meeting will be held at the Spring House Hotel. The hotel's website is [www.springhousehotel.com](http://www.springhousehotel.com)

**Information:** Organized by V. Kumar, N. Leonard, and A. S. Morse. For further information contact Naomi Leonard at [naomi@Princeton.EDU](mailto:naomi@Princeton.EDU)