

Name of research institute or organization:

University of Denver
Mt. Evans High-altitude Observatory and Chamberlin Observatory

Title of project:

Site visitation to Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat for educational outreach

Project leader and team:

Mr. Adam R. Jones & Ms. Linda Lee Recca (both present at Jungfrauoch and Gornergrat)
Dr. Robert E. Stencel

Project description:

The purpose of these two overnight visits was to explore, photograph and document the high-altitude facilities of HFSJG for educational outreach purposes. Here at the University of Denver (DU), we also maintain a high-altitude astronomical observatory and research station on 4.320m Mt. Evans in Colorado, USA. Dr. Robert E. Stencel, Director of Observatories, provided some coordination support and set information collection goals, while Mr. Adam R. Jones and Ms. Linda Lee Recca travelled to Switzerland to perform the site visitations. Mr. Jones' background and/or degrees in meteorology and astronomy made the journeys especially meaningful. Ms. Recca is a writer and was instrumental in note-taking and document-writing. Mr. Jones was the principal photographer, capturing imagery of both facilities and their surroundings, with emphasis on research experiments/equipment, site location and geography, weather conditions, the staff, living quarters and tourist interaction. Mr. Jones also performed night sky photography and stereo (3D) photography on-site. Mr. Jones also informally met with Prof. Markus Leuenberger, Director HFSJG, for lunch in Visp.

All of this information, along with a presentation and information from Prof. Leuenberger were brought back to Denver for use in sharing with students, teachers and other interested parties alike. Ultimately this will help generate more awareness here in the U.S. of European research programmes and will help facilitate potential collaboration between our high-altitude sites. The outreach material has also been shared with faculty of other universities, as well as staff of other unique research facilities such as the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah.

Key words:

Site visitation, educational outreach, site photography, night sky photography

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