

The SPS Zone 15 2009 Meeting

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Abstract

This is a summary of the 2009 Zone 15 Society of Physics Students meeting. The Zone 15 meeting of 2009 for the Society of Physics Students (SPS) was hosted at the University of Utah on April 3rd and 4th. In this reference of the meeting the Planning, Scheduling, and Organization are discussed in detail followed by a brief summary of the meeting itself concerning all participants as well as a critique of events with recommendations for future meetings.

Planning and Scheduling

The meeting was originally proposed in 2008 by Jodie Barker-Tvedtnes (Associate Zone Councilor) and immediately Greg S. Engh (President of the University of Utah Chapter) agreed to be host. Planning for the meeting began in Autumn of 2008 and the final schedule was set together in February 2009 which was forwarded to all Zone Chapters. All Planning was carried out by both Greg Engh and Jodie Barker-Tvedtnes. . The finalized schedule was drafted as follows:

Friday, April 3rd

Arrive	10:00-12:00
Opening Remarks and Overview of Meeting	2:00-3:30
Opening Speaker: Dr. Orest Symco (UofU)	2:45-3:30
Break	
Demonstrations	4:00-5:00
Meeting to discuss chapter activities and future Zone Meeting & Dinner	5:00-6:00
Lab Tours	

Saturday, April 4th

SPS Student Lectures	9:00-9:45
1. Jordan Keough (Idaho State University)	
2. Jamie Rankin (University of Utah)	
3. Jodie Barker-Tvedtnes (Utah State University)	
Guest Speaker: Dr. David Peak (USU)	10:00-10:50
Rocket Competition	11:00-12:50
Lunch	12:00-1:00
Poster Session	1:00-2:30
1. Sydney Chamberlin (Utah State University)	

2. Jake Knight (Utah State University)
3. Joe Slansky (Utah State University)
4. Gabriel Taylor (Utah State University)
5. Michael Newbold (University of Utah)

SPS Student Lectures 2:45-3:15

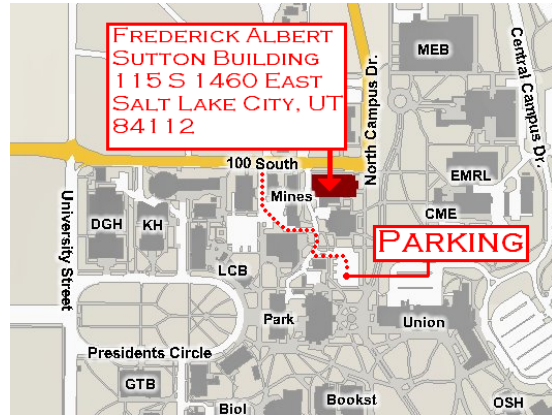
1. Jennifer Roth (Utah State University)
2. David Coneff (Idaho State University)

Closing Speaker: Dr. Jean Francois Van Huele (APS) 3:30-4:15

Closing Remarks & Awards 4:15-4:30 .

Organization

Originally the meeting was planned to take place in the University of Utah Student Guest House, however, due to the charges requested for the use of this facility the meeting was relocated to the new Geology building, the Frederick Albert Sutton Building (in Room 295 and Room 250) as is displayed in the map generated by Mr. Engh for the meeting:



Summary of Events

On the 3rd of April attendees arrived at the University of Utah and heard the first speaker Dr. Orest Symco who spoke about patterns in nature and his research with thermoacoustics. Although this was originally planned to occur from 2:45-3:30 PM tardiness of attendees and certain time constraints forced this talk to be delayed until 3:00 thence ending at 4:00. Opening Statements were delayed also until the next day after all attendees arrived. Later that first evening there was a physics demo show from 4:00-5:00 hosted by Adam Beeler which included a tesla coil and standing waves in a tube with flames attached. Attendees of the meeting then toured the University of Utah physics labs guided by University Graduate Student Eric Sorte. The tours were followed by dinner and socializing.

On Friday the 4th student talks began promptly at 9 AM with refreshments provided again by Mr. Engh. Opening remarks were quickly given and the first student speaker presented. The student speakers in order of their presenting were: Jamie Rankin (University of Utah), Jordan Keough (Idaho State University), and Jodie Barker-Tvedtnes (Utah State University). These Students talks ended as planned at 9:45 AM.

After the student talks the second guest speaker, Dr. David Peak (USU) presented his research from 10:00-10:50 AM. followed by a brief lunch and poster session. Originally a rocket competition was planned after Dr. Peak's presentation but for security reasons argued by the University of Utah administration (which were themselves fervently apposed by the University Physics Department and Mr. Engh) the competition was canceled; the rockets provided by Mr. Engh then being given out as awards and gifts following the meeting.

Given then the extra time granted by the cancellation of the rocket competition originally planned from 11:00-12:50 PM, lunch was held early and a second demo show

put on by students from Idaho State University took place which was overseen by Zone Councilor, Dr. Steven Shropshire. Following the demo show time was taken to discuss activity throughout Zone 15. One speaker from each chapter presented a summary of events and activities in their chapter. Then began an open discussion concerning what can be done to unify the chapters and improve organization throughout the Zone. Suggestions were for what each chapter could do to improve and expand their SPS program were also conversed upon and each one critiqued. Most importantly, opportunities for SPS members were reviewed so as to remind chapter members what options were available to them.

Following the open discussion period, Jennifer Roth and Tamara Jeppsen, representing Sigma Pi Sigma, briefly reviewed the honor society's purpose and discussed opportunities for its members within SPS.

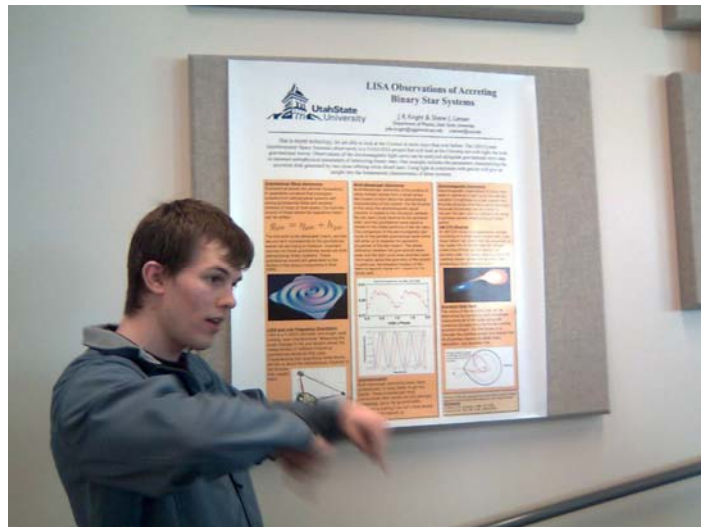
The next event of the meeting was the poster session. Six posters were presented by students followed by the final student talks of the meeting. Finally, Dr. Van Huele (APS) gave his talk titled "Spin Matters".

The Four Corners Section of APS graciously provided some money for awards for outstanding presentations. The winners were decided through a vote, with all attendees choosing their favorite two presentations. In the end three awards were given: First place went to Jodie Barker-Tvedtnes and there was a tie between Jake Knight and David Coneff for second place.

In all the meeting went well. It gave participants a chance to see what is going on in other chapters in the zone and to meet students from other universities. Even with some delays and the cancellation of the rocket competition it seems that everyone who attended the meeting had a good time.

Recommendations

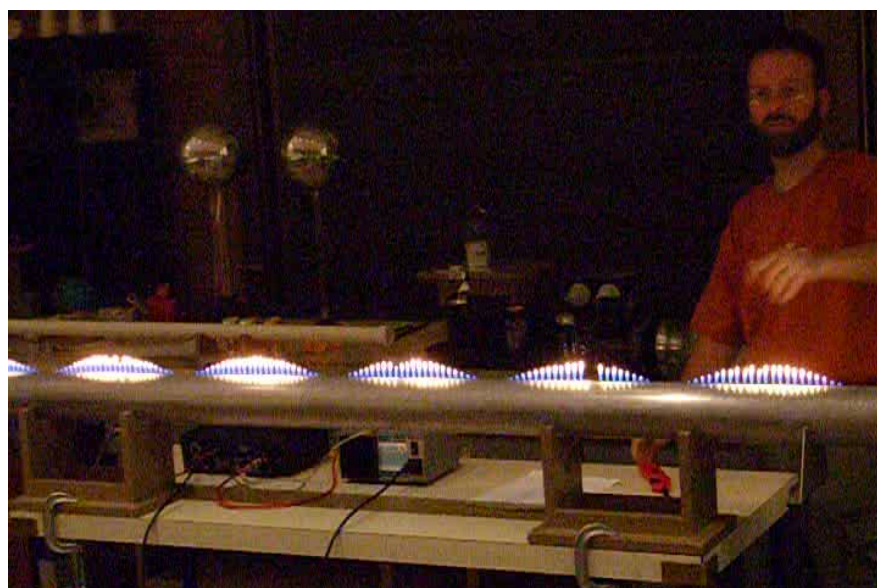
1. It is highly recommended that for future meetings attendees contact hosts prior to departure so as to inform the host of their arrival status. For this to take place it is also recommended that phone numbers of all participants, primarily drivers, all be exchanged prior to the meeting.
2. As was recommended in the meeting during open discussion it is recommended that Zone 15 form an online group page or maintain a group on Facebook so as to easily allow all members to communicate readily and discuss collaborative projects.
3. Prior to the meeting attention should be given by the host to contact National SPS to allocate funds for meetings
4. To avoid cancellation of activities such as the Rocket Competition it is recommended that for future meetings that SPS administration confer with the host University or Association on the safety of such competitions.



Jake Knight giving his poster presentation on Saturday afternoon



Students conversing over dinner



Adam Beeler shows a demo on standing waves in a tube filled with propane