



## Night Sky Network

"Astronomy clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public"



## VIEW EVENT

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**Date Logged:** 05-Jun-2006

**Name of Event:** **SMAS Picnic at TAO**

**Submitted By:** John\_C\_Mannone

**Club:** [Barnard Astronomical Society](#)

**Name of Primary  
Presenter or  
Organizer from**

**Your Club:** John Charles Mannone

**Presenter's Profession:** Professor of Physics

**Event Type:** Star Party(Astronomy night):  
School/Public/Other group

**Name of Group  
the  
Event was for:**

**Event Date:** 03-Jun-2006

**Length of Event:** 9 hrs for some (5:30 pm- 2:30 am)

**Event Location:** Rockwood, TN

**Facility Type:** Museum/planetarium/observatory

**Number of your club members participating as presenters:** 1

**Toolkit/Activities Used:** Other NSN Resources  
(Telecons, Discussion Board,  
etc)  
- *NSN Telecon(s)*

**Total Number of Visitors or Audience Members:** 27

<b>Number or percent (%)</b>	<b>How many visitors or audience members were...</b>
0	Minority?
10	Female?
17	Adults?

?	Teens?
10	Children?
?	Non-teacher adults?
?	K-8th Grade Teachers?
?	High School Teachers?
?	Community College Instructors?
?	Other College or University Instructors?
?	K-8th Grade Students?
?	High School Students?
?	Community College Students?
?	Other College or University Students?

**What materials (and how many) did you hand out at the event, if any?**

No materials handed out (just food)

**Provide a few comments or interesting anecdotes about the event:**

First note that the attendance was more than double of what was reported, around 50-60. The 27 refer to those hearing the NSN presentation. Though a regularly scheduled public night, the Tamke-Allan Observatory hosted the Smoky Mountain Astronomical Society (Knoxville, TN) picnic. I shared the NSN Telecon Powerpoint, "Assembling the Jigsaw-Puzzle Picture of the Universe," by Dr. Jeffrey D. Rosendhal. The unexpected young crowd required an impromptu modification of the slide show. I didn't lose one child and held there attention for 40 minutes! Injection of humor is the key to success as well as engaging them

into the presentation. Somewhat into my presentation, one young man, I'd say around 7 or 8 years old, couldn't wait to ask me if I had an image of the Eagle Nebula, but I didn't remember if it was included in this NSN resource. I told him I know just what it looks like, I can see it right up here (pointing to my head); many smiles followed. Of course he wanted to know if he could see it in this presentation. I assured him if wasn't in the stack, we'd find it together after the talk. But a few slides later, there it is. I think he thought it was magic. I then played with their imaginations a bit more and quipped how the columns looked like a few wearwolves standing as action figures. A little corny, but all the kids remained attentive, curious, and more relaxed with asking questions. Since the presentation addressed the Hubble Space Telescope and had the Ultra Deep Field image, I had to share my poem "Through the Key Hole" (published in the body of a 40-page essay I had written for the Swiss American Historical Society Review, Feb 2006, on the astrophysicist Fritz Zwicky). Since this was not a literary crowd, I did explain a few things about the HST and how it obtained the HDF and about colliding galaxies with their tidal tails, etc. I'll reproduce the short poem in the Discussion section of the NSN website since the format is not preserved here. The crowd did enjoy the poem. Rosendahl's ppt opened many doors for discussion including other popular topics such as stellar birth and death, pulsars, black holes, life detection, and much more. The talk ended just in time for dark skies and good observing (JCM).

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