

CAS and SWAOG Members Answer a Call for Help from Several Cub Scout & Boy Scout Troops!

Robert Richmond, a Troop Leader of several Suburban Chicago Cub Scout & Boy Scout Troops, called the CAS Hot-Line and asked for some help from our Club for a Fall Camp-oree that they were having at the Hoover Outdoor Recreation Center in Yorkville, IL on October 5th. Bob Gadbois put out an email alert to the CAS Members on September 25th asking for volunteers to help support this event.

Several CAS members answered the call for help, and came out in support of the event. The CAS members who volunteered were: Bob & Claire Gadbois, Audrey Fischer, Dan Joyce, Dave Lehocky, and Jeff Benuzzi. In addition, the SWAOG (South West Astronomy Observers Group - <http://swaog.com>) was notified of the event by Dave Lehocky (a Scout Leader himself) and a couple of SWAOG members (Keith - N9YA and Eric - KC9MDO) came out to help support the event. One of the members of the Fox Valley Astronomical Society (<http://fvastro.org>) printed up a few Sky Maps for distribution to the scouts, in addition to the Sky Maps and Binocular Objects Lists that were printed and distributed by Dave Lehocky & Jeff Benuzzi.

The weather/sky forecast for this event was mixed, and didn't look too good initially. A couple of us arrived and set up early, and when the viewing portion of the event began at 9:00 PM, the sky was starting to almost completely cover over with clouds, and it looked like we wouldn't be able to do much viewing. But a short while later it cleared up nicely and we had a wonderful night of observing! We had some white flashlights, car headlights, and office lights to contend with, but the sky was still pretty good.

We had 7 telescopes and several sets of binoculars set up, and about 75 or so Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts and several of their parents and leaders came to look at some of the nice objects we were showing, including some early views of the planet Jupiter and its 4 visible moons, the double-star Albireo (the Cub Scout Star), the Hercules Cluster - M13, the Ring Nebula - M57, the Andromeda Galaxy - M31 along with its companions M32 & M110, the "ET" Cluster - NGC 457, the "Mini-Dipper" M103, the open cluster NGC 6802, the Pleiades or "Seven Sisters", the planets Uranus and Neptune, the Coathanger Cluster - Cr399, M27 - the Dumbbell Nebula, plus several more. In addition, there were meteorite & telescope displays and several handouts for the scouts.

Everyone had a great time and many of the people thanked us for coming out to provide the wonderful views for the scouts.

~ Jeff Benuzzi