

ASTTBC's Balsa Planes Get Around!



Physics Teachers from around the world wait to launch their ASTTBC Balsa Planes at their 2015 summer conference

One of the world's top places for theoretical physics has to be the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, Ontario. PI as it is generally known, has become a magnet for physicists from all over the world.

In its work PI not only produces papers in fields such as cosmology, quantum computing and string theory but it runs an extensive outreach program for physics education. This program includes week-long sessions for physics teachers, as well as for physics students at the grade 10-12 levels, and it includes the production and distribution of high quality lesson materials for modern physics.

The photo above was taken by Peter Vogel, a Vancouver teacher who attended the *Einstein Plus* program for physics teachers in early July. Some forty teachers, primarily from Canada but also from across the United States and countries such as Estonia, India and New Zealand were in attendance. In the photo the attendees are launching their ASTTBC balsa gliders inside the atrium of the beautiful Perimeter Institute building. The lone attendee from India managed to get his glider to go the full length of the massive atrium and he was awarded a \$25 prize paid in Bitcoin!

Following the plane toss many attendees wanted to know about ASTTBC and Vogel explained that ASTTBC is a longtime supporter of his [Physics Balsa Bridge Building Contest](#). The Bridge Contest, now in its 35th Year is held annually at Vancouver's Notre Dame Senior Secondary School, where young minds and bridge building skills are put to the test. This led some to consider approaching similar organizations in their respective communities upon their return from the program.