4th ISAN

International Sidewalk Astronomy Night

In the late 1950's, John Dobson looked through a telescope at the Moon and immediately said, "everyone's got to see this!" and began making large telescopes and wheeling them down the streets of San Francisco to show "everyone" the Moon and planets. “We aren’t born in San Francisco, we aren’t born in California, we aren’t born in the United States, we aren’t even born on Earth – we’re born into this UNIVERSE, and we need to know about it!”

Since that time "sidewalk astronomy" has spread around the globe. On one night each year, amateur astronomers come together to celebrate taking astronomy to the public. We'll be out showing the night sky to people as they come out of the movies or are on their way to dinner. We're setting up telescopes around the world on sidewalks near public parks, shopping malls, movie theaters, book stores and bus stops.

On this one night, March 20, 2010, we become a global community of amateur astronomers sharing the wonders of the Universe with our local communities. ISAN isn’t for amateur astronomers, it’s for the people of this planet so that they get a chance to see where they were born.

We ask amateurs around the world to help us share our Universe with the public.