Aloha VIS volunteers!

Welcome to the first ever VIS Volunteer Newsletter! I’ve been thinking of ways to get news of events and volunteer opportunities out to one of (if not the) largest volunteer programs on the island. A newsletter seemed like a good outlet, and I hope you all will find the updates and reminders helpful.

I’m interested in knowing what you think about the content, and if there’s anything you’d like to see more (or less) of, do not hesitate to let me know. If there’s content you’d like to submit, please send to mkvisnews@gmail.com. Cheers,
Kim

Aʻohe hana nui ke alu ʻia.
No task is too big when done together by all.

Stargazing Volunteer Schedule for 11/27–12/10 (as of 11/27)

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<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<td>Have: 3</td>
<td>Have: 1</td>
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<td>International Students</td>
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<td>Have: 2</td>
<td>Have: 2</td>
<td>Have: 3</td>
<td>Have: 1</td>
<td>Have: 0</td>
<td>University Astrophysics Club</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* - driver is needed!

Interested in coming up? Give us a call – we’d love to have you! If possible, let us know a week in advance.

If you need to cancel, please let us know asap. Mahalo!

Upcoming Events

12/3/11
The Universe Tonight! with Dr. Simon Radford from CSO. Contact Janet for more information.
Saturday, 6pm

12/17/11
KONA NIGHT, feat. Kona-side volunteers.
Saturday, 6pm

12/17/11
Malalo i Ka Lani Pono. Join us for Hawaiian Culture Night!
Saturday, 6pm

12/24/11
Music Night feat. Kris Fuchigami. (Contact E’lisa for more information.)
Saturday, 6pm
Mauna Kea Community Spotlight

This is where I intend on putting a spotlight on members within the Mauna Kea community; this can be anybody who has ties to Mauna Kea: everyone from scientists, amateur astronomers, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, day/night crew from the observatories, professors... to even VIS volunteers! There are so many people who have special connections to Mauna Kea from all kinds of backgrounds. Do you know somebody who deserves a spotlight? Let us know who you think is an outstanding community member and why at mkvisnews@gmail.com.
December Sky 2011

Hawaiian star and constellation names are identified according to information found at:

http://honoluluhawaii.edu/hawaiian/voyaging/files/t07-navigation/t07-01_glossary.html

Star names are in white (Western) and yellow (Hawaiian), while Hawaiian constellations and groupings are in pink.
**STUFF IN OUR SKY :: December 2011**

**WHAT**
- Geminid Meteor Shower Peak
  - Moon Phase: past Full
- International Space Station
- International Space Station

**WHEN**
- Geminid Meteor Shower Peak
  - December 13th, 2011
- International Space Station
  - December 8th, 2011 at 5:25am
  - Visible 11° above North (approx. 3 min)
- International Space Station
  - December 9th, 2011 at 7:20pm
  - Visible 11° above South (approx. < 1 min)

**THINGS VISIBLE ALL DECEMBER**

- Jupiter
- Uranus
- Neptune
- Great Nebula in Orion (M42, NGC 1976)
- Andromeda Galaxy (M31, NGC 224)
- Cone Nebula (NGC 2264)
- Witch Head Nebula (IC 2118)
- Double Cluster NGC 869 & NGC 884
- Pleiades (NGC 1432)
- Open Cluster M34
- Open Cluster NGC 2232

M42, Orion Nebula
*Image credits: NASA, ESA, T. Megeath, and M. Robberto*
A Note from the International Volunteer Coordinator

Hawaii is home to some of the greatest observatories in the world. These observatories have ties and connections with people from many countries; with this gathering of such diverse people, Hawaii is able to host leaders in the sciences on an international scale.

At the Onizuka Visitor Information Station, we have various programs to help enrich the community's knowledge about astronomy, geology, and Hawaiian culture. One of the programs that I have the great pleasure of spearheading is the International Volunteer Program. The purpose of this program is to recruit international students and community members who are interested in learning about all things Mauna Kea in terms of cultural and scientific aspects, and showing them the beauty of this majestic island. This program also acts as a catalyst to thrusting these volunteers into the astronomy community, so that they may gain insight into astronomy careers. The backgrounds of our international volunteers range from students at UHH and HCC, to those just visiting from another country.

The International Volunteer Program can be thought of as similar to a stellar nursery; it provides a nurturing environment through guidance and support to learn and grow in knowledge.

My goal as the international student volunteer coordinator is to recruit as many international volunteers, so that they may learn to love astronomy as passionately as I do. Therefore, if you are an interested international student or know someone who is, please contact me.

-E’lisa

For more information on events (Culture Night, Universe Tonight!, and Music Night), Mauna Kea, Hawaiian culture, programs at the VIS, and Picture of the Week, visit our website at:

http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/info/vis/

For current weather conditions on Mauna Kea, road closures, and to view webcams from the summit, visit the Mauna Kea Weather Center website at:

http://mkwc.ifa.hawaii.edu/