

Monthly Report

July 2022

Summary

July 2022 has so far been the busiest month of the year between the usual events that I have been hosting lately, as well as the large number of regular shows that I have been hosting. The following is a summary of this month's activities.

Events

July's Astronomy & Ales were a little disappointing in comparison to June's as the weather at the end of July was far from cooperative. The ticket sales for the first July date wasn't bad, in fact we had over 20 people show up for the event itself, however it does seem like some people chose not to attend due to the weather, as the mostly cloudy night made it hard to observe that evening.

Science Saturday in July was a large disappointment for me, as I don't think anyone showed up specifically for the event in July, and all of the activities for the event saw low participation. What I heard from my volunteers is that they spent most of their time sitting around and waiting for people to show up. This wouldn't be a terrible outcome if it wasn't for the extra work that goes into creating and planning Science Saturday. But the fact is that I do spend a significant amount of time planning these events. Due to these circumstances, there will not be a Science Saturday until the end of September, which will be held at the library.

Volunteers

In July, the planetarium saw an influx of regular volunteers from the local community. We now have a regular planetarium assistant that can help run and manage shows. There are also two separate telescope volunteers who are willing to join us in observing events at Rockport and in town. Lastly, I have a small group of museum volunteers who have joined us for Science Saturdays and other educational events. As far as our support staff goes, we're definitely drawing on more people now.

Attendance

In July we had a total of 464 people attend the planetarium through paid admission, including our APS summer camp. While the attendance wasn't much higher than June's, there was a noticeable increase in the number of shows that we hosted, with a total of 74 shows throughout the month. This translates into over 2 a day on average, which actually feels a little low considering the amount of time I've spent in the planetarium. The highest attended and requested show was our Dinosaurs show, which had over 100 more people in attendance than the second highest show, Capcom Go. It just goes to show that people really love Dinosaurs. If and when we solve our projector issue, I have found some new dinosaur related videos that I think would be a nice addition to our digital library, but I feel as if we should see what the future of the planetarium looks like before we purchase another program.



