

Astronomy Lectures, Events And Activities Spring Semester 2008

There are a number of lectures, and other activities related to Astronomy coming up during the Spring 2008 semester. Here is a list of upcoming events. (Note: Most events listed on this page are free of charge!)

1. Von Karman Lecture Series. Put on by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) this monthly lecture series is a fascinating way to learn about the latest interplanetary and astronomical research being done at JPL. The lectures are given by the astronomers and scientists involved in the research projects. The lectures are held on Thursday evenings at JPL and the lectures repeat on Friday evening at Pasadena City College (PCC). The JPL lectures are held in the Von Karman Auditorium located on the campus of JPL at 4800 Oak Grove Dr. Pasadena. The lectures at Pasadena City College are held in the Vosloh Forum Auditorium at PCC, 1570 E. Colorado Blvd, Pasadena. For more information call (818) 354-0112, or visit <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/ps0/lectures.cfm>. The lectures start at 7:00 pm and are usually over by 8:15 or 8:30 pm. *The lectures are free.*

Feb. 28 (JPL), Feb. 29 (PCC)	Alternative Renewable Energy Sources for Earth
March 20 (JPL), March 21 (PCC)	Yellowstone-like Geysers on Saturn's Moon Enceladus
April 24 (JPL), April 25 (PCC)	Genesis Solar Wind Sample Return Results
May 15 (JPL), May 16 (PCC)	Phoenix Landing and Exploration on Mars
2. Los Angeles Valley College Planetarium Shows. The LAVC Astronomy Group puts on planetarium shows once per month on a Friday. The planetarium is located on the campus of LAVC. The address is 5800 Fulton Ave, Valley Glen (near Van Nuys). The number to call for more information is: (818) 947-2335. Tickets go on sale at 7:30 pm, the shows start at 8:00 pm and there is no late seating! *There is a \$5 admission for the shows.*

February 22	Oasis In Space
March 21	Heart of the Milky Way
April 11	The Spring Sky
May 9	Point Of No Return: Quasars and Supermassive Black Holes
3. Star Party. This semester the LACC Physics and Astronomy department will hold its star party on Saturday May 3rd (unless otherwise stated). All astronomy students are invited! Details and directions will be given in class. *The star party is free.*
4. Mt. Wilson Observatory Tour. Walking tours of the Mount Wilson Observatory are offered on weekends starting April 1 (weather permitting). Mt. Wilson Observatory was one of the leading observatories in the world for over 20 years starting in the 1930's. Today it is still very active in astronomical research, solar studies and educational programs. Docent guided walking tours of the observatory start at 1:00 pm each Saturday and Sunday and are free to the public. The observatory is located along the Angeles Crest Highway (highway 2) about 45 minutes drive from Los Angeles. Please see <http://mwoa.org/tour.html> for more information and directions to the observatory. *The tour is free.*
5. Jet Propulsion Laboratory Open House. The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is one of ten NASA field centers, and is the leading center for interplanetary missions and exploration in the United States. Every year they have an open house where the public is invited to see some of their laboratories and hear talks about some of the current research work. The open house this year will be held on Saturday May 3, and Sunday May 4 between 9 am and 5 pm each day. The address of JPL is 4800 Oak Grove Dr. in Pasadena. The website for more information is <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/ps0/oh.cfm> These are very popular weekends and I highly recommend attending if you can make it! *The open house is free.*
6. Griffith Observatory Planetarium Show. In addition to having a terrific set of exhibits, the newly renovated Griffith Observatory has an excellent planetarium show that plays multiple times per day. See their website <http://www.griffithobs.org/> for more details. *There is a charge for the show.*