

Galilean Nights Event ID: gn972

Number of telescopes: 2

Number of organisers: 1

Number of attendees: 20

Event Report:

The event theme was celebrating the 400th anniversary of the invention of the telescope and Galileo's observations of Jupiter, Venus and the Moon. The club initially had scheduled four informal talks beginning at 7:30pm.

We were going to begin with our Children's Program talk, which was cancelled due to inclement weather. Observing through our telescopes was not possible for the whole night. Here is a summary of what did occur

1. Space News by Karl Hunting: Included a roundup of what is happening in NASA as well as foreign space programs.

2. Q&A by Dr. Lew Thomas: We had a Q&A segment given by one of our prominent scientists (usually the audience asked questions, but in this occasion, our scientist asked the questions with the winner receiving a prize for the best answer). The audiences were not aware of the prize, which made it more interesting. Most questions were on theoretical physics, they weren't easily answered. After a series of questions, the winner was finally decided and received a book titled Smithsonian: Journey to the Stars.

3. Lecture: Who Actually Invented The Telescope? By Anthony Espinoza. Johannes Hevelius, Johannes Kepler, Galileo Galilei, Hans Lippershey all who were pioneers in the invention of the telescope. Who of these Astronomers actually invented the instrument? The question was given to the audience. The background story of these Astronomers was given despite some technical problems. NASA and International Year of Astronomy DVD, Posters, also were given out.

Overall, the event ran quite smoothly despite weather and technical problems. The crowd enjoyed all of the activities along with receiving educational materials. It was a very lively atmosphere.

On behalf of the organization, we would like thank you for providing this worldwide-celebrated IYA event.