

Dear Fellow SSN Enthusiasts,

We have the pleasure to announce that the 4th Sunspot Number Workshop will be held in Locarno, Switzerland, from 19-23 May 2014. We are going back to the country where the SSN was born.

The workshop is being hosted by the staff of the Istituto Ricerche Solari Locarno (IRSOL) and Specola Solare Ticinese, with Renzo Ramelli serving as the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee.

The goal of this 4th workshop is to conclude the joint work begun at Sunspot in 2011 to obtain a community-vetted and jointly published SSN time series (1610-present). This is a tall order with much work to be completed between now and May. If more time is needed, a fifth and final meeting will be held in the US, either coming full circle to Sunspot or at the new home of the National Solar Observatory in Boulder.

To organize the effort for Locarno, we are breaking the time series into four shorter series with Group Leaders as follows:

- 1980 - present: Frédéric Clette & Rodney Howe
- 1826 - 1980: David Hathaway
- 1716 - 1825: Leif Svalgaard
- 1610 - 1715: Jos Vaquero & Ed Cliver

Please indicate your willingness to work one or more of these groups by contacting the Group Leaders directly.

As before we will consider a broader range of sunspot-related topics (e.g., SSN correlates, sunspots during the recent minimum, SSN data archive) but the main focus will be on reconciling the International and Group SSNs.

Locarno is located in the southern, Italian speaking, region of Switzerland, known for its sunny climate. The small town is on the shore of beautiful Lago Maggiore and is surrounded by the Alps. The 4th SSN Workshop will take place in the conference room of the historical building of the Società Elettrica Sopracenerina, located on the Piazza Grande in the heart of the old town.

If you are reaching Switzerland by plane, we suggest to fly to Zurich. You can then reach Locarno in about 3 hours by train through the Gotthard mountains. Other options include a small airport in Lugano or the Milano Malpensa Airport in Italy. More details on travel, lodging, registration, excursion, etc. will be given on the workshop Website <http://www.specola.ch/ssn4>. Questions on local arrangements can be sent to: ssn4@specola.ch

We look forward to seeing you in Locarno.

Best regards,

Ed, Frédéric, Leif, Renzo

P.S. For information on previous workshops, see <http://ssnworkshop.wikia.com/wiki/Home>.