

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn297

Number of telescopes: 2

Number of organisers: 3

Number of attendees: 75

Event photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/30653680@N05/4096609596/in/pool-galileannights>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/30653680@N05/4095854803/in/pool-galileannights>

Event Report:

We set up an 8-inch (20 cm) Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and a Galileoscope™ in the centre of town to allow folks an opportunity to view both the Moon and Jupiter in much the same way that Galileo did 400 years ago. The weather was quite good and we attracted a rather large number of people, including many young people. Most of the people who stopped by did so between 7 PM and 9 PM, even though we had the telescopes set up until 10 PM.

After each person looked through the telescope, we presented them with an RASC / IYA2009 Canada "AstroCard" and told them that they just had a "Galileo Moment" and that if they register their Galileo Moment on the IYA2009 Canada website, their name would be sent into space by the Canadian Space Agency on board NEOSat in 2010. Needless to say, everyone thought this was really amazing and I'm sure most everybody registered their Galileo Moment later in the evening.

As for interactions with attendees and their responses, many were surprised to learn that Galileo did not invent the telescope. Also, many were surprised to learn that Jupiter has more than 60 moons. In addition, many attendees did not know that Galileo's discovery of the four large moons of Jupiter forever changed our view of the universe and our place in it.