

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn1,202

Number of telescopes: 3

Number of organisers: 1

Number of attendees: 180

Event photos: See images from Flickr: "Astronomy2009 in SL"

Photostream:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/44728410@N06/?saved=1>

Event Report:

Galilean Nights on the Astronomy 2009 island in the virtual world called Second saw approximately 180 visitors over the 3 day period. In addition to our regular IYA2009 exhibits, we had special Galilean Nights exhibits out during this period for folks to interact with.

1. Jupiter Model (credit: Rob Knop)

In the center of our island was a large Jupiter and Galilean Moon model that avatars could manipulate by speeding up or slowing down to see how the Moons orbit around Jupiter. This model used real ephemeris data. Alongside the model was placed a scale model of Earth, Jupiter, Galilean Moons as well as the Galilean Nights created Powerpoint slides on Jupiter.

2. Jupiter/Moons Telescopes (credit: Adrienne Gauthier and David Huber)

Out for "almost real time" viewing were 3 refractor model telescopes "aimed" at Jupiter. The images of Jupiter and the Galilean Moons were mined from Starry Night and manipulated in Photoshop to be a comparable view "as the eye sees" through such a telescope in real life. Included were transits, eclipses and shadows. The images auto-updated every hour, though avatars had the option to advance +1 hr or go back - 1 hr to see how the view changed.

3. Let There Be Night (credit: Chuck Bueter)

The Let There Be Night project previously used Second Life to recreate Galileo's Villa to use as a stage for a real life planetarium show. During Galilean Nights, we debuted the actual planetarium show used in real life with middle school age programs.

Please see links for pictures of the event and exhibits to get a better idea of the virtual world environment.