Top 10 Ways to Celebrate LaserFest

LaserFest is a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the laser, which was first demonstrated in 1960. In honor of this, a number of laser-focused events are happening around the country in 2010. The SPS and ΣΠΣ National Council adopted the theme “Exciting the Imagination” for 2010, in conjunction with LaserFest.

10. Request a free LaserFest poster for your classroom, office, or local library from www.laserfest.org.

9. Bring a speaker to your institution through the American Physical Society Division of Laser Science. For details, visit www.physics.sdsu.edu/~anderson/DTL/.

8. Become a fan of LaserFest on Facebook! While you’re on Facebook, consider joining the Society of Physics Students group. By joining the group you can keep up-to-date on SPS happenings and be notified about breaking science news, entertaining videos, and other fun physics-y stuff. Also check out the group “I have a bachelor’s degree in physics” to meet other physics enthusiasts.

7. Sign up to receive updates from LaserFest organizers, including ways to get involved, LaserFest announcements, and program information, www.laserfest.org.

6. Host a dance party featuring SpectraSound, a device that uses laser modulation to transmit music—or better yet, try building your own. For details on SpectraSound, visit www.laserfest.org/about/store.

5. Submit a laser-related “Hidden Physicist” story. Through stories of hidden physicists, Sigma Pi Sigma celebrates those with BA, BS, MS, or PhD degrees in physics whose careers have taken them away from the “traditional” physics community. During LaserFest, we are looking especially for hidden physicists whose careers or jobs involve lasers. If this is you or someone you know, consider submitting a story, www.sigmapisigma.org/radiations/hidden_physicists.htm.


3. Make a birthday cake for the laser and share it with a friend. This cake, inspired by Theodore Maiman’s original ruby laser, was commissioned for a LaserFest Smithsonian reception... Can you do better?

2. Find out one new use for the laser. LaserFest.org is a great place to start. See the “Laser Innovations” feature at www.laserfest.org/lasers/innovations.cfm.

1. Put on some Pink Floyd, get a tattoo removed, or scan a barcode, and then take a moment to appreciate all of the advances that have come with the laser.