INSTITUTIONAL CURRICULUM

CULTURAL INSTITUTE ASSOCIAZIONE ASTROFILI SPEZZINI APS®

Operational Headquarters

• "Luciano Zannoni" Astronomical Observatory – Monte Viseggi, La Spezia (SP)

• Ionospheric Observatory (Via Filzi) – in synergy with INGV (National Institute of Geology and Volcanology), the only collaboration of its kind in Italy

• Technical Headquarters (Via delle Fornaci) – for R&D

• Total managed surface area: over 12,000 m²

Registered Office

Former Beghi Civic Library – Via Beghi, La Spezia

• Secretariat

• Auditorium

• Scientific library recognized by the Ministry of Culture with code IT-SP0198

Website: www.astrofilispezzini.org

Email: astrofililaspezia@gmail.com

APP: app.astrofilispezzini.org

Social: @astrofilispezzini (about 10 thousand followers)

Territorial delegation of the Italian Amateur Astronomers Union for La Spezia, Lunigiana and Val di Vara

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Who we are

Founded in 1978, the Associazione Astrofili Spezzini® (AAS) is a non-profit organization committed to scientific dissemination, astronomical education and advanced amateur research.

The association manages the only observatory in the world built on the remains of an anti-aircraft battery and the only public observatory in the province of La Spezia.

Since 2019, with the birth of AAS 2.0, it has started a renewal process based on inclusiveness, interdisciplinarity and collaboration with schools, research bodies and institutions.

Main Activities

Astronomical Research

• Monitoring of NEO/PHA asteroids – signatories of the IAWN protocol

• Study of extrasolar planets

• Automated astrometry (software: Tycho, Aladin, Prism)

• Specialization in the follow-up of objects potentially dangerous for the Earth

Scientific Dissemination

• Public events and science festivals

• Experiential astro-welfare courses

School Teaching

• Educational projects in the STEAM field

• Laboratories in collaboration with INGV (ionosphere)

Facilities and Instrumentation

★ "Luciano Zannoni" Observatory – MPC Code: 126

• Main telescope: Ritchey-Chrétien 410 mm + CMOS Vision pro 571M

• Autoguider system: RC 200 mm GSO + CCD Atik 314+

• Telescope auxiliary: Triplet super Apo 80 mm + Atik 383L+

★ "Cassini" Observatory

• 510 mm Newton telescope – the largest in the province of La Spezia

★ "Fiammetta" Observatory

• Celestron C11 – dedicated to the study of extrasolar planets

★ Ionospheric Observatory (Via Filzi) SP044

• Third Italian ionosonde for the study of space weather

• In collaboration with INGV

★ Parco del Sole

• Solar telescope with CMOS camera

• Self-built heliograph

• LIM to view live images

★ Monte Viseggi Science Park

• CAI "La Via delle Stelle" trail

• Museum of the anti-aircraft artillery of the Italian Royal Navy, battery S.257 (in collaboration with Pro Loco del Golfo)

Private observatories of members:

• "Il Correggiolo" Observatory – MPC Code: M16 – managed by Sirio Negri

• “SN1572 Tycho Observatory” – MPC Code: M17 – managed by Luca Bertagna

• “Aldo Agnetti Observatory” MPC code L53 – managed by Davide Agnetti

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Portable equipment:

2 Celestron C8 Orange on fork mount

Skywatcher eq6 mount

Meade 250 f/10

Meade 250 f/6

Newton 200 f/5

Seestar S50

Super apo 80 triplet Tecnosky

Results and Records

- Discovery and cataloging of asteroids, six named discoveries: La Spezia, Viseggi, Remigio, Palmaria, Luigi Sannino, Pontremoli
- First collaboration in Italy with INGV for educational ionosonde
- Guinness Astronomical World Record (Luigi Sannino)
- Collaborations with international bodies and national

Partners and Collaborations

- Cornell University – research on extrasolar planets
- Minor Planet Center (MPC) – astrometry and follow-up
- University of Pisa – NeoDyS project
- INGV – ionosphere and space weather
- Municipality of La Spezia, CAI, Pro Loco del Golfo
- IAWN – signatories of the agreement for planetary defense

• BAT – Study of cometary morphologies

• The planetary society - members

Research and Technological Development®

The R&D section of the AAS is led by Roberto Cioni, an active member who has created numerous innovative systems including:

• An automated cap for the 410 mm Ritchey-Chrétien telescope of the “Luciano Zannoni” observatory;

• An automated petal cap for the 510 mm Newton of the “Cassini” Observatory;

• The “Park Theater” audio system, for immersive diffusion in the Monte Viseggi Science Park during outreach events.

• Electronic movement system for the Luciano Zannoni observatory dome

• Electronic opening system for the Fiammetta observatory hatch

• Technical drawings of dozens of technical details printed in 3d by our partner “Superfici”

• “Astronomy trekking” backpack with 60 mm motorized telescope + accessories

These devices improve the operational efficiency and usability of the facilities during scientific and public activities.

Publishing and Authorial Dissemination

The Associazione Astrofili Spezzini takes care of the quarterly publication of the popular magazine

"ASTRONOMICA", regularly registered with the Court of La Spezia with authorization no. 286/25.

Among its members it includes two authors active in the national scientific publishing scene:

• Sabrina Mugnos, popularizer and author of essays on astrophysics and planetary geology

• Claudio Cosci, writer of astronomy texts and scientific dissemination

The magazine and the volumes produced are key tools for the educational and cultural mission of the association.

Activities with Schools and Young People

The Associazione Astrofili Spezzini dedicates a fundamental part of its mission to the education of new generations, with projects designed to stimulate scientific curiosity and conscious observation of the sky. The activities are carried out both in local schools and within the AAS facilities, in particular at the Monte Viseggi Science Park.

Educational Activities:

• Meetings and educational workshops in schools of all levels (from primary school to high schools);

• Guided visits to the “Luciano Zannoni” Observatory, with practical demonstrations, telescope observations and outreach activities;

• Solar laboratories at the “Parco del Sole”, with live observation of the Sun using dedicated telescopes and self-built instruments;

• Multidisciplinary courses related to astronomy, physics, planetary geology and space weather;

• Lessons in collaboration with INGV at the ionospheric observatory, to delve deeper into the study of the atmosphere and the Northern Lights.

Project “LUNARIS – Artemis: Return to the Moon”

LUNARIS is an educational project dedicated to schools, inspired by NASA’s Artemis program. It was officially supported and funded in 2024 by the Unione Astrofili Italiani (UAI), of which the AAS is the territorial delegation for La Spezia, Val di Vara and Lunigiana.

The project aims to:

• Involve students in simulating the phases of a return to the Moon;

• Promote knowledge of the history of space exploration and new lunar missions;

• Encourage young people to delve into disciplines such as robotics, astrobiology, space engineering and astronomy;

• Offer practical observation sessions of the Moon and its phases with dedicated telescopes;

• Stimulate teamwork and creativity through project activities.

LUNARIS represents a point of reference for scientific dissemination aimed at young people and an example of synergy between local entities and national institutions in promoting the culture of space exploration.

Active Projects

- Astro-Welfare® – inclusive pathways for fragile communities
- AstroVive – interactive digital planetarium
- The Stars of Science – school involvement in research
- Shoemaker NEO Grant – asteroid monitoring
- A Sea of Stars® – annual outdoor science event
- Lunaris – preparing the new generation for the return to the Moon

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2022-2026 Steering Committee

President: Luigi Sannino

Vice President: Giampietro Cattoi

Secretary: Sirio Negri

Treasurer: Stefano Benaglia

Councillors: Luca Bertagna, Roberto Cioni, Claudio Gentile, Alfonso Mancuso, Noemi Manzo, Simona Mercanti, Sabrina Mugnos, Giovanni Parente, Ingrid Roncarolo

Collaborations:

eSWua electronic SPACE WEATHER upper atmosphere
HF SYSTEMS
GNSS SCINTILLATION
GNSS TEC
DATA COMPARISON
DATA ACCESS
NETWORK
ABOUT
The data of the eSWua network are produced thanks to the collaboration with several international Institutions all around the world. Currently the eSWua system consists of instruments that are property of the INGV as well as instruments owned by other Institutions which share their data with us. If you are willing to share and public your data within the eSWua system (see the list of the current adopted instrument here) contact us at: eswua@ingv.it
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