

International year of Astronomy in Dalmatia

Astronomical Centar Salona (ACS)

The **Astronomical Centar Salona (ACS)** organised for the International year of Astronomy several major events which the media and the public were well informed about. Among those events are "100 hours of astronomy in Solin", "Month of Croatian Book", and finally the "Galilean Nights".

The **100 hours of astronomy in Solin** were part of the global project **100 hours of astronomy**. As a part of that global project, within the period from the 2nd to the 5th of April, many astronomical events organized by the **ACS** took place in Solin. Among them were astronomical classes for pupils of primary schools. Those classes were held in the primary schools of "Vjekoslav Parać" and "Kraljica Jelena" and the pupils who attended the classes could learn about the celestial objects and the night sky in general, and learn how to make planispheres. There was a total of 6 classes held for 160 pupils. The heads of those classes were **Tomislav Sorić**, **Ana Budiša** and **Snježana Lelas**, and they had the help of school teachers. There was also an art class for pupils, which produced more than fifty drawings based on every astronomical subject, and a competition took place, in which the best works were rewarded. Near the **Home of culture Zvonimir**, in the old fortress of Gradina, nightly observations were held every night due to the fine weather. Some telescopes were also mounted in front of the home of culture, so that the passing citizens could learn about the major observations in **Gradina**. In the end more than 200 people partook in those observations. In the Home of Culture there was an exhibition of astrophotographs taken by amateur astronomes **Filip Lolić**, **Vid Nikolić** and **Boris Štromar**, and astronomical sketches by **Natko Bajić** and **Vedran Vrhovac**. The Exhibition lasted through the whole **100 hours of astronomy**. In the exhibition, some educational posters on the theme of light pollution made by the „Astronomical section of the society for physics in Split“ were also on display, which were of great help to us, and they were exhibited in every event created by the **ACS**. And last but not least, there were lectures throughout the event, in the cinema hall of the **Home of Culture**. **Dejan Vinković** held a lecture on the theme of "Shooting stars", **Toni Đogaš** "Light pollution in our city", **Tomislav Sorić** "The International Year of Astronomy" **Tonka Burić** i **Danijela Vukasović** "Space tourism – Zero G flights", and **Marin Treselj** "Exoplanets". Many volunteers and members were involved and without their help these events wouldn't have been possible. These are: **Ana Budiša**, **Zvonimir Domazet**, **Jure Bacelj**, **Nina Vuković**, **Martina Vuković**, **Mate Balić**, **Dino Ljubić**, **Matko Radanović**, **Mislav Šonjić**, **Sanja Marunica**,

Nataša Vučemilović – Alagić, Ivan Dević, Marin Ninčević, Snježana Lelas, Boni Butir, Jasminka Pauk, Katja Bacelj, Barbara Nosić, Dino Bektešević. They took shifts in the home of culture, where the exhibition was held. They talked about the photographs and answered the visitors' questions. During the night sky observation, **Dino Ljubić** and **Mate Balić** adjusted the telescopes and pointed them to Jupiter, the Moon and other celestial objects.

The next event in the **International year of Astronomy** was our contribution in the "**Month of Croatian Book**" (15.10 – 15.11) which we enriched with our lectures, posters and observations. This was a great part of the "**Galilean Nights**" event organized at the same time. This part of the event took place in Split in the "**Marko Marulić**" city library where we, together with the astronomical section of the society for physics in Split, hosted an exhibition of astronomical photographs and held classes in astronomy, for pupils of primary schools, named "the creation of sky charts" and "walking through the Solar System". In the city library of Solin we held the **Little school of astronomy**. The lectures were every Wednesday after which astronomical observations in Gradina were held, or special classes and astronomical quizzes.

The last event was "**Galilean Nights**" which formally lasts from the 22.10 to 24.10, but was extended for seven days, and that took place in Split and the wider region. But unfortunately due to bad weather conditions, many observations could not take place, and some other manifestations in the form of lectures and exhibitions. On the first day of "**Gallilean Nights**" in the city Library of Solin which offer us their classroom, we held a lecture called "**A walk through the night sky**". The next day we took part in the program of the Omiš city theater called "Reading beneath the stars". The theater actors read works of many poets, after which the ACS held a lecture called "**Stars on the palm of your hand**". The audience was very curious, and their questions eventually developed into a debate on many astronomical and astrological topics, and some questions in the field of astrophysics were brought up. On the third day we planned a grand observation from the viewpoint on the famous hill of Marjan in Split, but the weather was as poor as the previous two days, so the only thing we could do was explain to the people that showed up why the observation was canceled and offer our apologies. Finally the next day the weather was excellent, so we could hold the observation in the yard of the primary school of "Strožanac". All pupils were present, which made this one the most visited observation during the "**Gallilean Nights**". Fine weather followed through the next few days, so the observations in front of the "Marko Marulić" library in Split and on the city beach in Omiš were successful. We planned a projection of the Moon and Jupiter onto a projection screen in Split, in front of the library, but instead used an ordinary bed sheet. This way the projection was two sided, and could be seen both in front of the library, and from across the street. The ceremonial closing of our "**Gallilean Nights**" was held in the historical fortress of Gradina, where we had also organized observations during the "**100 hours of astronomy in Solin**". That night, the pupils from the **Little school**

of astronomy, which was a part of our lectures in the "**Month of Croatian Book**", used the telescopes to observe many celestial objects, and they asked the members of ACS many questions about what they saw. Their happiness was the proof of the succes of our effort and organization.

The members of the ASC main organizing committee are: Jerko Matoš, Tomislav Sorić, Dino Ljubić, Ana Bacelj, Mate Balić and Josip Belas.