

# Base Library Experiences Stellar Evening On International Observe the Moon Night

Story by Rusty Baker, Photos by Pat Tellman

When scanning the heavens for celestial bodies, stars, planets and the moon, nothing will eclipse your evening quicker than the biggest torrential downpour of the year. Out of the 380 different sites that participated in Saturday night's International Observe the Moon Night, the NAS Fort Worth JRB Library refused to let the darkened sky and dampened lawn diminish from a truly stellar evening.

Dozens of military families and children joined in the intergalactic fun at the base library to learn everything there is to know about our closest neighbor, nearly 239,000 miles away, the moon.

Base Librarian Pat Tellman ensured there were enough activities for the evening to keep the crowd from becoming lunatics. She invited Tarrant County College's Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Raymond D. Bengé, Jr., to discuss the Moon's many names, highlighted lunar features, and even a Sky Watcher's guide to the Moon that included craters and Apollo moon exploration landing sites.



To better understand the Earth's relationship with the Moon, Bengé taught the children his Moondance. It was easy to see that the professor had never moonlighted as a dancer, but the dance itself allowed the children to shoot up like meteors and orbit around the room.

"I was surprised to see even the older kids getting up and dancing," said Tellman, "they had a lot of fun."

Tellman discovered a way for the children to learn the different phases of the Moon with the help of some chocolate sandwich cookies. With her Moon Phase Cookie Sheet, children chomped and chewed their way to creations of the New Moon, Waxing Crescent, First Quarter Moon, Waxing Gibbous, Full Moon, Waning Gibbous, Third Quarter Moon and Waning Crescent.

“The cookies worked perfectly,” said Tellman, “the kids were able to eat any mistakes.”



To finish out the night, the children were all given a Moon Pie; a classic southern snack food that consists of two round crisp cookies with marshmallow filling, each dipped in either chocolate, vanilla or banana flavored coating.

Saturday’s raining night had shown that where other local Moon-watching clubs experienced a Black Hole of an educational evening, the base library experienced many shooting stars who were now light years ahead in lunar knowledge.

