



MONTANA ASSOCIATED TECHNOLOGY ROUNDTABLES

[home](#)[mission](#)[companies & resources](#)[newsletter](#)[jobs](#)[contacts](#)*"The State with the Best Education Wins!"*Search site: [go](#)[Login](#) | [Register](#)**Montana Cabin Rentals**

A Peaceful Ranch Experience With True Old West Hospitality.
www.GaynorsResorts.com

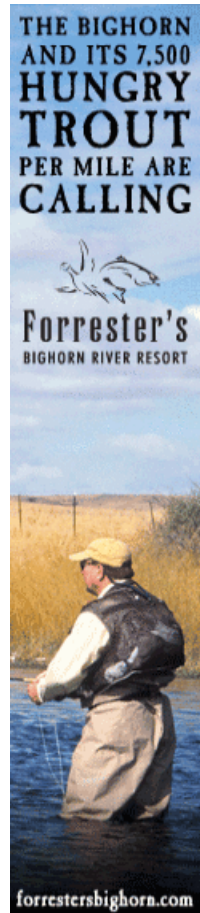
Black Bull - Bozeman, MT

Private Golf and Family Community
 Weiskopf Course, Stunning Mtn Views
www.blackbullbozeman.com

Montana River Community

River Views Kalispell Glacier Park Custom Lots & Homes, NW Living
www.silverbrookestates.com

Read more stories about
[Idaho National Laboratory](#)>>



www.forrestersbighorn.com
 Ads by Google

Regional youth learn, play and win scholarships at Idaho National Laboratory sponsored Physics Day

May 14, 2009

[View for printing](#)

On May 15, several thousand high school and middle school students from Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Nevada will enjoy the 20th annual Physics Day, sponsored by Utah State University and Idaho National Laboratory <http://www.inl.gov>, at Lagoon theme park near Farmington, Utah.

Terms like "conservation of energy" and "rotational mechanics" have kept nearly 100,000 high-school and middle-school students screaming with delight for an entire day since the first event was held. Last year, more than 6,000 students and teachers from regional high schools and middle schools attended Physics Day.

"The purpose of [Physics Day] is to make the amusement park a physics lab," said Ali Siahpush, a mechanical engineer and research scientist at INL. Siahpush helps to coordinate the event and has worked on the activity since its very beginning. Using things like homemade accelerometers, students learn the physics behind the rides using workbooks they are provided, all while enjoying the park's exciting rides and a day outside.

"[Physics Day] lets them see that it's more than just a textbook problem," said Randy Waite, a physics teacher at Hillcrest High School in Idaho Falls. Waite, who has previously attended Physics Day with his students, said, "It's a good eye-opener that helps them look at Lagoon from a physics standpoint."

Students also have a chance to engage their creativity and knowledge by participating in a large variety of competitions with prizes awarded for each competition. Last year's prizes were estimated to be worth nearly \$155,000. Event planners say that prize amounts for this year's activity will be even higher.

For example, students on the winning team in the Physics Bowl competition will each receive a full-tuition scholarship to Utah State University. Other competitions include designing a theme park ride based on physics principles, designing a logo that will be used on the T-shirts for next year's Physics Day event, and the personal favorite of Siahpush, the "Sky-drop."

The Sky-drop involves students designing a container in which they place an egg that they then drop from a moving chair lift aiming to hit a target on the ground. Scores are given based on the durability of the egg and the accuracy of the drop, as well as container weight.

Siahpush explained that he enjoys this and the other activities so much because, in contrast to what can often happen in a classroom lecture, here the students, "are smiling when they're learning ... they're having fun and they're learning at the same time."

This year former astronaut Don Lind will talk to the students at lunch on Friday. He is an emeritus professor of physics at USU.

Other sponsors of the event include: APS Physics, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, Boeing, ATK Launch Systems, Hill Aerospace Museum, IM Flash Technologies, Micron, MOOG, NASA Idaho Space Grant Consortium, Rocky Mountain NASA Space Grant Consortium, North Wind, Pasco, Portage Environmental, PTC, SAIC, S&S WorldWide Inc., U.S. Navy, Utah State University Admissions, Utah State University Bookstore, Utah State University College of Science, Utah State University Physics Department, and the Space Dynamics Laboratory of Utah State University.

INL is one of the DOE's 10 multi-program national laboratories. The laboratory performs work in each of the strategic goal areas of DOE: energy, national security, science and environment. INL is the nation's leading center for nuclear energy research and development. Day-to-day

MATR Sponsor:



Globalization Partners International, LLC. provides document, software and website internationalization, localization and translation services into over 75 languages including Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian . [Visit >>](#)

MATR Supporters:



Boomtown Institute - mentoring America's hometowns through relevant research, timely publications, strategic planning, brand marketing services and much more. [Visit >>](#)



Dorsey & Whitney - An International business law firm, applying a business perspective to clients' needs in Missoula, Montana and beyond. [Visit >>](#)

management and operation of the laboratory is the responsibility of Battelle Energy Alliance.

Subscribe to RSS feeds for INL news releases and feature stories at <http://www.inl.gov>.

No reader comments so far. Be the first to comment by clicking the button below.

[Post a Comment](#)

Reprinted under the [Fair Use](#) doctrine of international copyright law. Full copyright retained by the original publication. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, this material is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes.

 [E-mail this page to a friend!](#)

Popular Searches

miss montana jobs
 hiring now 16... best place
 to live... wyoming state logos
 community of... top 10 cheap
 places... cheap place to live...
 montana signature... mountain
 star... northern rockies... www meda
 2008 3 bears of alaska in... capital
 corporate... cheapest places to...
 columbia falls... corporate capital...
 flour hanes hathaway... harbor
 method of... idaho road... industries
 jobs montana wind energy... what
 kind of people... "gosleepgo.com...
 about aliens?does it... anton dynamics
 banks bill lombardi bitterrootvallych...
 career fair missoula... cat claro coleen
 smith bozeman concretelogs.com
 corporate capital... ed wells depot bar
 free gps software... glacier... inl stem
 mini grants ja and kathryn... kids up in
 montana les schwab... llc northern ag
 network project financing... rikki
 danielson roger lang sustainable
 systems tel assurance teletech in
 montana...

My Content

 Montana Associated...

 Explore



Matr.net developed and hosted by Modwest

©2000-2009 Montana Associated Technology Roundtables
 Questions and comments, please contact us.