

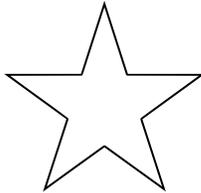


What's Up With the Astronomical League December 2011

**Compiled by
Carroll Iorg,
President**

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The Executive Committee of the League wishes all our members a Merry Christmas & a prosperous and healthy 2012. We appreciate your support for the League. Thanks to all the volunteers who handle observing clubs, the website and all our other committees. Also thanks to the national office staff for their splendid work again this year.

Photo credits:
Photos provided by Chris Peterson, Jim West

League Partners With Keck Observatory

The League has recently partnered with Keck Observatory to bring our members coverage of the imaging of the asteroid as well as an exciting lecture regarding exoplanets. This archived lecture will be available for your viewing on the website until at least the end of the year by visiting www.astroleague.org. More Keck lectures are scheduled, so check back on the webpage often to see the schedule for these outstanding events.



NYAA 2nd-Place Presentation

Hawaiian Astronomical Society President Chris Peterson presented club member Travis Le with the Astronomical League's plaque for his recent Young Astronomer Award (second-place) of 2011, for his project submission "A Comparison of Similar Planetary Systems of WASP-II." The presentation was made during the August 2, 2011 general membership meeting of the Hawaiian Astronomical Society. Travis also received a certificate and a lifetime admission to the McDonald Observatory, located in the Davis Mountains of west Texas. **See application on page 3.**

NYAA 3rd-Place Presentation

Jim West, President of the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society, presented the 3rd-place National Young Astronomer Award to Kaitlyn Regan at one of the club's recent meetings.



Application packets for the 2012 NYAA award should be emailed to NYAA@astroleague.org.



Jack Horkheimer Service & Journalism Awards Program

League Vice President John Goss presented the Jack Horkheimer/Smith Service Award to Courtney Flonta at ALCon 2011 in Bryce Canyon, Utah. (Photo compliments of Robert Taylor.)

Please encourage the young astronomers in your regions and clubs to submit an application. Four \$1,000 cash prizes are also awarded, and one of the four will be provided with an all expenses paid trip to ALCon 2012 in Chicago next July.

Deadlines are March 31, 2012 and April 10, 2012. See applications on pages 5 and 6

Celebrate Starlight ALCON2012

Marriott Lincolnshire Resort

July 4-7, 2012

- Online registration will be available from the League website www.astroleague.org by about December 26. Paper registration is available for those wishing to register by mail.
- \$69 per night lodging is available on a first come first serve basis at the Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, the host hotel. Complimentary parking is provided.
- Outstanding speakers.
- A wide range of vendors.
- Great Door prizes.
- Silent Auction.
- Wonderful afternoon trips to Adler Planetarium, Fermi Lab, Yerkes Observatory with coach service available for a reasonable fee, depending on sufficient numbers who sign up.
- Association of Lunar & Planetary Observers (ALPO) and the Midwest Astro Imaging Conference will be joining us.
- StarBQue Friday night; Saturday night banquet/awards ceremony.
- And many more special activities including sailing on the **Tall StarShip Windy!**



2012 National Young Astronomer Award (NYAA)

Application Form

(Revised October 2010)

To recognize the outstanding achievements of high school age astronomers, the Astronomical League has established the National Young Astronomer Award.

Eligibility:

United States citizens 14-19 years of age and not enrolled in college are eligible to apply for this award. Foreign students of the same age are eligible if they are enrolled in a United States secondary school on the date of the application deadline.

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY ON THE INSTRUCTION SHEET THAT ACCOMPANIES THIS APPLICATION FORM.

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Parents' Names _____

School Information:

If you are enrolled in high school, please provide:

Name of School: _____ Grade in School: _____

School Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number of School: _____

Media Information:

Name of your local newspaper: _____

Phone number and webpage address of local newspaper: _____

Sponsor Information:

Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Name/Title: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Astronomical League Membership? List the name of your League astronomy club or member at large status if you are a member. _____

Your sponsor should be a teacher, counselor or astronomy club officer. If you have difficulty locating a sponsor, please contact the email listed below. **The deadline for the 2012 award is January 31, 2012.**

More specific information and suggestions regarding content of potential NYAA entries is available at <http://www.astroleague.org/>. For more information regarding the award email NYAA@astroleague.org.

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTION SHEET (PAGE 2) AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS COMPLETELY.

**NATIONAL YOUNG ASTRONOMER AWARD (NYAA)
2012 INSTRUCTION SHEET
(PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY)**

1. Submit your entry packet in electronic format (adobe acrobat pdf files) to NYAA@astroleague.org.
2. Submit a photo of yourself, preferably in an astronomical setting in jpg format to NYAA@astroleague.org.
3. If electronic submission is not an option, please send an email regarding this to NYAA@astroleague.org, then mail the packet by way of the postal service to NYAA, Astronomical League, 9201 Ward Parkway, Suite 100, Kansas City, MO 64114.
4. **The deadline for submitting entries is January 31, 2012.**
5. Your work should be original research and your sources should be well-documented in a generally accepted format.
6. Please refer to the previous year's first place finisher's project as an example. This is posted on the Astronomical League website www.astroleague.org.



2012 Horkheimer Service Award Nomination Form

- Nominee must be a League member under 19 years of age at the time of nomination.
- Award is based upon service to the League.
- Young astronomers can be nominated for both the National Young Astronomer Award and the Horkheimer Awards.
- Three Horkheimer Awards are presented: the Horkheimer/Smith Award, Horkheimer/Parker Award, and the Horkheimer/D'Auria Award.
- Award deadline: March 31, 2012

Young Astronomer's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

If enrolled in school, provide:

Name of School: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Year in School: _____ School Phone: _____

Astronomical League affiliation: _____

(Club name or MAL status)

Local Newspaper Name: _____ phone: _____

Newspaper email or website address: _____

Please enclose supporting details of Astronomical League Achievements:

1. Public Service (attach newsletter articles, etc.)
2. Astronomy Club duties or officer positions held (attach documentation)
3. Observing Awards earned (enclose copy of Messier club certificate, etc.)
4. Other Astronomical Service (attach description)

Sponsor information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

To apply for this award, complete this form and submit it and three copies along with four copies of the supporting materials by the award deadline of **March 31, 2012**. Send to:

Horkheimer Service Awards Astronomical League
9201 Ward Parkway, Suite 100 Kansas City, MO 64114

Instead, the form may be submitted electronically in pdf format to HorkheimerService@astroleague.org.

Please submit a photo of the nominee (in jpg format, if it is sent by email) taken in an astronomical-type setting.



2012 Horkheimer/O'Meara Journalism Award Nomination Form

- Only open to writers 8 to 14 years of age.
- Essay length should be 300 to 500 words.
- Essay topic can be from any science related field.
- Judged on accuracy, creativity, conciseness, and clarity.

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School Enrollment Information:

Name of School: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Year in School: _____ School Phone: _____

Astronomical League Affiliation: _____

(Club name or MAL status)

Local Newspaper Name: _____ Phone: _____

Newspaper Email or Website Address: _____

The competition for the Horkheimer/O'Meara Youth Journalism Award is only open to writers in the 8-14 age groups. The essay should be 300 to 500 words. It is not limited exclusively to astronomy, but can be about any science related topic that interests the contestant — from robin's eggs to quasars. The author should take a factual scientific event or discovery and write an accurate story that is so exciting and informative that readers will not want to put it down. Entries will be judged on four criteria: accuracy, creativity, conciseness, and clarity.

Sponsor information:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

The sponsor must be an Astronomical League regional or AL astronomy club officer.

To apply for this award, complete this form and submit it with your essay by the **award deadline of April 10, 2012**, to:

O'Mearas, P. O. Box 218, Volcano, HI 96785, or by way of Email: donna@post.harvard.edu.

Please email a photo of yourself in jpg format or send a photo with your application.