

**Galilean Nights Event ID:** gn917

**Number of telescopes:** 2

**Number of organisers:** 5

**Number of attendees:** 250

**Event photos:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/41979445@N08/sets/72157622705698657/>

**Event Report:**

The event was organized and run by the Graduate Students in Astronomy and Astrophysics of the Autonomous University in Honduras, Central America. It took place on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 nights at the University Campus. Our target was to have at least 100 college students (not science oriented) to receive a lecture on Galileo and his telescope and enjoy an opportunity of replicate his observations. As a second objective, besides we would present a homemade telescope with plans and a brief explanation on its construction. Usually these events take place at the Observatory facility, which is located two miles away. However because of that distance, we thought that even with strong advertisement, not many people would attend (for many, it's quite a long walk)so, we decided to move our telescopes (two C-8 CELESTRON units and a sample homemade telescope) to the main parking lot located in front of the main offices, as this is the most crowded place at campus. The strategy worked! as we received more than 250 people excited about watching the Moon and Jupiter using a telescope (despise the bad weather). According to our poll, most of them had never used a telescope before! Even with bad weather, people waited in long lines for the sky to clear... even a couple minutes were good enough to enjoy the view. Some of the observers were lucky enough to watch the bands on Jupiter and its satellites. Many of them were amazed when catching the craters of the moon. We also received a lot of requests on plans for telescope building.

As a plan B, we set a video presentation about the history of the telescopes. We projected it on a wall in the parking lot. The audience watched the video while waiting on the line.

In summary we consider it a successful activity!