



As you may know the year 2009 has been designated as the International Year Of Astronomy.

So what is the International Year Of Astronomy?

What has your local club planned?

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The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and culture. It is intended to stimulate worldwide interest not only in astronomy, but in science in general, with a particular slant towards young people. IYA2009 will mark the monumental leap forward that followed Galileo Galilei's first use of the telescope for astronomical observations. It will 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.

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.

What has your local club planned?

We at the EAAS/NIAAS are planning to be fully involved in IYA2009, as well as our usual high standards of meetings and observing nights throughout the year we are also hoping to run the following events throughout 2009:

- March 6- 8 Saturn at opposition. Public observing event at local mall/leisure centre.
- Mar 28-Apr 5 IYA Spring Moonwatch event. Public observing events at local mall/leisure centres.
- April 22 Lyrid meteor shower (3 days before new moon). Public observing event.
- July 25th IYA Telescope 400 event, celebrating the first observations of the Moon through a telescope by Thomas Harriot in 1609. We will be having a public observing event at a local mall/leisure centre.
- August 12 (wed) Perseid meteor shower. Public observing event.
- Oct 21 (wed) Orionid meteor shower. Public observing event.
- Oct 24 -Nov 1 IYA Autumn Moonwatch event. Public observing events at local mall/leisure centres.
- Nov 17 (tues) Leonid meteor shower (new moon 16) Public observing event.
- Dec 13 (sun) Geminid meteor shower (new moon 16) Public observing event.
- Dec 31 (thurs) Partial lunar eclipse Public observing event.



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