

## Visits to ING

A total of 860 visitors split in 42 tours were shown round the WHT and occasionally the INT from September 2004 to January 2005. In total 203 official tours were organised and 5656 visitors shown around in 2004, including Open Days. Visitors included the general secretary of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences and Ireland's ambassador in Spain. The television programme 'Redes' of Spanish TVE and the series 'Schrödingers Katt' of the Norwegian NRK TV were filmed, and the programme series 'Un Programa Estelar' comprising six chapters filmed in 2003 was shown on the Spanish TVE2 channel twice. From 8 to 14 November the Spanish Education and Science Ministry and the IAC celebrated the European Science Week on La Palma. As part of the activities, an excursion to the observatory was organised in collaboration with the Public Outreach group of OPTICON (accompanying photos). □

Javier Méndez (jma@ing.iac.es)



## Amateur Awards

In 2004 two people working or collaborating with ING were awarded with important amateur distinctions. Mischa Schirmer, ING support astronomer, was awarded a special mention (telescope category) for his photographs of NGC 2246, M33 and NGC 7023 at the first national astrophotography competition "Fotocósmica 2004" organised by the IAC. All the awarded photographs were taken at sea level a bit south of Santa Cruz de La Palma. The telescope was a 20cm f/3.8 (760mm focal length) Flat Field Camera ("FFC") from Lichtenknecker Optics. More information on the individual photographs can be found at [http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~mischa/mbo/gallery\\_ccd/](http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~mischa/mbo/gallery_ccd/).

Nik Szymanek, an amateur astronomer in the United Kingdom who collaborates with ING in public outreach activities (see, for instance, *ING Newsl.*, 6, 29), was the 2004 recipient of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific's Amateur Achievement Award. Given annually since 1979, the Amateur Achievement Award is designed to recognise significant contributions to astronomy or amateur astronomy by those not employed in the field of astronomy in a professional capacity. The Society's Board of Directors noted Szymanek's leadership in state-of-the-art imaging and image processing — especially his true-colour, deep-sky images produced from the data obtained by observers at ING— and his ongoing contributions to education and public outreach. □

Javier Méndez (jma@ing.iac.es)

## Seminars Given at ING

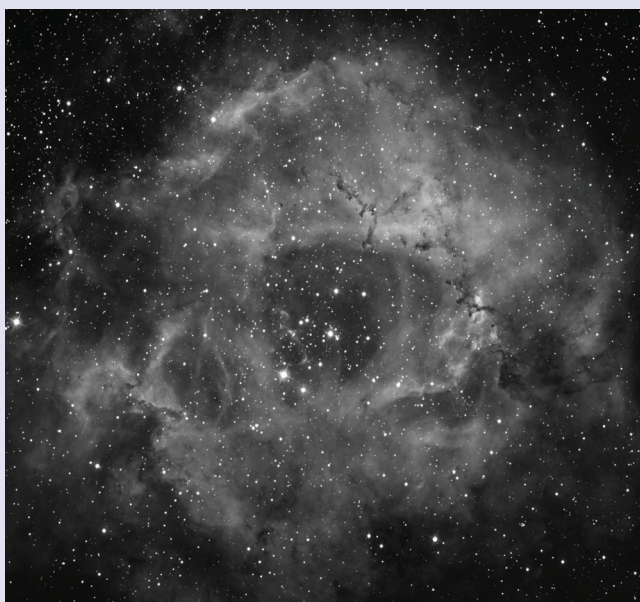
Visiting observers are politely invited to give a seminar at ING. Talks usually take place in the sea level office in the afternoon and last for about 30 minutes plus time for questions afterwards. Astronomers from ING and other institutions on site are invited to assist. Please contact Danny Lennon at [djl@ing.iac.es](mailto:djl@ing.iac.es) and visit this URL: <http://www.ing.iac.es/Astronomy/science/seminars.html>, for more details. These were the seminars to 1st of March:

Feb 18. Hugo Schwarz (CTIO/NOAO/AURA), "The SOAR telescope is nigh!".

Dec 1. Santi Cassisi (Osservatorio Astronomico di Collurania in Teramo), "Hot Stellar Populations in Galactic Globular Clusters: The population(s) puzzle goes deeper".

Nov 22. Sonia Fornasier (Astronomy Dep. of Padova University), "Physical Studies of Minor Bodies".

Aug 10. Angelo Antonelli (INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma, Italy), "Gamma Ray Bursts in the SWIFT Era".



Left: Awarded photograph of NGC 2246, the Rosette Nebula by Mischa Schirmer. The image was obtained through an H $\alpha$  filter on a 2x2 mosaic of 21 images totalising an exposure time of 3 hours and 30 minutes. Right: Picture of the WHT taken by Nik Szymanek with a digital camera.