

Venus Transit 2004: Amateur-astronomers meeting Brandys nad Labem - castle May 7-9, 2004

Meeting agenda:

Friday, May 7:

- 14:00 Opening of the meeting
- 14:30 Venus Transit 2004 Educational project (R. West, ESO)

I. Astronomical background

Chairman: F. Wagner

- 14:40 Solar observations (P. Heinzel, AsÚ Ondřejov)
- 15:00 History of Venus transits (J.-E. Arlot, Paris Obs.)
- 15:30 Calculations of the astronomical unit from the Venus transits (W. Thuillot, Paris Observatory)
- 16:00 Distances in the Universe
S. Štefl, AsU Ondřejov
- 16:15 *coffee break*
- 16:45 Exo-planets and transits (G. Ruprecht, ESO)
- 17:20 Summary talk: ESO and front-lines of astronomy in the 21st century (R. West, ESO)
- 18:50 End of the session
- 19:30 Welcome reception by the mayor of the town Brandys and ISC
- 21:00 Late night concert of classical music

Saturday, May 8

II. VT-2004 support of amateur astronomers

Chairman P. Heinzel

- 9:00 - VT 2004 information and education sheets, school activities (F. Wagner, R. Ros, EAAE)

- 9:20 Internet output from ISC and participating professional observatories (R. West, ESO)
- 9:40 Acquisition and processing of amateur observations (J.-E. Arlot, W. Thuillot, Paris Observatory)
- 10:00 Image processing (S. Šimberová)
- 10:20 *coffee break*

III. Preparing the observations

- 10:50 Reports on activities of individual associations/participants
- 12:00 End of the session, lunch
Excursion to the house of famous Czech astronomer Antonín Bečvář, who lived and worked in Brandys
- Chairman: W. Thuillot*
- 14:30 Reports on activities of individual associations/participants (cont.)
- 15:30 Observations of the transit - instructions, discussion
P. Heinzl, M. Knížek - AsÚ Ondřejov
- 16:00 Panel discussion
moderated by R. West - ESO
- 17:00 *coffee break*
- 17:30 Closing talk: The European Planetary Programme
F.W. Taylor, Oxford University)
- 19:00 Summary of the meeting
(R. West - ESO)
- 19:10 End of the session
- 20:00 Dinner, free time for informal discussions

Sunday, May 9

9:00 Trip to the Ondřejov observatory.
The bus will be provided for the participants. The all trip will take about 5-6 hours. On the return way the bus will stop in Prague (near the center, about 2. p.m.) and at the Prague's airport (about 3 p.m.).