

Southern California Section  
Spring Meeting- April 24

The Spring Meeting of the Southern California Section was held Saturday, April 24 at Cypress College, Cypress, California. Attendees were welcomed to the meeting by the local host, Ron Armale, and campus President, Michael Kasler. Approximately 50 people attended.

The meeting began with a workshop: "Construction of inexpensive momentum and energy collision carts and track" led by Bill Layton (UCLA) & Bob Baker (University Senior High School).

David Saltzberg from University of California, Los Angeles gave the morning invited talk: "Neutrino Hunting using High-Altitude Balloons in Antarctica." Dr. Saltzberg described recent advances in astronomy and scientific endeavors at the South Pole. He described his work with the Antarctic Impulse Transient Array (ANITA) neutrino telescope that essentially uses the ice sheet as an objective lens and a detector in a high altitude balloon as the eyepiece. Dr. Saltzberg's scientific expedition to the South Pole was not only scientifically fruitful, it was also the inspiration for a *Big Bang Theory* episode.

Jatila van der Veen from University of California, Santa Barbara gave the afternoon invited talk: "Planck Visualization Project: Seeing and Hearing the Cosmic Microwave Background." Her recent work focuses on outreach and teaching that utilizes multidisciplinary methods to reach new audiences. Dr. van der Veen showed recent Planck observations, making analogies with the observed power spectra and those produced by musical instruments. She played a representation of the "cosmic chord of the cosmic microwave background," whose actual fundamental frequency is 47 octaves below what is found on a piano.

The following contributed talks were presented:

"Problem Solving without the Problems," Peanut McCoy, Azusa Pacific University

"Coupled Oscillator Model for the Low Frequency (50 to 250 Hz) Response of Guitars," John Popp, Retired

"Not the Usual Coupled Oscillators," Bernard Cleyet, UC Santa Cruz (ret'd)

"iFly Indoor Skydiving – Field Trips," Cailin Creighton, iFly Indoor Skydiving

"Why Do We Use this Symbol for that?" James Lincoln, Tarbut V'Torah HS

"Novel, Low-Cost, Side-Illuminated, Multi-Point Optical Fiber Sensor," Claudio Oliveira Egalon, Science and Sensors Technologies and Loyola Marymount University

The always popular Show'n Tell featured demonstrations by Lee Loveridge, James Lincoln, Peter Krumbein, Ron Armale, Roger Moorehouse, Bernard Cleyet, and Mark Helmlinger

The Cypress College physics department set up solar telescopes with hydrogen alpha filters once the morning clouds cleared.

At the business meeting, the membership was informed that, Harvey Leff, a long time supporter of and officer for the SCAAPT and a recent past president of the national AAPT, would be leaving Southern California for a new home in Portland, Oregon. Attendees thanked Harvey for his many years of fine service to the organization with a round of applause.

In addition, the following new and continuing officers were elected:

President: Jeff Phillips, Loyola Marymount University

Vice President for Universities: Eric Page, University of San Diego

Vice President for Community Colleges: Lee Loveridge, Pierce College

Vice President for High Schools: James Lincoln, Tarbut V'Forah High School

Section Representative: Mary Mogge, CSU Pomona

Secretary-Treasurer: Forouzan Faridian, Loyola Marymount University

Web Manager: John Mallinckrodt, CSU Pomona

The meeting ended, as always, with the "World Famous Order of Magnitude Contest." The question was, "What volume of CO<sub>2</sub> should a resting human produce with each breath?" and the winning (median) answer was 50 ml submitted by Bernard Cleyet. As the winner, Bernard was entitled to first choice of the door prizes and chose a \$50 Vernier gift certificate. There was a drawing for the remaining doorprizes provided by Vernier Software and Technology, Arbor Scientific, Mc Graw Hill, Wiley, and AAPT. We thank them for their donations.

The SCAAPT is greatly indebted to Ron Armale for providing a well-appointed meeting site and seamlessly arranging the logistics.

Submitted by:

Jeff Phillips, President, SCAAPT

John Mallinckrodt, Web Manager, SCAAPT