

The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory is a United States Department of Energy Facility

PPPL Open House is a Smash!

TFTR, Small Experiments, Displays and Demonstrations Draw Crowd of 2,000



PPPL's Dave Ciotti (far right with beard) describes TFTR to a group visiting the Test Cell during the 1996 PPPL Open House.

S cience, sunshine, and a chance to visit the world's most powerful fusion device — the Tokamak Fusion Test Reactor — attracted close to 2,000 people to the Open House at the PPPL on Saturday, October 26. The Laboratory's visitors, ranging from youngsters to seniors, walked around the record-setting TFTR, crawled into a portable planetarium, watched tabletop demonstrations in electromagnetism, thermodynamics, and common plasmas, and participated in hands-on science education activities.

Throughout the day, which coincided with the 250th Anniversary of Princeton University, visitors were able to talk to PPPL scientists about fusion and the Laboratory's accomplishments while taking self-guided tours of TFTR and smaller fusion machines. The event also featured activities and displays ranging from a flexible fuel vehicle powered by a new nonpetroleum motor fuel to tensile testing to a demonstration on music, sound, and resonance. Popular sites and features - in addition to the heavily visited TFTR — included a special lecture, "A Scientific Adventure: The Discovery of the Binary Pulsar," by 1993 Nobel Laureate and PPPL scientist Russell Hulse; the PPPL Fire Engine, where children could sit behind the wheel and try on firefighting protection gear; and the Star Lab, a portable planetarium in which visitors could observe nature's fusion engines.



Michael Zarnstorff discusses fusion with a group of visitors.



The crowd heads to TFTR.



Youngsters try out the Van de Graaf static electricity generator at the electromagnetism demonstrations.

Photos by Dietmar Krause and Carol Phillips

HOTLINE

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Former PPPL Director Melvin Gottlieb (left) at the Open House.



Matthew Goeckner (left) describes hyperthermal neutral beams and plasma processing to a group of visitors.



Nobel Laureate Russell Hulse unfolds the discovery of the binary pulsar to a group in the MBG Auditorium.



Youngsters try out the firefighting equipment.

A Special Thanks to the PPPL Open House Volunteers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the PPPL team for an outstanding job in planning and coordinating the PPPL Open House. Many enthusiastic comments from the attendees have been received on the excellent job that all of you did. You graciously gave your time to make this day happen, and we are sure our guests appreciated the opportunity to meet you and learn more about the Laboratory. Because the issues at hand are so important, your assistance was all the more valued.

Again, thank you for your extraordinary contributions to making the Open House a huge success. This day would not have been possible without each of your efforts!

-Ronald C. Davidson, Director John DeLooper, Open House Chairperson



Visitors at the mock-up coil.



From left are Jean and Ron Davidson, Democratic candidate for Congress David Del Vecchio, and Rush Holt.



Troy Carter demonstrates how a fluorescent light bulb works.



Steve Paul's flexible fuel vehicle draws interest.



Visitors check out the plasma sphere.



PPPL Deputy Director Dale Meade (kneeling) receives a dollar for fusion from Katherine Levinton, daughter of PPPL's Fred Levinton. From left are Fred and Katherine Levinton, Betsy Phillips (Fred's wife), Julia Salem, Meade, and David Salem (Julia's father).