



Estonian Astronomical Society

and astronomy in Estonia

Laurits Leedjärv

Tartu Observatory, Tõravere 61602
Tartumaa, ESTONIA
leed@aai.ee

Estonian Astronomical Society:

- established in the present legal form in 1999**
- successor to the astronomical society "Vega", created by young Ernst Julius Öpik in 1910**

**Estonian Astronomical Society incorporates
both professional and amateur astronomers**

**About 80 members, of them about 20
professionals**

Practically all professionals in Estonia are working in one institution: Tartu Observatory

about 30 professional astronomers, including some Ph.D. students on part-time basis



Eesti Astronoomia Selts
VEGA

EAS, Leiden

January 22, 2008

Communication of professional astronomers possible at all times



Society sees its main aim as establishing links and communication between professionals and amateurs and between amateurs themselves

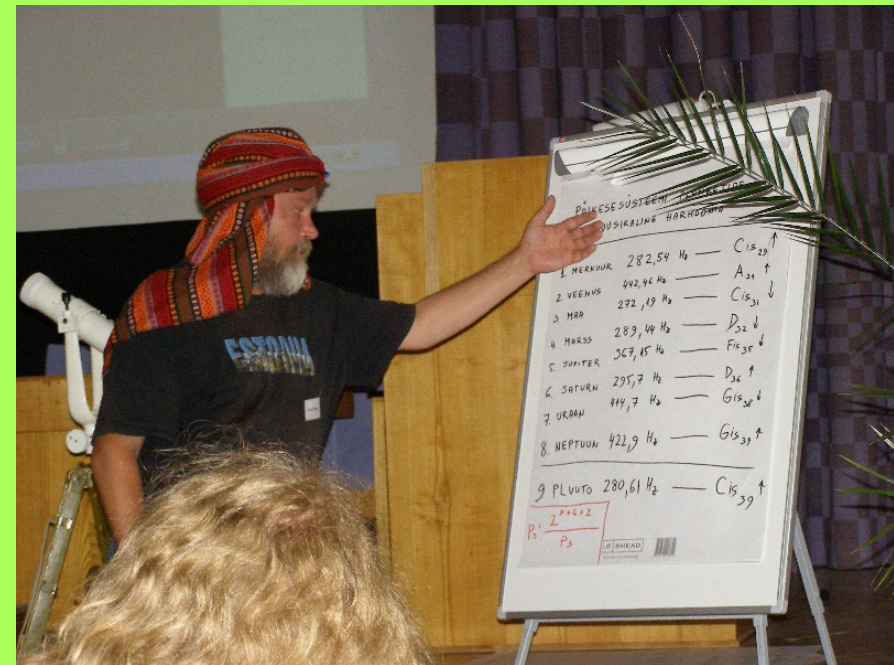
Annual meetings of EstAS, usually in February or March, mostly in Tallinn

Annual meetings of Estonian amateur astronomers, in August (perseids!), in different places, in about every three years at Tartu Observatory, Tõravere. Usually more than 100 participants

Professionals attend both meetings, give lectures, supervise observations etc.

EstAS acts first of all as “an umbrella” joining different amateur clubs and societies, like e.g.

- Stellarium at Tõravere (Tartu Observatory)
- Astronomy Club of the Old Observatory in Tartu
- Ridamus in Tallinn
- “A musical planetarium” at Jäneda etc.



Eesti Astronoomia Selts
VEGA

Links of EstAS with European and international organisations mostly via contacts and activities of professional astronomers

- IAU
- ESA (first cooperation agreement between Estonia and ESA signed 20 June 2007, cooperation with Gaia and Planck teams long before that)
- ASTRONET (Estonian Science Foundation is an associated member since 2007)
- FP7 (successful REGPOT project EstSpace)



Thank you for the attention!