Gravitational Wave Observatories

As members of NEKAAL we are quite familiar with photon astronomy, the visual stuff. Graviton astronomy is entirely different, dealing with gravitational waves at frequencies more suited to music than the visual arts.

The presentation on March 26 addresses several aspects of gravitational wave astronomy:

- How does Einstein's vision of gravity differ from Newton's?
- What is a gravity wave?
- How is it generated?
- How is it detected and measured?
- What are we looking for?
- What Gravitational Wave Observatories (GWOs) exist?
- What are their limitations?
- What is planned for their future?
- What results have we seen from these Observatories?

While not a thorough presentation on the topic. the above issues will be addressed in a non-technical fashion, with just a hint or two of some simple equations.

For a little introduction, you can visit one of these internet locations:

1. A Discussion of the two views of gravity, Newton's and Einstein's, and a description of LIGO can be found here . This is a pretty good intro, and is about 7 minutes long. It was originally in my presentation, but I excluded it because it is a little long and duplicates other slides in the presentation.
2. EGO is the European Gravitational Observatory. Their newsletters are often interesting, and can be found here.
3. And finally, some basic facts about LIGO.

Shortly after the presentation, I'll put a more comprehensive list of references and links in the Member's group on YAHOO. These will most surely all be internet references, but I would be happy to mail the list to anyone without internet access. Just let me know where to send the references.