

Programme SSFT 2011

Friday, 29th July 2011

Having arrived at the lodge we move into our rooms

In the afternoon:

We have a look at the observing site and put up the telescopes we may have brought along. If you want to observe the sun. You can do so, using various telescopes and filters.

At dusk:

and after dark we will observe:

the rise of the earth's shadow

the zodiacal light changing the colours of the sky

the gradual appearance of the stars and the planets.

The sun sets at 17:34h, at 18:50h she will be 18 degrees below the horizon which means the end of astronomical twilight and therefore complete darkness.

What can be seen in the sky at 20.00h?

Wolf-Peter Hartmann, Friedhelm Hund and Eberhard von Grumbkow will show you through various telescopes, such as

the moon - doesn't disturb.

Mercury setting at 19:20h,

Venus rising at 06:10h,

Mars rising at 03:47h,

Jupiter rising at 00:13h,

Saturn setting at 20:20h,

hopefully a bright comet too,

and, of course, many galaxies as NGC5128(Centaurus A), M83, Ngc 4945(the cigar).

These and more observations will give plenty of opportunities for lively discussions on various astronomical topics.

Saturday, 30th July 2011

After a long observing night we get up late, have lunch, relax and enjoy the countryside for a change.

From 11.00h onwards there will be 2 to 3 lectures on various topics.

At evening you may attend a Beginner 's Astro-Training: How do I find my way around the sky? How do I handle a pair of binoculars or a Dobsonian telescope?

At night we will do as much observing as possible.

Sunday, 31th July 2011

Apart from the sun, have you ever tried to observe a planet during the daytime? It can be done!

The star party will come to an end, unless you wish to continue individually:

you can do so at the Otjiwa Lodge or other places in Namibia, such as **Hakos, Rooiklip or Tivoli**. There is no order of rank in this enumeration. You will meet people with astronomical expertise at any of these places.

Equipment at the side

There will be various telescopes set up at the observing site on all days:

Several Dobsonians up to 610mm aperture and telescopes from 60mm aperture onwards, either equatorially mounted or as dobsonians. Binoculars from 8x30 up to the Giant Fujinon 25x150mm, besides whatever the participants are bringing along. You will be able to compare various eyepieces, finders, pointers, binocular mountings, rotating star charts, different Star atlases and whatever else you may need for future observing sessions.

Accommodation

The **Otjiwa Lodge** has some huts for 4-6 peoples, 1200N\$ for an hut, is situated near the Waterberg and offers excellent conditions for a star party. There is an restaurant: breakfast 60N\$; lunch 80N\$; dinner 120N\$.

Camping 100N\$ pp.

You may book at otjiwa@iway.na, copy to evgrumbkow@iway.na please, who cares in namibia for it.

The coordinates for [Otjiwa 20°45'52,63"S 16°47'30,73](#).

Otjiwa will organize excursions to various sites as well as game drives.

There will be a security service during the event. The lighting of the lodge will be reduced to a minimum. There will be no car traffic at the observing site during the night. White light must be avoided by all means. Astrophotographers are offered a special area.

We like to think of Africa as a rather hot place. But remember: August is wintertime and the nights can be very chilly. So don't forget warm clothing!

Contribution towards the expenses

The charge for the SSFT will be 50 N\$.

A possible surplus will be donated to the DRC School & Community Centre in Swakopmund. This project supports the poorer section of the black population.

Transport from Windhoek International Airport

Transport from the Airport to Otjiwa is easy on good tar, but can be organized as well as trips around Namibia prior to the SSFT or afterwards.

Please contact Ms. R. Lowe, E-mail for trips: rlope@iafrica.com.na

or Wucher's Garage in Okahandja for transport or car hire, vwok@iafrica.com.na

Key word: SSFT

For rental cars: please consider, that in Namibia you have to drive on the left side!

Camping Equipment

Camping gear may be hired in Windhoek at Adventure C Hire adventure@natron.net

Saves you a lot of luggage during the flight!

Car Hire

You need a car if you want to get anywhere in Africa. **But remember: you must definitely drive on the left hand side of the road!** You should also have an International Driver's License. There are cheaper alternatives to the normal car-rentals, e.g. Wucher's Garage in

Okahandja vwok@iafrica.com.na; they have elderly but reliable VW-busses T3 and they pick you up at the airport, if you want.

Flight to Namibia and back

AirBerlin and Air Namibia offer direct flights from Munich. Düsseldorf and Frankfurt.

If you decide to buy an AirBerlin-Top-Bonus-Card you can take 30kg luggage per person with you instead of 20kg!

The SSFT 2011 will be held on July 29. - 31. 2011

Legal Instruction

Although Wolf-Peter Hartmann checks this website regularly and keeps it up to date with the utmost care, he cannot accept any liability. The same applies to websites which may be consulted via the hyperlink.

Using e-mail and postal addresses mentioned in this homepage for advertising or market research purposes will be subject to German Federal legislation.

All trademarks and copyrights are reserved to the respective owner.