



IPS COMMITTEE REPORT - 2010

I. Function of the Committee

To help those interested in the use of portable planetariums and to provide a support system to assist portable planetarium users.

II. Committee Chair and Committee Members (include name, affiliation, addresses/contact info)

Susan Reynolds Button, Committee Chair (MAPS)

(Quarks to Clusters, 8793 Horseshoe Lane, Chittenango, NY 13037 US

Phone: +1.315.687.5371; Email: sbuttonq2c@twcnny.rr.com and sbuttonq2c@att.net

Per Broman, Falun, Sweden (NPA) Email: pbr@planetarium.se

Dayle Brown, South Bend, Indiana USA (GLPA) Email: DayleDavid@comcast.net

Marie-France Duval, France (APLF) Email: marie-france.duval@oamp.fr

Alan Gould, Berkeley, California, USA (PPA) Email: agould@berkeley.edu

Loris Ramponi, Brescia, Italy (Planit) Email: megrez58@gmail.com

Ray Worthy, Hartlepool, Cleveland, England (BAP) Email:

raymond@stargazr.demon.co.uk

III. Accomplishments of the Committee

The 7th European Meeting of Small and Portable Planetaria was announced and will be held in the world's first planetarium built into the rock, Kallioplanetaario, will be held on 17-20th of August 2010 in Finland. For more information and registration visit:

<http://emspp2010.kallioplanetaario.fi/>

Or contact Arto Oksanen email: arto.oksa...@kallioplanetaario.fi

www.kallioplanetaario.fi

Contest for A Week in Italy. In 2010 the contest was expanded; the Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory (Lumezzane/Brescia) will also host a British Planetarium Operator to work with high school students of English.

We have posted two documents on the Committee web page:

1. "What Projector Should I Purchase" which is a list of questions to explore when making such a decision and

2. "Portable Planetarium Projections Systems" which is a list of commercial portable planetarium projectors currently on the market.

We have posted the link http://www.astrofilibresciani.it/Planetari/Week_in_Italy/Week_Italy.htm to:

1. "An Opportunity to Teach in Italy for a French Planetarium Operator"
2. "An Opportunity to Teach in Italy for an American Planetarium Operator"
3. "An Opportunity to Teach in Italy for a British Planetarium Operator"

IV. Future Goals of the Committee

We have compiled an up-to-date list of portable planetarium projectors and are working on producing a chart that compares all the relevant attributes of each model.

We will produce an up-to-date list of portable **domes** available on the market.

We continue work on producing a collection of planetarium lessons, written by U.S. educators, from the "Week in Italy Contest" (1996-2009) for distribution to IPS members on CD.

V. Budget Requirements

\$100 for printing and mailing materials.

VI. Comments

VII. Summary/Abstract for publication on committee web page

The Portable Planetarium Committee is pleased to report that The 7th European Meeting of Small and Portable Planetaria was announced and will be held in the world's first planetarium built into the rock, Kallioplanetaario, will be held on 17-20th of August 2010 in Finland. For more information and registration visit:

<http://emspp2010.kallioplanetaario.fi/>

Or contact Arto Oksanen email: arto.oksa...@kallioplanetaario.fi

www.kallioplanetaario.fi

The Contest for A Week in Italy: Later in 2010 the contest will be expanded; the Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory (Lumezzane/Brescia) will also host a British Planetarium Operator to work with high school students of English. (See attached document.)

You will note that we have posted 2 documents and a link on the Committee web page:

1. "What Projector Should I Purchase" which is a list of questions to explore when making such a decision and
2. "Portable Planetarium Projections Systems" which is a list of commercial portable planetarium projectors currently on the market.

We have posted the link http://www.astrofilibresciani.it/Planetari/Week_in_Italy/Week_Italy.htm to:

"An Opportunity to Teach in Italy for a French Planetarium Operator"
"An Opportunity to Teach in Italy for an American Planetarium Operator"
"An Opportunity to Teach in Italy for a British Planetarium Operator"

As we look to the future we will focus on three ideas:

We are working on producing, on CD, a collection of planetarium lessons from the "Week in Italy Contest" (1996-2010) for distribution to IPS members.

We have compiled a list of portable planetarium projectors and we will produce a chart, which compares all the relevant attributes of each model.

We will produce an up-to-date list of portable domes available on the market.

We encourage you to contact any committee member with ideas and/or questions that you would like to share.

Experience in Italy for a British Planetarium Operator

Each year, in the Fall or in the Spring, the Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory (Lumezzane/Brescia) will host a British Planetarium Operator to work with high school students of English. In the past a similar contest for an American planetarium operator was only available for STARLAB educators. This newly revised contest will accept applications from educators or astronomers who working with any of the various models of planetariums.

The British Association of Planetaria (BAP) endorses this initiative as an excellent opportunity for professional development and cultural exchange.

The winner will:

1. be asked to provide a curriculum vita, the text of a lesson plan with activities and stories.
2. be asked to prepare the lesson for an analog projector but it may be augmented with digital visuals on a flash drive. Each lesson will be at least 60 minutes in length and can be about traditional topics for planetaria such as: daily motion, orienteering, latitude motion, solstice and equinox, constellations, mythology and so on. The first part of the lesson, outside the dome, could be also devoted to astronomical hands-on teaching experiences realized also using simple and cheap materials. Or, the lesson could be about non-astronomical topics as: biology, tectonics, geography, ocean currents and meteorology (see Starlab Cylinders).
3. be asked to make a public presentation. The presenter will provide an introduction with slides about British experiences in the diffusion of astronomy and then a lesson.
4. receive a *maximum* ofeuros for transportation from the United Kingdom by British Association of Planetaria. Bed (4 nights) and meals will be provided during this professional visit. (Additional expenses for tourist travel, hotel and meals must be paid by the applicant.).
5. need to be available for 3 days in Brescia (Italy, near the Lake of Garda) in the Fall or in the Spring. Additional days in other Italian cities must be paid by the applicant. Program of the three days: maximum 3 lessons each morning; 1 afternoon lesson; 1 press conference; visit of Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory.

All lessons and presentations will be conducted in the English language. A preliminary text of the lesson is required so that teachers will have ample time to work with their students before the experience. Be prepared to teach the lesson at either a basic or an advanced level. Some classes are extremely interested but do not know a lot of astronomy and others have studied astronomy in depth. Most of the students have had two to four years of English and will understand the spoken word if you speak clearly and deliberately. They have a good sense of humor and certainly display the usual excitement about the planetarium.

There will be time when there are no other engagements, thus providing an opportunity for touring the locale and nearby cities. For instance, Lumezzane is very rich in public astronomy with the Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory, four small planetaria, the Eureka Astronomical Center and the National Archive of Planetaria. The province of Brescia is very interesting with its natural landscapes and parks, three lakes and a most important valley for prehistoric age stone engravings. Exciting artistic cities, such as Verona and Venice, are nearby and can be reached by taking a one or two-hour train ride.

Culminating documentation:

We request a final report be written by the English teacher which will include the text of the High School lesson, comments from the students and impressions of the experience.

The winner will be selected by British Association of Planetaria in collaboration with Susan Button (International Planetarium Society Mobile Planetarium Committee) and Serafino Zani astronomical Observatory.

September 30 is the yearly deadline for the applicants of "Experience in Italy for a British Planetarium Operator".