



# What's Up With the Astronomical League March 2010

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## **Visiting Special Attractions the week of ALCon 2010**

Plan to arrive a few days before ALCon 2010 begins to visit the special attractions in the Tucson area. The dates for the convention are June 25-26. A must see is the [Arizona Sonora Desert Museum](#). The drive up the Catalina Highway is spectacular. From the desert floor at about 3,000 feet, the paved road winds up to over 9,000 feet, and it passes near observatories.

Other special attractions include Kitt Peak National Observatory, the Catalina Highway, Old Tucson, Pima Air and Space, and places like Tombstone and Bisbee. There are also many places to visit for birders, like Madera Canyon, with rare species of birds only seen in southern Arizona. If a sufficient number of people would like to visit Kitt Peak on Monday, June 21, a special ALCon group tour can be arranged. Please contact the convention committee at <http://alcon2010.astroleague.org/contact.php> or notify me at [carroll-iorg@kc.rr.com](mailto:carroll-iorg@kc.rr.com).

For more information regarding other tours and general convention information visit the website <http://alcon2010.astroleague.org/>. We hope to see you at ALCon 2010.

## **Global Astronomy Month –April 2010 The Celebration of the Universe Continues**

The unprecedented success of 100 Hours of Astronomy in April 2009 demonstrated the power of international collaboration to astronomers around the world, creating even greater enthusiasm for a follow-up experience. The excitement of bringing people together from all countries regardless of age, race or beliefs – all awed by the wonders of the Universe – is something that will long outlive the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009).

As challenging as it may be to follow the historic success of 100 Hours of Astronomy (100HA), a Cornerstone project of IYA2009, Astronomers Without Borders has set the bar even higher, inviting all astronomy enthusiasts worldwide to celebrate the Universe for an entire month!

GAM2010 will include the most popular events for both amateur astronomers and the public. And as in 100HA, amateur astronomers are the key. After drawing as many as one million people around the world to telescopes last April, the 24-Hour Global Star Party returns in GAM, this time coinciding with Astronomy Day. Lunar Week will highlight the Moon, and Saturn Watch will put the focus on the Lord of the Rings. The public is used to seeing the latest news and up-close images from our neighbors in space. This is a chance to get more people out to see them for themselves. Messier marathons, including remote observing, the Lyrid meteor shower, online presentations and other special events will ensure that there's something for everyone.

The GAM2010 web site at <http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/index.php/projects/global-astronomy-month.html> is the hub of all the activity, with event registration and descriptions, a broadcast channel for online events, news pages, a blog for organizers to share their events and more. There will be online interaction between participants as well, in keeping with GAM's slogan, "One people, one sky."

Join the celebration! Events, global projects and activity ideas from around the world will all be listed on the [GAM2010 web site](#). Submitted by Mike Simmons, President, Astronomers Without Borders.