

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn506

Number of telescopes: 3

Number of organisers: 1

Number of attendees: 10

Event Report:

Neubiberger Galilean Nights, 24.10.2009

After the great success of the 100 Hours of Astronomy Adria Event, expectations were high in the Neubiberger amateur astronomy community.

Despite the bad weather prognosis, we were determined to repeat the success. Thus, on the 24th of October, a group of children and parents set out for plan B, a visit to the Open House in the Science Centre of Garching near Munich from 11am to 18pm, well 19pm, actually, since the children wouldn't leave until we were literally thrown out. Favourites were the Max-Planck-Institute for Extraterrestrial physics, the Max-Planck-Institute for Astrophysics, and ESO (the European Southern Observatory). To just mention the most popular activities, the children built rockets powered by vitamin drink tablets, produces clouds with frozen carbon dioxide in water, bombarded a dinosaur landscape with meteorites, and ate sweets, chocoküsse, improved? by vacuum treatment, while the parents learnt about space, a favourite being the black hole lecture. We brought home photographs of ourselves in infrared, and wearing a real used Russian astronaut's space suit. Despite the cloudy sky, we managed to see the sunspots, though hazy, through the Baader telescopes.

Back in Neubiberg, the moon and Jupiter observing was first cancelled due to clouds, and replaced by computer solar system demonstrations, but then at 20.15, the sky broke up, and hastily, some enthusiasts amongst us hurried to the observing hill, built up a telescope, and were lucky to observe the moon and Jupiter with its satellites for some 20 minutes.

Then a thick mist rolled in from north, surrounded the hill to make us feel like on a high mountain top, and soon covered the sky. The walk back through this dense, freezing cold mist, or "Nebel des Grauens", was highlighted by tales referring to features of the nearby graveyard... All appreciated the speedy return to some Glühwein and accompanying discussions about the Garching lectures.

The night was closed by reading an old favourite, "The wind on the moon" by Eric Linclater, to the youngest participants.