

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn1,025

Number of telescopes: 20

Number of organisers: 3

Number of attendees: 400

Event Report:

It was packed! The parking lot at Rock Springs was bursting. The monthly lecture series was held in the beautiful open air (& sky) amphitheater. After the talk we had lines of visitors 20 people deep at each of our 20 telescopes. The feature, of course was Jupiter and its moons, followed by the Moon, M31, M3, tons of clusters both open and globular. Vivian worked the crowd at the amphitheater with her dazzling array of asteroid fun. At the end of the public portion of our even (11:00 PM) as is the State Park's practice, the Ranger had to politely ask people to leave. No one wanted to go. It was a marvelous night. Concurrently we had SFAA/SFSA'ers at yet another event, our City Public Star Party & Galilean Nights/Fall Astronomy Day, in San Francisco at the beautiful, historic (& relatively dark) Golden Gate National Recreational Area (GGNRA). Fortunate for all there was no fog to spoil the night. Lots of PR with local news, including Sr. Science Editor David Perlman from the SF Chronicle and Paul Salazar of the Urban Astronomer helped drum up plenty of folks eager to observe, learn and even join our club! At both venues we handed out 400 Years of the Telescope IYA 2009 bookmarks and Solar Pizzas, both Spanish and English versions..wish we had Chinese too. A wonderful time was had by all.