Fermilab Today

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Calendar

Tuesday, June 15

Noon Summer Lecture Series - 1 West
Speaker: E. Kolb, Fermilab
Title: Big Bang / Cosmology
3:30 p.m. DIRECTOR'S COFFEE BREAK 2nd Flr X-Over
THERE WILL BE NO ACCELERATOR PHYSICS AND TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR TODAY

Wednesday, June 16

3:30 p.m. DIRECTOR'S COFFEE BREAK - 2nd Flr X-Over
4:00 p.m. Fermilab Colloquium - 1 West
Speaker: D. Osheroff, Stanford University
Title: Understanding the Columbia Space Shuttle Accident

Wilson Hall Cafe

Tuesday, June 15

Italian Minestrone soup
Mushroom Swiss Burger $4.75
Chicken Parmesan $3.50
Beef Stew $3.75
Italian Ciabetta $4.75
Supreme Pizza $2.75
Pesto Capallini Leeks & Tomatoes $4.75
Wilson Hall Cafe Menu
Chez Leon

Weather

Mostly Sunny **83º/65º**

Extended Forecast

Weather at Fermilab

Current Security Status

Chase the Moon on August 1

Between midnight and sunrise on August 1st, hundreds of bicyclists will ride across 20 miles of Fermilab roads in the inaugural "Chase the Moon Bike Ride." The bike trip, 25 miles in total, will leave from Marmion Military Academy at 12:01 a.m. after an hour of pre-ride festivities. Proceeds will benefit the Fox Valley Girlscouts.

"We'll be bicycling under a blue moon-the second full moon in July," said Ed Bonifas, a volunteer organizer. The route will cover most of Fermilab's paved roads at least once, including Main Ring Road, which is usually off-limits to the public.

Organizers hope for 1000 riders. "We're expecting people to pay that night, but anyone interested should register in advance, so we can accommodate everybody," Bonifas said. Adults of all abilities are invited to take part. Every rider will receive a T-shirt, grab bag, and very early breakfast. Register online or call (630) 299-1103.

In the News

Director's Corner

Good Morning!

Mike Witherell

Last Thursday, the Fermilab Result of the Week was a new precise measurement of V_{us} , the fundamental parameter that describes the interaction of the strange quark to the up quark. This new result from KTeV, one of the last fixed target experiments at the Tevatron, was a surprise. It disagrees significantly with the world average from the Particle Data Group, which is based on several experiments done over decades.

In the past few weeks, we have also seen new measurements of the top quark mass from CDF and DZero. There were no big disagreements, but the measurements of the top quark are getting better, and they will improve again over the next year.

Why do physicists work so hard to measure more precisely things that have already been seen? Particle physics is a science based on discovery. But discoveries in our field often do not take place in a single moment. We make more precise measurements so that we can see the inconsistencies that might be the first sign of something new and spectacular. We search for new physics not only at the energy frontier, but also at the frontier of precision, using more intense beams and more powerful experiments.

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FYI: AIP Bulletin of Science Policy News, June 14, 2004

"Physics of the Universe" Strategic Plan

Two years ago, the National Research Council (NRC) laid out 11 key scientific questions at the intersection of physics and astronomy in a report entitled "Connecting Quarks to the Cosmos" (see FYIs #67 and #68, 2002). Earlier this year, in response, an interagency working group of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) released a prioritized strategic plan for efforts across several government agencies to address those 11 questions. Exploring the nature of dark energy receives high priority in the new report. Other areas considered ripe for "immediate investment" are the study of dark matter, neutrinos, proton decay and the nature of gravity, while longer-term objectives include research into the heavy elements, nuclear astrophysics, the birth of the universe, high density and high temperature physics and high energy cosmic ray physics.

read more

Accelerator Update

June 11 - June 14

- During this 72 hour period Operations established one store that added to an existing store provided approximately 43 hours and 49 minutes of luminosity to the experiments.
- MI suffered a ground fault on Friday morning
- Lightning caused TeV abort early Saturday morning
- The Booster passed a goal on Sunday by extracting 6.03E12 protons in one pulse

View the current accelerator update
View the Tevatron Luminosity Charts

Announcements

Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish Country Dancing will be held at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 15, at the Geneva American Legion Post. Newcomers are always welcome. Info at 630-584-0825 or 630-840-8194 or folkdance@fnal.gov.