

**Galilean Nights Event ID:** gn10

**Number of telescopes:** 5

**Number of organisers:** 10

**Number of attendees:** 400

**Event photos:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/44598970@N06/4098956102/in/pool-galileannights/>  
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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/44598970@N06/4099042744/in/pool-galileannights/>  
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#### **Event Report:**

The Astronomy @ the Foothill Ranch event was a local community event coordinated with the Galilean Nights initiative. The event was hosted by the non-profit organization Scopes-4-Schools, Inc.. We received many compliments and comments thanking us for organizing the event.

The event itself included both day time and night time activities. During the day the community room of the library was used for several astronomy related exhibits and videos. The "Eyes on the Skies" movie was shown continuously though the day. The topics of the exhibits included:

- 1) Galileo and the beginning of modern astronomy.
- 2) The Solar System as we know it today.
- 3) Local outreach programs of amateur astronomers.
- 4) Telescopes used by amateur astronomers.
- 5) Images from the Hubble Space Telescope
- 6) Spectroscopy - the Swiss Army Knife of Astronomers.

The exhibits also included NASA and STSI produced videos about the night sky ("What's Up in October" and a video on the latest status and images from the Hubble Space Telescope).

Two Hydrogen alpha telescopes were set up out side of the community room for viewing of the Sun. A table was also set up for children's activities that included making sun dials (IYA provided), drawing like Galileo did what they saw through the solar telescopes and other arts & crafts projects.

It is estimated that 120 people attended the day time activities.

The night time activities included a presentation about Galileo and the scientific method and a public star party. Local amateur astronomers provided the telescopes for the public viewing.

It is estimated that 300 people attended the night time activities. People patiently lined up from 7:30 pm until 10:00 pm to have a look at Jupiter, the Moon and other objects at the three provided telescopes. We were a bit overwhelmed by the number of people that came. But it seemed that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the night.

Volunteers from the Applied Engineering Club of the Irvine Valley College and the Orange County Astronomers club generously donated their time and effort to make this event a great success.

The marketing of the event was coordinated with local elementary and middle school teachers. Many teachers at these schools had already started their astronomy units for their classes and they incorporated this event into the curriculum.

Scopes-4-Schools, Inc. was founded in 2008 as a non-profit organization. The group donates Ha solar and night time telescopes to public schools for use in science instruction.