

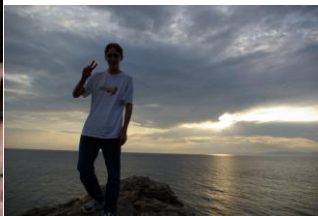
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Society of Physics Students Zone 16 Meeting Prescott, AZ March 26th-27th



The ERAU SPS Chapter



Pres (Sean Thatcher)



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The SPS chapter at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ recently conducted the zone meeting for Zone 16. The meeting was held on March 26 and 27 included an opening BBQ, physics volleyball, a night at the observatory, student research talks, a guest lecture on equivariant bifurcation theory, and a talk on equipping local communities with physics. Unfortunately, the only other school to attend the meeting was Northern Arizona University, but they made up for this by bringing 20+ students!

Meeting website: <http://mercury.pr.erau.edu/~brownc6/sps/zone.html>

The events began as NAU students arrived to the ERAU campus. They were greeted with SPS t-shirts, burgers, hot dogs, and other BBQ foods. Students enjoyed games of sand volleyball and comingled with other future physicists. As the sun set, we moved over to the observatory ERAU houses to view the *Andromeda galaxy* through the 12” telescope and other images obtained taken by students and professors of the university.



[ERAU Observatory page:

http://mercury.pr.erau.edu/~rachf7ac/observatory/erau_observatory.html]

Saturday morning began with a breakfast for all SPS members in attendance. The day’s events began with a lecture on “*Equivariant bifurcation theory and pattern formation*” by Dr. Timothy Callahan, former visiting professor of physics at ERAU and expert in condensed matter theory.



Dr. Timothy Callahan

The talk included an interesting discussion of spontaneous symmetry breaking in macroscopic systems.

During the lunch hour, ERAU’s NASA Educator Research Center, Stacy Deveau, informed students of outreach opportunities in their local communities. She gave strategies for where to go, who to speak to, and what to present. This was very informative because it includes the goals of SPS by encourage young students to pursue education and careers in physics.

Following lunch, the floor was opened for students to speak on the research they are involved with. Approximately ten students in attendance spoke about projects ranging from analyzing LIGO data to observing planetary disks.

Both SPS chapters in attendance compared and informed the other chapter of events and activities they were involved in. The zone counselor for the region was not in attendance so the two clubs spoke about different events around the zone and what we have heard. It was decided that the next zone meeting should be held in New Mexico because Arizona schools have hosted for the previous two years.



Attendees of the Zone meeting