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Observatory

and the activity plan

of the UMa astronomical association

Public observatory, standing on the property of the UMa association, is still under construction and when finished, will be the first of its kind in the region of Žitný Ostrov/Csallóköz/Große Schüttinsel located in southern Slovakia in the county of Dunajská Streda/Dunaszerdahely/Niedermarkt. The property lies in the small village of Blahová/Sárrét.

The observers base was founded and built by the members and friends of the association and became the centre for various astronomical activities.

In the last 3 years we held a number of international meetings for professional and amateur astronomers from Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Some of the meetings were supported by the city hall of Dunajská Streda.

At the moment all instruments are privately owned and are brought to meetings by members and friends. Telescopes are however delicate instruments and need for a permanent base with „in-built“ telescopes have arisen years ago. For that reason, in 2010 the building works commenced.

The dome on top of the two story building will receive GOTO telescope with 40-50 cm mirror. The extensive database and ability to target objects is a great help when hosting public events, presentations and observations. Telescope will be equipped with a CCD camera and obtained photographs will be published in papers.



activities

Main activities in the observatory:

1. Public viewing programs and presentations:

- Monthly viewing evenings (so called Starry nights) using astronomical telescopes to show bright objects visible each month. In case of bad weather, audiovisual presentations and informal talks will be offered together with telescopic demonstrations.
- Telescopic viewing nights for special astronomical phenomena (new bright comets, planets, solar and lunar eclipses, etc), interesting astronomical presentations by invited professional and amateur astronomers (announced or by request)
- Monthly informal talks with audiovisual presentations or telescopic programs for groups or schools (by request).

2. Scientific research work (non-public activities):

- Observations (minor planet and comet astrometry, variable stars, meteors, astrophotography).
- Depending on the equipment, taking part in minor planet observing programs (observing and following NEO objects, searching for lost ones).
- Solar observations.
- Broadening and developing our existing Hungarian connections, cooperating with the professional observatory in Modra-Piesok (Slovakia) and creating new international relationships.
- Taking part in special observational activities and announced international programs.

3. Educational activities:

- Presentations and activities for high schools as part of their learning process (on regular basis depending on demand).
- Organising competitions and science activities for primary schools.
- Evening group activities for schools.
- Helping public and school interest groups.
- Organising already well-known summer camps (for high schools).
- Depending on instrumentation, providing observational and learning opportunities for university students.



Current state of the observatory



Invested finances so far 4500 €

Required finances to finish the observatory:

Dome with diameter of 3,6 m with automatic control system 8000 €

Safety electric circuit and protection against lightning 2500 €

Finishing touches on the building and new furniture 5000 €

Instruments:

Telescope with 40-50 cm mirror approx. 20 000 €

GOTO mount system 17 000 €

Solar telescope with a mount 3500 €

CCD camera 6000 €

Filters, PC, software and supplements 4500 €

Meteorological station 1200 €

Total amount required:

Building approx. 15 500 €

Telescope and instruments approx. 52 000 €



Final look of the observatory

stars

