

Lewis Center joins worldwide tracking of planet Jupiter

BY NATASHA LINDSTROM
STAFF WRITER

Monday, November 23, 2009

APPLE VALLEY

• Students at the Lewis Center for Educational Research helped track the planet Jupiter over the weekend as part of a worldwide network of continuous radio astronomy observation.

The Lewis Center used its Goldstone Apple Valley Radio Telescope to gather data on Jupiter for eight hours on Saturday and Sunday.

With the help of Dr. Mark Hofstadter, GAVRT's lead scientist from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, students from Lewis Center's charter school Academy for Academic Excellence operated the radio antenna, investigated Jupiter's beaming curve, looked at its solar winds and determined the daily mass of impacts on the largest planet in the solar system.

Ft. Irwin served as GAVRT's deep-space radio telescope communication facility, and two other communication facilities participated in Madrid, Spain and Canberra, Australia.

The event, PROJECT24, marks the celebration of the 400th birthday of Galileo. Galileo observed Jupiter 400 years ago, changing mankind's view of the universe. For more information about the International Year of Astronomy visit <http://jupiterproject24.wordpress.com/about/>. For more information about the Lewis Center and the GAVRT Program, visit LewisCenter.org or call (760) 946-5414, ext. 202.

Natasha Lindstrom may be reached at (760) 951-6232 or at nlindstrom@VVDailyPress.com.



MATTHEW NABORS, FOR THE DAILY PRESS

LISTENING IN: Ninth-grade student Joseph Kluck listens to NASA scientist Mark Hofstadter explain how signals are received from the planet Jupiter at the Lewis Center for Educational Research in Apple Valley.