



Stella-Baloo!

Saturday, April 4, 2009



Sponsored by the Penobscot Valley Star Gazers
&
Maynard F. Jordan Planetarium and Observatory

The **Stella-Baloo** trail stretches across the center of UMaine's Orono campus with activities in Jordan Planetarium - Wingate Hall, on the mall in front of Fogler Library, in the MP room of the Memorial Student Union, at the Jordan Observatory behind the Union, and in the Physics and Astronomy Department's Bennett Hall. The way is marked, so watch for the starry balloons and bright directional signs.

1 - 5 pm Telescope Exhibit & Clinic (*Planetarium / Wingate Hall*)
A telescope clinic for anyone interested in learning about, shopping for or operating telescopes.

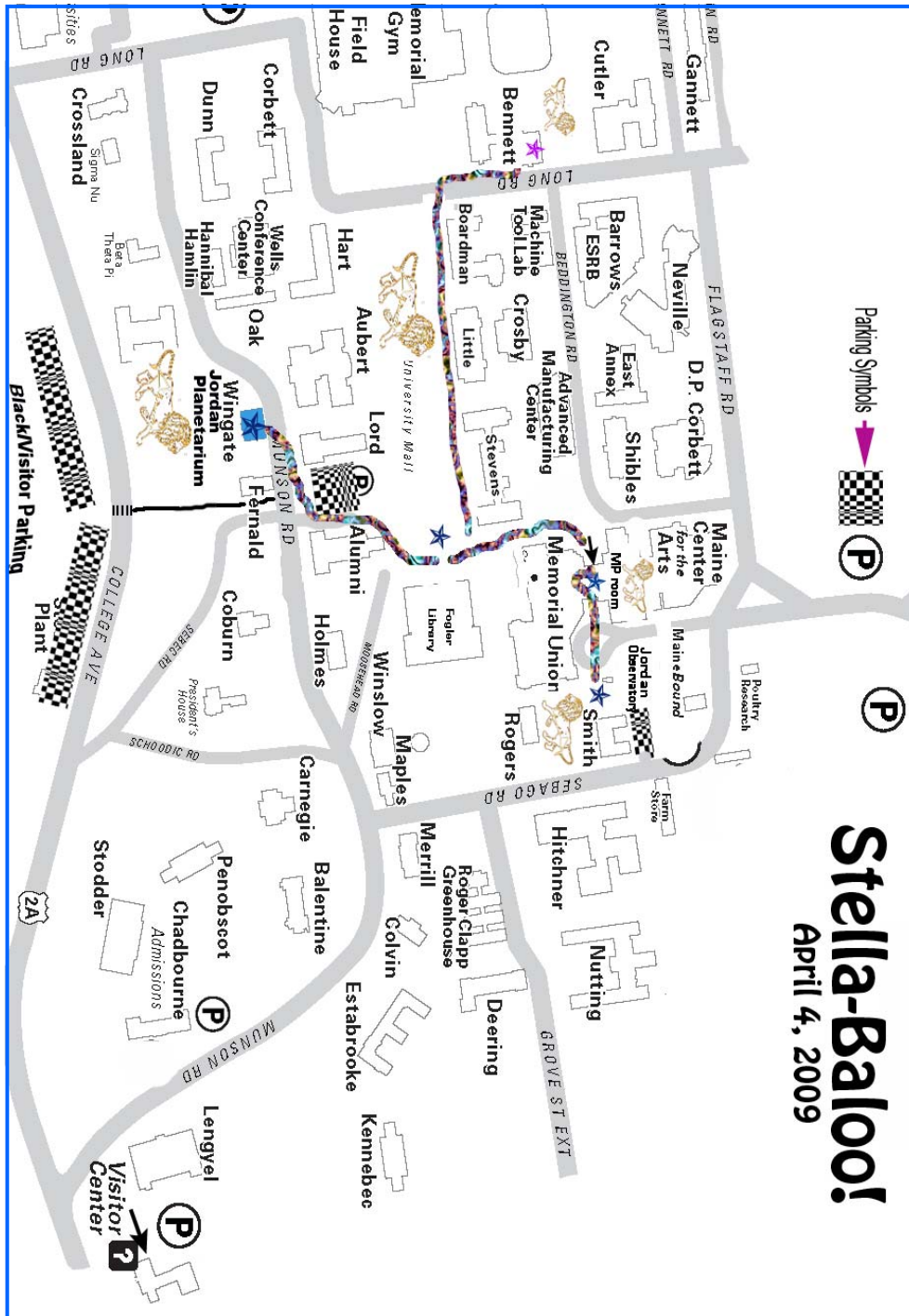
1:30 pm Stella-Baloo Welcome & Cake
(*Planetarium*)

2 - 5 pm Astro-Cat Prowl (See inside cover >>)
Refreshments (Union)
Telescope viewing and pictures with the Clark Refractor (*Observatory*)
Visitors can have their pictures taken at the eyepiece of the 8" 9-foot-long Alvan Clark Sun Observing (*in front of the Library*)

2:30 pm Shopping for Telescopes (*Planetarium*)
4:00 pm Astro-Science Demo Show (*Bennett Hall*)

7:00 pm Who's Up There? The Night Sky (*rain or shine at the Union*)
A tour of the constellations through astrophotographs including some telescope targets of rare beauty and distinction before seeing the real thing at the....

7:30-10pm Star Party: Everyone welcome- (*Jordan Observatory*)
(Observing session) Weather permitting, a night telescope session will assemble at the Jordan Observatory with an assortment of telescopes. [If weather interferes with telescope use, a tour of the planetarium's spring sky will substitute.]



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Astro Cat Prowl



2 - 5pm

Take the *Astro Cat Prowl* on a trail of discovery activities. Complete ALL of the *Prowl* stations, get a stamp on each box below, and go to an award station to get a "Science Lion" certificate. All *Science Lions* are automatically entered into the drawing for a Galileo-scope that will be shipped to winners in 6-10 weeks.

Observing Basics (MP)

Make a Constellation (MP)

A Portable solar system (MP)

Supernova! Waves of energy (MP)

What a gas? (JP)



Wrong way Round! (MP)

What Scope is This? Have a look! (JO)

Walking the Solar System (JO)

Save the Night (MP)



Why Put Telescopes in Space?

MP- Multipurpose room Memorial Student Union



JP- Jordan Planetarium Wingate Hall
JO- Jordan Observatory

There is no charge for any part of the day's events.
[The regularly scheduled show at the Jordan Planetarium: "Origins of Life", is not part of Stella-Baloo and admission will be charged. Reservations should be made at the Planetarium. Seating is limited.]

Stella-Baloo is a celebration and public service made up entirely of volunteer PVSG members and Jordan Planetarium and Observatory staff. As part of the International Year of Astronomy, this day is designed to bring the heavens down to earth and give everyone a chance to look through a telescope. You will find scopes focused on earthly or solar targets in several locations throughout the tour, and tonight on more distant lights, weather permitting. Several telescopes are being shared with us by their owners who are happy to answer any questions.

The Jordan Planetarium opens a window on the universe, bringing the stars, planets and galaxies to life in the domed theater in Wingate Hall and capturing real photons from stars with the instruments of the Jordan Observatory. Public star shows for families and field trip programs for school groups and private parties provide educational entertainment at very reasonable fees. Funding for these programs is provided by the Maynard F. Jordan and Dorothy Whitehouse Funds as well as the University of Maine. Special thanks go to the University of Maine Foundation and its alumni giving programs. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is currently seeking support for the construction of new facilities to enlarge and up-date these astronomy resources for the University and people of Maine.

The Penobscot Valley Star Gazers club exists as a forum for sharing the excitement of amateur astronomy. Members meet regularly to share information, skills, and experiences, and to honor our commitment to public education in the field of astronomy. The club sponsors many public star parties and other educational activities, and welcomes the interest and participation of all. Meetings are the second Monday of each month at John Bapst High School. Check at the hand-out table for more information.

The International Year of Astronomy celebrates the 400th anniversary year of Galileo's first studies of the heavens with his homemade telescope (a new invention). His observations showed that the earth does orbit around the sun and not the other way around. The Galileo-scope kits being awarded to winners of the Science Lion contest, are products of a major IYA project. Events are planned by organizations around the globe and people can take part in some by looking online. Go to www.iya2009.org.

Special Thanks and Appreciation Go to the Following Supporters of Stella-Baloo:

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