

High Noon at Griffith

The Observatory celebrates the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, June 21.

Story and photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

REC AND PARKS — On June 21 at 11:06 a.m., summer officially began, and special festivities took place at Griffith Observatory to celebrate this year's summer solstice. Starting at 12:30 p.m. in the Gottlieb Transit Corridor, a special explanation of summer solstice was performed by Dr. E.C. Krupp, the Director of Griffith Observatory. Those present saw the sun's image transit across the meridian arc at local noon, which occurred at 12:55 p.m. Special guests at the event included Councilmember and Club Member Tom LaBonge as well as Suzanne Gottlieb, benefactor and Dr. Bruce Bohannon, instrument project scientist.



Dr. E.C. Krupp, Observatory Director and Club Member, points to image about to cross over the meridian arc.

The summer solstice, which is on or around June 21 each year, occurs when the sun is farthest north and makes its highest appearance in the sky for observers in the northern hemisphere. The sun shines most directly on the northern half of the Earth at this time of year because of the tilt of the earth's axis, which makes this day the longest day of the year.

In Los Angeles, at roughly 34 degrees north of

the equator, the sun is never seen directly overhead, but on the summer solstice the sun reaches its highest elevation of the entire year. The Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn are those latitudes on earth where the sun appears directly overhead at local noon on the summer and winter solstices, respectively.

Around the world, people have acknowledged and celebrated these important dates. Calendar keeping was especially important to early people who watched the Sun's motion to help them determine when to plant crops or anticipate important animal migrations. Ancient ruins include features that align with the rising, setting, and passage of the Sun through the sky on solstices and equinoxes. Many ancient sites suggest that ritual was an important part of observing solstices and equinoxes.

Griffith Observatory has several architectural features that align with important sky events. Granite lines laid into the concrete of the West Observation Terrace point to the sunset position on the solstices and equinoxes and to significant moonsets as well. The Gottlieb Transit Corridor marks the noon passage of the sun each day and maps the Sun's yearly motion against the background constellations of stars. Inside Griffith Observatory, several exhibits explain the motions of the Sun and Moon and the passage of the seasons.

The Club thanks Dr. Krupp, Club Member, for his assistance.



The side of Griffith Observatory on the longest day of the year.



Dr. E.C. Krupp, Observatory Director and Club Member, enjoys this very special moment when the sun is farthest north and makes its highest appearance in the sky for observers in the northern hemisphere.



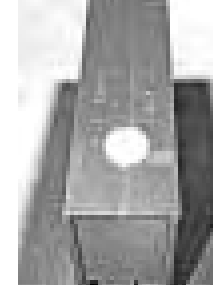
Ecliptic chart. On the west side of the Gottlieb Transit Corridor, a 22-foot-long stainless steel engraved star chart illustrates the sun's annual path through the background stars and the constellations.



From left: Dr. Bruce Bohannon, Corridor and Instrument Project Scientist; Dr. E.C. Krupp, Director, Griffith Observatory, and Club Member; Suzanne Gottlieb, Benefactor; and Dr. Laura Danley, Curator, Griffith Observatory.



The meridian arc.



The moment has arrived and will continue for a little more than a minute.



Dr. E.C. Krupp, Observatory Director and Club Member, and Suzanne Gottlieb, Benefactor.



Dr. E.C. Krupp, Observatory Director and Club Member, looks down at the sun's image as it nears the lowest point on the meridian arc.

Would you like a pen with your company's name on it? How about a coffee mug or a mouse pad?

[We also do Family Reunions]

Call 213-689-4662

ROSEBUD Marketing Group

110 E. 5th Street Suite A-404
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-689-4662 Fax: 213-689-7070
E-Mail: info@rosebud.com

www.RosebudMarketing.com

We can print your name or logo on anything including the following:
Coffee Mugs, Pens, Washes, Clocks, T-Shirts, Magnets, Key Tags, Awards, Baseball Caps, Golf Balls, Mouse Pads and More!

Earn \$\$\$ while on Vacation

Dream vacations below wholesale

For more info check out our websites
EarnVacations.com/ddaisys
ddaisys.worldventures.biz

Or call Daisy or Ben (909)994-3371

WANTED

Part-Time Job Opportunity

City of Los Angeles – Department of General Services
Special Program Assistant – Special Events

Job Description:
Will assist with special events City wide, film monitoring; conduct film walks, some office duties and record keeping. Computer and communication skills are a must. Must also hold a Class "C" license as driving will be required. Staff will have access to City vehicles.

Hours:
Will vary each week depending on community events and film production schedules. Max is 20 hours per week. Flexible schedule.

Pay:
Approximately \$11.82 / hour

Location:
City Hall South – 111 E. First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please send your resume to Lye Yee at lye.yee@lacity.org to apply or call (213) 928-9579 for further information.

Deadline to apply is Friday, Aug. 17, 2007.