

Space Day 2002

Ray Shapp, Don Kruse and Kevin Conod represented AAI and the UACNJ at the Liberty Science Center's Space Day event on May 2, 2002.



Don Kruse (above picture, top right) and Ray Shapp (right picture, lower left) used binoculars and small telescope to demonstrate what such equipment could do at Liberty Science Center.



Organized by Carmen Borzelli, an amateur astronomer from Bayonne, a couple of telescopes and binoculars were set up to teach students about optics. Solar observing was also planned if the weather permitted, but unfortunately it did not. The day was wet and foggy, but visitors seemed happy with a view of the New York City skyline. Attendance was high, with many enjoying the rocket building workshops and other exhibits at the science center.

From the President

(Continued from the front)

and myself attended Liberty Science Center's National Space Day event (see above photos). Attendance was good, but the weather was bad! The Northeast Astronomy Forum was a big hit. The Rockland Astronomy Club did a great job again this year. There were some great speakers including David Levy and astronaut John Grunsfeld. There was an inspirational talk and exhibit of some spectacular astrophotos by Rob Gendler. Dr. Mary Lou West's presentation on the Sun was very appropriate given the spectacular views we had outside.

By the time you read this, the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton's Jersey Starquest will have taken place. This annual event has been a fixture on the New Jersey astronomy scene for the last thirteen years. Speakers included Mary Lou West (Montclair State) and Bob Vanderbei (Princeton University).

Looking to the future, Rockland Astronomy Club will hold their tenth annual Summer Star Party August 2-11 in Savoy,

Massachusetts. The UACNJ's ninth annual Symposium will be held September 28 at Jenny Jump starting at 1:30 p.m. The South Jersey Astronomy Club will host the sixth annual South Jersey Star Party. Although this is a relatively new event, it is quickly building a following. I have had the pleasure of attending a couple of times. I've always had a good time and great observing! This year's event will be held October 4-6, 2002. I hope to see you there!

Our Pennsylvanian brethren will be hard at work getting ready for their fall events as well. MegaMeet will be presented by the Lehigh Valley Amateru Astronomical Society at Pulpit Rock north of Hamburg, PA. Bucks Mont Astronomical Association's Stella Della Valley event will be held in Ottsville, PA.

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LIGHT POLLUTION UPDATE

HELP!!

I would love to be able to devote more of my time to supporting the UACNJ. But the reality is that, like many of you, demands for my time (my day job, my freelance job, doing TPO, writing a full scale book for an historical association and trying to find at least some time for a social life!) have limited my ability to do as much as I would like to.

One of the key areas I find myself unable to fulfill my duties is the light pollution arena. I need people to help! I have ideas but lack the time to implement them. Anyone interested in this important issue with a little time to spare is encouraged to contact me. In the mean time, here are three immediate areas of concern...

RODGER'S RENTAL LIGHT

We have had permission for some time to re-aim the offending fixture at Rodger's Rental which has been the bane of so many observers for so long. That was the easy part! Figuring out how to get up the 60 foot pole to do it is the trick! After several false starts, we need someone with equipment to get up there and finish this long overdue job!

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Karl Hricko is off to a great start (see front), but he's only one man. Anyone interested in helping, please contact me!

GOOD LIGHTING FORUM

Kevin Conod, Fred Schaaf and I have been discussing a renewed light pollution campaign. To that end we've set up an e-mail list on Yahoogroups. It's called the New Jersey Good Lighting Forum (NJGL for short) and we hope you will join us in this important dialogue.

To subscribe, simply send a blank e-mail to: njgl-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

DARK SITE SURVEY

I need people to follow up on our mailings of this report to various environmental organizations.

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