

sharing the same sky

SAGAS

Southern Area Group of Astronomical Societies

International Year of Astronomy 2009

SAGAS Meeting - 19th May 2007

What is IYA2009 ?

- A global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture, stimulating worldwide interest not only in astronomy, but in science in general, with a particular slant towards young people.
- *from IAU web site*

What is IYA2009 ?

- IYA2009 will mark the monumental leap forward that followed Galileo's first use of the telescope for astronomical observations, and portray astronomy as a peaceful global scientific endeavour that unites astronomers in an international, multicultural family of scientists working together to find answers to some of the most fundamental questions that humankind has ever asked.
- *from IAU web site*

What is IYA2009 ?

- IYA2009 is, first and foremost, an activity for the citizens of Planet Earth. It aims to convey the excitement of personal discovery, the pleasure of sharing fundamental knowledge about the Universe and our place in it and the value of the scientific culture.

■ *from IAU web site*

An opportunity

- National event publicity should filter to regional & local levels
- Raise awareness
 - Astronomy
 - Physical Sciences
 - By local community
 - Publicity for your society
 - Energy wastage & light pollution ???
- Share passion for astronomy

How will IYA2009 happen

- The vast majority of IYA2009 activities will take place on several levels: locally, regionally and nationally. Several countries have already formed national committees to prepare activities for 2009. These committees are collaborations between professional and amateur astronomers, science centres and science communicators.
- *from IAU web site*

Coordination

- Each country has a Single Point of Contact and a National Node
- UK's is Prof. Ian Robson, UK Astronomy Technology Centre, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh
- Also an IYA2009 national node web site
- Supported by RAS and (STFC ??)

What you need to think about

- Organising events that support the objective of bringing astronomy to the public & celebrating the 400th anniversary of the first use of the telescope for astronomy.
- 2009 is only 19 months away - not long to organise big events
- Need to think of dates so events do not clash - there are only a limited number of weekends !

What SAGAS needs to do

- Should SAGAS organise a regional public event ?
- If so what form should it take ?
- Where, when - finance ?
- SAGAS Summer 2009 ???
- Is Pete Seiden Organising a Nightlife event ?
- What is the FAS role in this ?
- Co-ordinate dates of Southern Area events so they do not clash

What have we done

- Attended a briefing at NAM 2007
- Have an IYA2009 page on the SAGAS web site
- Have registered SAGAS as a link on the UK IYA website - this should be in place in early June

Who is doing what for SAGAS

- John Stapleton has volunteered to lead the co-ordination
- I am putting useful links on the SAGAS website - links will be added to your own events - details to SAGAS Webmaster
- If we decide to organise an event we need someone to volunteer to lead the organisation (supported by volunteers from each society ?)

Timescales

- Events have to happen in 2009 !
- Options for SAGAS event - discuss at Summer Meeting ?
- Agree major event - outline details - what - who - where & when at October 2007 Meeting - up front finance ??

Over to you - information please

- Let John Stapleton & me (SAGAS Webmaster) know what your society is planning - in particular the dates
- Let us know if you find details of other events that are not on our web site - Greenwich - Herstmonceux ? etc.
- Any useful website you find

Where do I get more information ?

- Links from the SAGAS Web Site (www.sagas.org.uk - IYA2009 page) to:
 - IAU web site
 - IYA2009 web site
 - UK Node Web Site
 - » Other useful sites as we find them
- Regional events - when notified !
- This presentation can be downloaded from the SAGAS web site (in PDF)