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NEWSLETTER

No 6, 1st September 2011

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Thursday, 1st September 2011

Today's Schedule

Students Katowice

- 6³⁰ – 8⁰⁰ breakfast at the hotel
- 8¹⁵ meeting on the buses in front of the hotel
- 8²⁰ – 18³⁰ scheduled trips (lunch during the trip)
- 19⁰⁰ – 20⁰⁰ dinner at the hotel
- 20⁰⁰ – 20³⁰ briefing
- 20³⁰ – 22⁰⁰ recreation

Leaders Kraków

- 7⁰⁰ – 8⁰⁰ breakfast at the hotel
- 8⁰⁰ – 14⁰⁰ moderation on theoretical tasks
- 14⁰⁰ – 15⁰⁰ lunch at the hotel
- 15⁰⁰ – 19⁰⁰ moderation on observational and data analysis tasks, moderation on group tasks
- 19⁰⁰ – 20⁰⁰ dinner at the hotel
- 20⁰⁰ – 21⁰⁰ IBM #4
- 21⁰⁰ – 23⁰⁰ final classification

Leaders' in Cracow

Many students during their stay in Chorzów keep wondering what their leaders are doing in Cracow. Actually we know the answer for this question: they are doing fine.

After many hours of meetings, discussing and hard work they've finally managed to get out of the hotel and saw the city of Polish Kings. During their trip they've seen Wawel – one of the most famous castles in Poland and they've sightsaw Collegium Maius which houses the Museum of Jagiellonian University, exhibiting the most important objects connected with its history. Among exhibits, one can find astronomical apparatus, including the one used by Nicolaus Copernicus, priceless Arab astrolabium dating back to 1054 and the so called Jagiellonian Globe which is one of the oldest globes featuring the name America.

During their walk along the streets of Cracow the leaders met a very interesting person who decided to abandon her piracy business for a while to set to a photo.



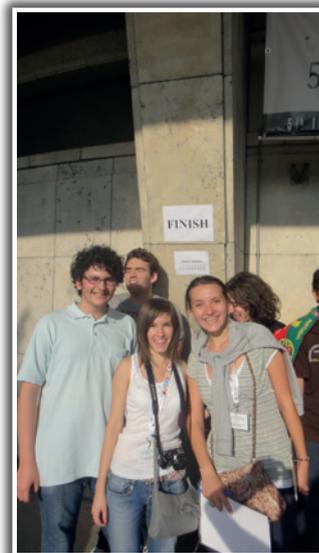
The photos by Piotr Hamera

Run Forrest, run!

Orienteering in the Silesian Culture and Recreation Park

Over 600 hectares of meadows and woods... Silesian Culture and Recreation Park is one of the largest city parks in Europe and undoubtedly the biggest in the country. This is the place where students walked with maps in their hands and smiles on their faces. „We absolutely love this park,” said participants from Hungary who were amazed by the size of the place and its subtle beauty. They’ve also noticed a fascinating landmark – two trees planted by Soviet cosmonauts who visited Chorzów in the sixties.

After exhausting brain exercises finally something for the body came.



Night observations

Everything was ready. The tasks, the telescopes and of course the students. But the weather wasn't. The forecasts for Monday night were different – most of them weren't very optimistic. Unfortunately, a huge cloud covered most of the sky.

Some of the participants were lucky enough to see Jupiter and stars. Others not. The organizers have found the solution to the problem. The students will take the tasks, solve at home and send them to Brazil where the next International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics will take place.



The photos by Cezary Filipiuk

Amateur observatory in Chorzów

Can anyone build an observatory on one's own? Yes, they can, if they only want.

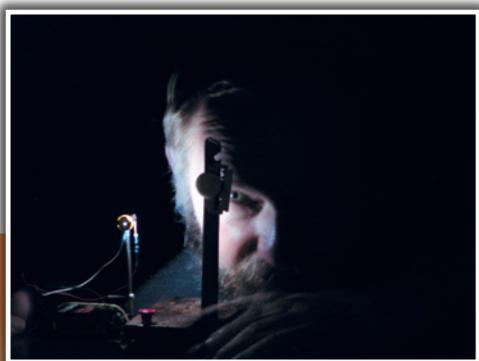
A Silesian department of Polish Amateurs Astronomical Society (PAAS) cooperating with Silesian Planetarium consists of a group of cosmic-scale enthusiasts. They built a 50 cm telescope with their own hands and contributed to the establishment of a new observatory in the Silesian Culture and Recreation Park in Chorzów.

The observatory was named after the late Jan Palt, one of the oldest members of the Society. The project was launched in 2004. They began with grinding a half-meter-big mirror. The team members used to meet once a week, always on Fridays, and after 1.5 years the optics part was finished. Then, they got to install a telescope and erect the edifice of a future observatory. The project was prepared and the people who were to help to realise it were found.

A list of individuals and companies that joined the project is long; dr Henryk Brancewicz, a chairmen of the executive board of PAAS, deserves special recognition.

Numerous elements and devices were constructed by the outsourcing companies and workshops. However, these were the members of PAAS who assembled and adjusted the elements to compose a properly functioning machine. The team also did some difficult tasks, such as the building the fence and constructing the dome covering the observatory. Moreover, they made the machines used to open and rotate it. It all required much engagement, knowledge, skills and, most importantly, time. The members of PAAS, meeting once a week, needed five years to make the establishment of the observatory come true. Another year was devoted to prepare the remote system operated via Internet.

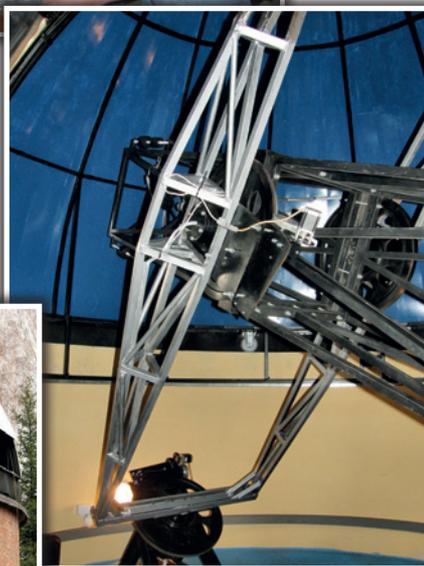
A PAAS telescope was designed and built by the astronomy amateurs. Consequently, the observatory is amateur as well. The main mirror focus is 250 cm (1:5 brightness); parallactic English type mount, run by two stepper motors with the use of a worm drive. Observations are conducted by CCD SBIG ST8 camera.



A functioning astronomical observatory is one of the best toys which big boys (actually not only boys) can get themselves. It guarantees wonderful experiences, lets us touch the infinite and makes us feel a part of a discoverers family – at least to some extent. The more so, you can do that via internet, not even having to leave one's own bed.

Stefan Janta

Silesian Planetarium



The photos by the members of PAAS