

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn524

Number of telescopes: 5

Number of organisers: 2

Number of attendees: 45

Event Report:

AHMO Astronomy was held at Cooper Junior High School in Wylie, Texas on Friday, October 23. This event was organized by MJ Tykoski, 8th Grade science teacher at Cooper Junior High School and Dr. Jerry Galloway of the Rose Observatory in Lavon, Texas. Forty-five students and parents attended the event. Mrs. Tykoski and Dr. Galloway provided telescopes for students to look through including:

12-inch Schmidt Cassegrain

2.5-inch refractor

A pair of 6-inch Dobsonians

Galileoscope from IYA

We looked at the Moon (through all telescopes), Jupiter (through all telescopes), M31 (through all telescopes), Ring Nebula M57 (through the 12-inch), Neptune (through the 12-inch) and M13 (through the 12 inch).

A couple of interesting ideas and comments came up from my 8th grade students. First, the object that astounded them the most was the Moon. I expected more excitement from things like M31 or Neptune, but the detail they could see on the Moon outweighed the amazing distance the other objects were.

Students were also intrigued by the Galileoscope. They didn't think a telescope that small could see so much, and they were surprised by how hard it was to simply point and look and keep it steady the whole time. This led to a great discussion on tripods and the different ways telescopes are mounted.

Finally, one of my students took a picture of the Moon with her digital camera through the 2.5 inch refractor just to see what would happen. It's not the clearest picture, but she was so proud of herself and I was pleased she even thought to give it a try considering she had never looked through a telescope before.