

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn830

Number of telescopes: 1 refractor telescope (Kepler's system, aperture 60 mm, azimuthal mount) was used, with 10 mm and 20 mm eyepieces

Number of organisers: 1 organizer - Zaets Yura

Number of attendees: 15 persons

Event photos: http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2601/4090178105_dfe0676f59_m.jpg

http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2675/4090178079_0642624594_m.jpg

Event Report:

The "Galilean Nights" event passed on October 23 at the elementary school of village Stepne. Preliminary, two week prior to the date of event, the senior students of the school have attended the lectures of the following topics:

1. Why 2009 is declared the International Year of Astronomy?
2. Who has invented a telescope?
3. Value of Galileo Galilei's discoveries.
4. What can be seen with an amateur telescope?

The event, as it was planned before, began at 19-30 o'clock. The weather was very tricky: low clouds constantly interfered with our observations. But, fortunately, there was some wind, so the sky was clearing up during several moments of time.

There were present the students of senior classes and the members of school astronomic group "Quasar", circa 15 persons in total. In the beginning, the aims of "Galilean Nights" event were reminded to the schoolchildren. Then the telescopic observations of Moon began. The refractor telescope (Kepler's system, aperture 60 mm, azimuthal mount) was used, with 10 mm and 20 mm eyepieces. Students observed craters and mountains on Moon and listened about how they appeared. I was asked about:

- is there water on our natural satellite?
- what is the distance to it?
- why does Moon look in another way when it appears to be low above the horizon?

Later the observations of Jupiter began. Students saw Galilean moons through a telescope – three of them at first, and later the fourth appeared from behind Jupiter. The nature of this phenomenon was explained, as well as it is was told about the physical conditions on the largest planet of Solar system. Students asked me:

- what is the distance to the Jupiter?
- is there life or not?
- what is the "Big red spot" on this planet?

Further, the children observed the Milky Way while I explained to them why do they see such a large agglomeration of stars, which is actually Our Galaxy.

In the end I told and showed in practice to the students the next:

- how one can orient on the land using the stars?
- currently visible constellations
- globular cluster M13 and open cluster "Pleiades"

We finished our event at 22-00 o'clock.