

Contact List

Kitt Peak Visitor Center—318-8726
Nick Petrosino, Supervisor
npetrosino@noao.edu
318-8732

NOAO Public Outreach
Rich Fedele, Manager
rfedele@noao.edu
318-8163
Robert Wilson,
Program Coordinator
rwilson@noao.edu
318-8440

Kitt Peak Docent Program

950 N Cherry Ave
Tucson, AZ 85719

Docent Forum: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/docentforum/>

Docent Calendar: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/docentforum/>

Volunteering at Kitt

Peak: <http://www.noao.edu/outreach/kpoutreach.html>

www.noao.edu



Next Docent Meeting Monday, May 19

The next docent meeting will be held on Monday, May 19. The meeting will convene at 6:00 in the main conference room and will feature dinner and a speaker. Docents should visit the docent forum calendar to schedule their hours. Docents who do not have web access may contact Nick Petrosino. See the URL for the docent calendar at lower left.

«First Name» «Last Name»
«Mailing Address»
«City» «State» «Zip Code»

DOCENT NEWS



ASTRONOMY DAY MAY 10TH

Items of Interest:

- The docent meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 19 and will feature dinner and a speaker.
- May 2: Space Day
- May 2: Family ASTRO Night Sky Adventure, NOAO
- May 5: Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower peak
- May 5: Asteroid 2008 HG near-Earth flyby at 0.042 AU
- May 5 to 11: Astronomy Week
- May 9: Lunar Adventure, NOAO offices
- May 10: Astronomy Day, see article inside
- May 14: Mercury at its greatest eastern elongation - 22 degrees
- May 17: Junior Astronomer, KPNO
- May 26: Phoenix, Mars landing

For additional information about these items of interest, visit www2.jpl.nasa.gov/calendar/ or www.noao.edu/outreach/kpvc/.

Saturday May 10th should be fairly busy on Kitt Peak. It is the date of Astronomy Day, the culmination of Astronomy Week, which dates to 1973 and an attempt by astronomer Doug Berger of Northern California to take astronomy to the public. He succeeded and a tradition was born.

Now Astronomy Day occurs sometime between mid April and mid May on a Saturday near or before the 1st quarter Moon. Astronomy Week was created to give clubs and observatories more time to schedule events. Accordingly the visitor center has planned a modest activity that may draw a few additional visitors to the mountain.

Three times during the day a drawing will be held in the visitor center for door prizes. A ticket will be given to everyone who pays for a tour - one tour gets one ticket. A daily pass will receive two tickets. Drawings will be held at 11:00, 1:00, and 3:00. Three tickets will be drawn each time, and guests need

not be present in the VC at the time of the drawing to collect the prize. The winning ticket numbers will be posted, so anytime during the day that a winning ticket is produced a prize will be awarded. This will not interfere with the daily routine, except for the few minutes it takes to draw the three tickets and post the winning numbers.

The drawings will allow Kitt Peak to acknowledge Astronomy Day without having to undertake the planning and staffing of a more formal event. Other activities are planned for later that day that will require coordination and volunteer support.

But public outreach decided that a nod toward this worthwhile tradition of thirty-five years was appropriate since its purpose is to create public awareness of and support for astronomy, very much like the mission of the Kitt Peak Visitor Center.

The Coronado telescopes will be open that day as well so operators will be needed.

FAMILY NIGHT, STARS AND MUSIC MAY 10TH

It has been a few years since the last NOAO Family Night on Kitt Peak, and judging from the demand for seats on the buses the evening of Saturday May 10th could see quite a few family members on the mountain. Busses will depart from the lot at 1st and Martin beginning at 2:30.

Volunteers are still needed to staff the 2.1-meter and 4-meter telescopes. Two slots are available during the 5:30 to 6:30 shift. The schedule is posted on the Kitt Peak Docent Forum, and anyone willing to fill either of those slots should post a note on the forum and the information will be forwarded to the Employee's Association.

In addition to this event, Public Outreach is hosting an annual Stars and Music program that evening featuring harpist Megan

Metheney. Originally scheduled for the picnic area, which will now be used for parking, Stars and Music had to be either cancelled or relocated. Not willing to cancel the program, the department decided to incorporate it into Family Night.

Guests arriving for Stars and Music will be treated just like family members. They will park in the picnic area and take the shuttle to the top where they may enjoy all the festivities scheduled for NOAO. Metheney's performance will take place at the ROR facility up the hill from the visitor center from 7:00 to 8:00. NOAO staff and family members will be allowed to attend that performance as well.

Stars and Music attendees are being told to arrive between 5:30 and 6:00. As usual

GLOBE AT NIGHT 2008 RESULTS A SOLID STEP TOWARD IYA 2009

The international star-hunting activity known as GLOBE at Night inspired 6,838 measurements of night-sky brightness by citizen scientists around the world, including 660 digital measurements using handheld sky-quality meters.

The third edition of GLOBE at Night was held from February 25-March 8, with assistance from the educational outreach networks of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) to help spread the campaign to amateur astronomers and science centers.

The 2008 campaign received measurements from 62 countries, surpassing last year's total of 60 countries. Just over 4,800 of the measurements came from the United States (with 48 states and the District of Columbia reporting at least one measurement). Observers in Hungary submitted the most measurements (380) from outside the U.S., followed by Romania, the Czech Republic, Costa Rica, and Spain, all with over 100 observations; Canada was next largest, with 95 measurements reported.

These basic numbers fall roughly midway between the 2007 and 2006 results from GLOBE at Night, which may result from several factors. "While we have just begun to analyze the data, we have strong anecdotal evidence from our citizen-scientist network in North America that they experienced abnormally cloudy skies this year," says Connie Walker, GLOBE at Night project manager at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) in Tucson, AZ. "The timing of the March new Moon this year - which is required to give everyone sufficiently dark skies to properly observe the constellation Orion - also fell further into summer vacation for our partners in Chile and some other Southern Hemisphere countries, which made it more difficult to attract large numbers of students.

The classic GLOBE at Night program directs students, families, and the general public how to observe and record the number of stars visible in the constellation Orion, as seen from different locations. Observers report their results online by comparing their view of Orion with a set of template images on the program's Web site, which shows the number of stars in the constellation for a range of visibilities from bright skies to very dark.

The digital version of GLOBE at Night takes advantage of low-cost digital sky-quality meters manufactured by Unihedron of Ontario, Canada, which can make a highly repeatable direct measurement of integrated sky brightness.

Both the "classic" GLOBE at Night exercise that anyone can have fun doing with their unaided eyes, and a digital effort to obtain precise measurements of urban dark skies will be conducted again in March 2009, as one of several start-hunting efforts connected to the "dark-skies awareness" cornerstone program of the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) 2009.

GLOBE at Night 2009 will occur in the latter half of March. These dates should provide better conditions for schools in the Southern Hemisphere, and will likely coincide

with Earth Hour 2009 as well, Walker says.

A first-look at results from GLOBE at Night 2008 was presented by project leaders who attended the March 2008 meeting of the National Science Teachers Association in Boston. More detailed analysis of the GLOBE at Night 2008 data will be presented at the May 31-June 4 annual meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific in St. Louis, to be held jointly with the American Astronomical Society. The meeting's primary focus is national and regional training and planning related to IYA 2009.

See www.astrosociety.org/events/meeting.html for more details.

For more information and access to the data sets, see the program's Web page at www.globe.gov/globeatnight, or contact globeatnight@globe.gov or outreach@noao.edu.

Information about the emerging global plans for the IYA 2009 is available at www.astronomy2009.org

GLOBE at Night is a collaboration between The Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program, Boulder, CO; the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) in Tucson, AZ; Centro de Apoyo a la Didactica de la Astronomia (CADIAS) in Chile; Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI); and the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA).

The National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) consists of Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, AZ; Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory near La Serena, Chile; and, the NOAO Gemini Science Center, the route for U.S. astronomers to observe with the Gemini North telescope in Hawaii and the Gemini South telescope in Chile. NOAO is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy Inc. (AURA), under a cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) is a worldwide, hands-on, primary and secondary Earth science and education program. GLOBE promotes and supports student-teacher-scientist collaborations on inquiry-based investigations of Earth's environment. To date, over 1 million students and 40,000 teachers from more than 100 countries have participated in GLOBE. GLOBE is funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the U.S. Department of State, and implemented through a cooperative agreement between NASA, the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) in Boulder, Colorado and Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Contact:
Douglas Isbell

Office of Public Affairs and Educational Outreach
Phone: 1-520-318-8214
Email: disbell@noao.edu

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Joe, Everett</i>	2 <i>Robert, Vance (C)</i> <i>Mex. Stu. 22</i>	3 <i>Jim, Ken</i>
4 <i>Larry L</i>	5 <i>Jack</i>	6 <i>Gerald, Barbara</i>	7 <i>Sheila</i>	8 <i>Joe</i>	9 <i>Robert</i>	10 <i>Jim, Eugene</i>
11 <i>Ken, Frank</i>	12 <i>Paul</i> <i>Detours 20</i>	13 <i>Joyce, Vance</i> <i>Tour 50 seniors</i>	14 <i>Sheila</i>	15 <i>Paul, Joe</i>	16 <i>Paul</i> <i>Mex. Group 50</i>	17 <i>Jim, Eugene</i>
18 <i>Jack</i>	19 <i>Aubrey</i> <i>Docent Meeting</i>	20 <i>Joyce, Laura</i>	21 <i>Sheila</i>	22 <i>Paul</i>	23 <i>Robert, Joe (C)</i>	24 <i>Larry L., Jim</i> <i>Scouts 40</i>
25 <i>Jack</i>	26 <i>Paul</i>	27 <i>Joyce</i>	28 <i>Sheila</i>	29 <i>Laura, Joe</i>	30 <i>Vance (C)</i>	31 <i>Jim, Eugene</i>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

GRADUATING DOCENTS

names of the guests will be checked off the roster as they arrive in the picnic area so the department can keep track of paying customers. A volunteer will be needed for that duty.

Prior to Metheny's performance a band will be playing on the visitor center patio. After the performance the guests may visit the large telescopes, shop in the visitor center, and dine on the delicious food sold by O'odham vendors in the parking lot. TAAA will have amateur telescopes set up in the .9-meter parking lot and the visitor center telescopes will be available, taking care of the star party portion of the program. And for those who truly enjoy the soothing sounds of Metheny's music and would like to hear more, she will have her CD "Notes on the Moon" available for purchase.

Docents and their families are welcome to attend this event. Contact the Employee's Association for bus reservations.

Congratulations to the ten new docents graduating from docent training on Wednesday May 7. Alan Brass, Douglas Van Dorpe, Harald Bange, Renae Lauterback, Adrienne DeMinor, John White, Chester Fennell, David Jacobsen, Sherry Massie, and David Sattinger. All performed exceedingly well in training and reports from their mentors indicate that they will contribute significantly to the docent program, maintaining the high standards of professionalism and dedication established by Kitt Peak Docents over the years.

A few of the graduates are seasonal and will be leaving soon after graduation for enviable destination such as Austria and China. The department looks forward to their return in the fall. Those who remain will take up their duties on Kitt Peak in the next few weeks, so welcome them and offer whatever assistance they may need to get started in their routines.