

14 THE LOCAL THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 2005

First Annual Astronomy in the Park a Huge Success

Last Sunday saw the first annual 'Astronomy in the Park' event hosted by the Sunshine Coast Astronomy Club. Astronomy enthusiasts from all over the Lower Mainland were invited. The club had a number of telescopes and astronomy binoculars on site for visitors to view the sun in the afternoon and our night skies in the evening. From 3:00pm until midnight, people kept coming to the Provincial Park at Porpoise Bay. The crowds in the afternoon were big, but in the evening it was overwhelming. At around 10:30pm there were lines snaking back from every telescope as people waited patiently. The moon, as always, was a fascination for the casual viewer, but it was guests from Vancouver who attracted the largest crowds with 14" scopes.



Photo Garth Jones

A Multi-media 'Visions of the Night Sky' slide show by Ed Hanlon attracted a big crowd, and earlier in the day Debra, Maureen and Dave D led dozens of kids through the Park on a Planet Walk.

The Provincial Park Authority and the SCRDC gave wonderful support and encouragement for the event. Over 700 people were estimated to have participated.

*Submitted by Bill Clark
President SCAC*

