

Boy Scouts of America: Troop 273

Event : Live From the Aurora : Chabot Overnight Event
Place : Chabot Space & Science Center, Oakland California
Date : Feb. 28, 2003
Leader : Mark Wong (Assistant Scoutmaster)

We departed from Cabello at around 9:00pm due to the strong demand for the Board Of Review by Scouts after their Troop Meeting as opposed to the scheduled 8:30pm. We had 4 cars, 4 drivers with 12 boys and 7 adults as well as our most recent Eagle Scout (Adam Lee) and his friend. 5 minutes before 10:00pm, we arrived the Chabot Space & Science Center without any incident.

Tom Estill, our Chabot Space & Science Center Contact greeted us at the door. We were given pens so that we could write our first name on the badge as identification. By 10:30pm, we were led to the planetarium for a movie showing the sun and its relationship with Earth. There were plenty of explanation about sun' flare, sun spot, solar storm and how those affected the Earth. One of the severe solar storms actually crippled the Eastern Canada and NE of the U.S.A a few years back by damaging their power stations. The movie lasted for about an hour and 15 minutes.

After the movie, we were led to the upstairs where they had other presentation booths showing the sun, the earth and some simulation model to show Earth and the air disturbance when the Earth rotated along its axis. At the same time, we were treated with coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Some other Scientists from UC Berkeley, from Chabot Space & Science Center as well as volunteers helped to demo and explain to all participants. Prior to enjoy the Aurora from Alaska, we were also treated with cold sandwiches with Roast Beef, ham, tomato, onion, celery, chips, chocolate cookies etc... Complimentary cold soda was served as well. Everyone seemed to have pretty good appetite for this mid-night snack.

Around 1:45pm, we were led back to the Planetarium again watching the live video from Poker Flat, Alaska where Scientists from Maryland led the show. College students from Clemson University helped out the project. Spectacular Aurora light with mainly green color was shown on the screen. A rocket launch was scheduled pending on the sky condition. The show was broadcast live to both Maryland and Chabot Space & Science Center simultaneously. Participants were given opportunities to ask Scientists questions from both sites. Our boys: Adrian, Daniel D and Kris were chosen to ask couple questions each. During the broadcast, Scientists also explained how they prepared for the show and the rocket launch which was quite interesting. Unfortunately, the sky was cloudy down range and the rocket launch was cancelled. Nevertheless, we had a great opportunity to see the spectacular Aurora light without actually going to Alaska.

By 4:00pm, the broadcast ended. Some of our boys were soundly slept and were woken up by others. It was cold outside the Center when we left. By 4:45pm, we all got home with bagful of freebies i.e. CD, poster, pen and some other souvenirs. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening really well.

Photo Album for the Live From the Aurora Event: Feb. 28, 2003



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