



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sidewalk Stargazing
Returns Oct. 1

Columbia, S.C. --- It'll be a grand night for looking at Jupiter!

The South Carolina State Museum science staff and the Midlands Astronomy Club will resume the popular "Planets for the People" sidewalk telescope viewing event at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1 in front of the Hunter-Gatherer Brewery & Ale House, 900 Main Street, south of the State House complex.

"We've found the location, on the Southeastern corner of South Main and College Streets, has an excellent view of both the southern and western sky, where planets and the moon are found," said Tom Falvey, State Museum director of education.

"We'll be setting up four telescopes set up in front of the Hunter-Gatherer. If people are there a little early we'll do some solar viewing. We'll also be looking at the moon, which should be visible early in the evening and just a beautiful blue-white color! Uranus also will be visible. Then, of course, Jupiter will be the main attraction.

"We had such a wonderful response to our last sidewalk viewing in the winter and spring," continued Falvey. "It's really great for us to see how excited people get when they look through those telescopes. It doesn't matter what their age is, they all become starry-eyed kids again!"

The event went on hiatus during the summer because the heat causes a haze that makes viewing difficult, and because the sun goes down so late, said Falvey. But he's excited to be offering it once again.

“Our normal enthusiasm for star gazing has been made even more exciting by our recent acquisition of the Robert B. Ariail Collection of Historical Astronomy, a world-class collection of historic telescopes and related equipment,” said Falvey. “Part of this collection is on view now at the museum, and in the future, we plan to exhibit the entire collection of more than 60 telescopes, plus related astronomy gear.”

Dependent on clear skies, this great family activity will last until 9 p.m. and is free and open to the public

For more information, call Tom Falvey at 803-898-4944 or visit the museum’s Web site at www.southcarolinastatemuseum.org.

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CUTLINE FOR “PLANETS FOR THE PEOPLE”

The sun, the moon and Jupiter will be targets for a free public stargazing event, “Planets for the People,” sponsored by the South Carolina State Museum and the Midlands Astronomy Club. The viewing will take place outside the Hunter-Gatherer Brewery and Ale House at 900 Main St. in Columbia on Saturday, Oct. 1 from 6-9 p.m., weather permitting.

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo by Tom Falvey/courtesy S.C. State Museum.

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