

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn1,198

Number of telescopes: 5

Number of organisers: 10

Number of attendees: 400

Event Report:

Sidewalk astronomy is our main activity. We started at about 7:00p.m., when the moon is still high in the sky. The moon's phase is first quarter, suitable for observation, and the Jupiter is also visible and easy to watch. The place we chose has good view, plane ground and proper amount of people. We also hands up our flag and advertisement.

Every telescope was ran by two persons, one to operate, the other to guide the line and explain what we do and what we can see. "Do you see it? Is it in the middle of your sight? Is it clear?" As was the first time for many people to experience this, they felt very excited and a sense fulfillment. Beautiful, well done and so on was often heard, and more questions were followed.

The moon set early, so our telescope focusrd on the Jupiter then. All four Galileo satellites could be seen on 22nd and three of them can be seen on 23rd. People of good eyesight had also observed the swirling cloud patterns under our guidance. Some said they saw the Great Red Spot, even.

We pointed the Jupiter to them and introduced its properties. Then we talked about the purpose of our activities, the year of astronomy and the Galileo Nights Program. Some people who became real interest in astronomy would ask more and even wanted to be part of our socation. We would explain and share more. For example, the clasiffication, operation and index() of telescope, the constellations and the milky way, the coming Leonids shower in November, the orbit of planet and so on.

By communication with attendees, we found that many people knew little of astronomy. Some people mixed up the Jupiter and Saturn, one even kept asking if we could see the rings of the Jupiter. Many people lacked basic knowledge of our moon, and most people couldn't recognise the Jupiter themselves. We told them the contact of us including websites and location of our office, to help them go further in astronomy and keep it a lifelong interest like us, as we hope.

About our cooperater, Tsinghua Astronomy Asociation. We didn't limit our activities in our campus. We contacted with Tsinghua. They undertook the work of propagate while we provided equipments and hands. Although the sky was covered by a story of thin fog, the satellites still could be seen easily in the 152 telescope.