

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn121

Number of telescopes: 25

Number of organisers: 75

Number of attendees: 1000

Event photos: Please see photos at these websites. Please do not upload these photos somewhere else, but use these links:

<http://www.naoj.org/IYA/Blockparty/>

and

http://outreach.jach.hawaii.edu/outreach_activities/IYA_galileoblockparty.html

Event Report:

On Saturday, October 24, the 13 observatories on Mauna Kea in Hawai`i organized the Galileo Block Party in Hilo. The Galileo Block Party was organized by the Mauna Kea Observatories Outreach Committee (MKOOC) for the entire Big Island community. Over a thousand people were in attendance. Opening ceremonies began in the early afternoon on the steps of the Subaru Telescope base facility with addresses by County of Hawai`i Mayor Billy Kenoi, University of Hawai`i at Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng, and several others. Throughout the afternoon, local school bands performed, and even Galileo Galilei himself made an appearance. During the afternoon there were activities at each of the observatory base facilities, such as games, exhibits, tours, and educational demonstrations. These included solar observing, a mirror cleaning demo, an asteroid target practice game, making astronomy buttons, an astronomy quiz, tours of some of the telescope base facilities, a comet demo, a vacuum demo, an asteroid impact demo, Mauna Kea Brand astronomy trading cards, sorting the solar system, an angular momentum demo, and various crafts (making comets, stars, and more). Participants further included the Hilo Astronomy Club, the University Astrophysics Club, Mauna Kea Support Services, Office of Mauna Kea Management and `Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawaii. Please see our websites for more details of the Galileo Block Party:

<http://www.naoj.org/IYA/Blockparty/>

and

http://outreach.jach.hawaii.edu/outreach_activities/IYA_galileoblockparty.html