



# What's Up With the Astronomical League March 2012

March 15, 2012

Compiled by  
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President

## Annual Astro Equipment Extravaganza!

April 28 - 29, Suffern, NY

Each year, the Northeast Astronomy Forum brings the latest astronomy-related equipment to the New Jersey/New York area for amateurs to see first hand.

Join thousands of astro-enthusiasts as they peruse the wares from hundreds of vendors and check out the special solar observing and other activities. While you are there, why not stop by the Astronomical League booth to learn more about how your League benefits amateur astronomy!

**NEAF**  
NORTHEAST ASTRONOMY FORUM™

OUR 21<sup>ST</sup> YEAR

**NORTHEAST ASTRONOMY FORUM & TELESCOPE SHOW**  
**APRIL 28-29, 2012** SUFFERN, NY

**THE WORLD'S LARGEST ASTRONOMY EXPO!**

Featuring:  
**THE METEORITE MEN, MARK CLAMPIN, STEELE HILL, JOSEPH LISKE, STEPHEN RAMSDEN, MARNI BERENDSEN, AND MANY MORE!**

For more information or hotel accommodations visit: [www.RocklandAstronomy.com/NEAF](http://www.RocklandAstronomy.com/NEAF) or call 973-427-2020

### This Issue

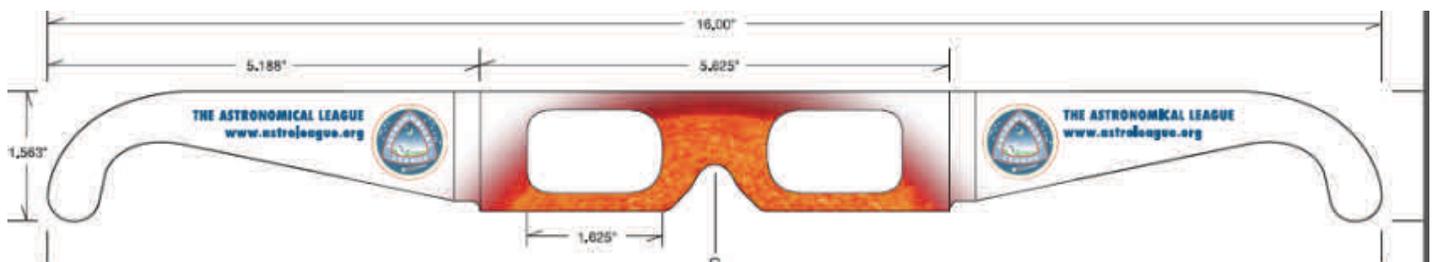
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### Get Ready for the Sun!

The sun is ready for viewing in 2012 with two fascinating daytime events. On May 20th, observers in northern California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and west Texas will witness an annular eclipse. While it won't be total, it definitely will be interesting. Then, June 5th brings a rare transit of Venus. East coast observers will be able to catch the first two hours of our neighboring world moving in front of the sun. Amateurs farther west will be able to see the whole event.



The League is offering solar eclipse glasses that will allow safe viewing for those people who don't use binoculars or a telescope. Please see the League website for details when they become available. [www.astroleague.org/PlanetaryTransit\\_Venus2012](http://www.astroleague.org/PlanetaryTransit_Venus2012)





The Astronomical League will make a certificate available for people who organize events to pass out to people who view the transit.

We will also have a different certificate and pin associated with the award for those who follow NASA's instructions and calculate the value of the Astronomical Unit.

The information on the website will be updated as soon as more details are available. Check back often at [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org) for more specifics regarding this special award program.

# ALCON2012

## Welcome! to ALCon2012 ~ Celebrate Starlight!

As you already know, the Astronomical League Convention for 2012 is slated for Chicago from July 4-7. We have arranged a line up of excellent speakers, and a wide variety of field trips to places such as the Adler Planetarium and Field museum, Fermi Lab, and Yerkes Observatory. We plan to hold star parties at Ravinia and Lincolnshire, and a celestial sail on Tall Ship Windy II. ALCon2012 will offer a variety of appealing sessions such as the following: dark-sky advocacy; workshops in visual Moonbounce; specialized training for astronomy outreach to serve the visual and hearing impaired; and even a play about Hubble, Einstein, and the expansion of the universe. This year the League's national convention also serves as the venue for the annual meeting of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League (NCRAL). This year ALCon partners with the annual meetings of both ALPO and the Mid-West Astro-Imaging Conference (MWAIC). This mix of amazing events promises a wonderful time. Won't you help us to spread the word so that amateur astronomers can join this event as we celebrate 150 years of organized amateur astronomy?

Associated with ALCon2012, will be four unique "features" and we need your club's help to make them happen. You'll not want to miss out on any of these:

Celebrate Starlight, the Commemorative Book. Submit a 1 to 4 page history of your club.

Please consider sharing your answers to these questions. Does it have memorable moments? Have specific members advanced amateur astronomy in some way? Does your club currently participate in fascinating or unusual projects and events? Does your club actively battle light pollution? Of what is your club particularly proud? Show your club's passion and let it shine! An online version of the book Celebrate Starlight will be made available for free and also will be included on the League website. A printed version will be available at cost from an online print-on-demand service. Please send your submissions by May 15 to [audrey@starpals.org](mailto:audrey@starpals.org) with "Celebrate Starlight BOOK entry" in the subject line. Guidelines for submissions as well as a required copyright license agreement can be found attached.

Celebrate Starlight, the Commemorative Poster. We're also producing a Celebrate Starlight photo-mosaic poster! For this, we'll need each club's logo plus up to 24 photos of people, events, star party logos, astrophotographs — anything that is important to your club. Please send your submissions by April 17 to [audrey@starpals.org](mailto:audrey@starpals.org) with "Celebrate Starlight POSTER entry" in the subject line. The required copyright license agreement (for use with both the book and poster) can be found attached.

Club Poster Presentation. You are also welcome to bring along a poster presentation featuring your club's stellar highlights. Why not also send a member to represent your club and be part of ALCon 2012?

Kids & Teens' MoonBounce Global Collaboration. This is the kids' version of the Celebrate Starlight poster that will be MoonBounced during GAM- Global Astronomy Month (April), video-taped and presented at ALCon2012.

- Looking for artwork from students grade 1-12 depicting why being able to see stars is important to them.
  - Include words "Celebrate Starlight" within artwork, or caption. As this is a global project, "Celebrate Starlight" will be spelled out in the student's native language.
  - Include student's name, grade level, country. School name, and associated astronomy club can also be credited.
  - Deadline: April 17th

Every appropriate entry will be included in a single photo mosaic composite that will be visually Moon Bounced using the Dwingeloo Radio Telescope in the Netherlands during Global Astronomy Month: April. This is an Associate GAM project.

Additionally, one drawing from each participating country will be individually visually Moon Bounced from the Dwingeloo Radio Telescope in the Netherlands during Global Astronomy Month.

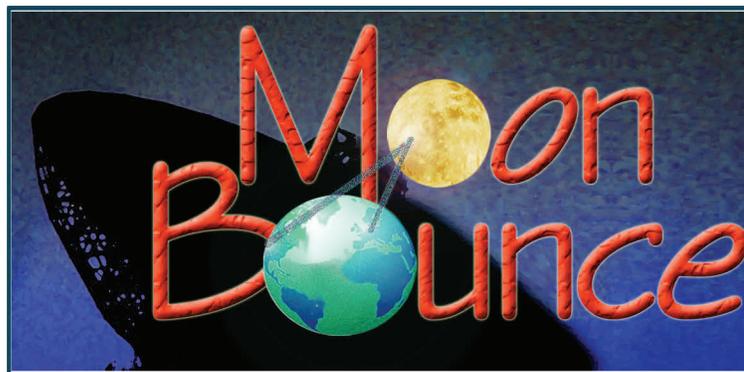
Mission: Kids collaborating together on a global level to raise awareness about starlight preservation for future generations.

Send entries, comments, or questions to: [audreyfischer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:audreyfischer@sbcglobal.net). Please include: "Celestial Arts Contest" in the subject line.

or post directly to the ALCon2012 website.

Notice: Submitting an entry gives automatic permission to post the artwork on websites, newspapers, etc.

**Please share this important information with you club immediately as deadlines for submissions to the commemorative book and poster are fast approaching. Additional information about AL-Con2012 can be found at <http://alcon2012.astroleague.org/>.**



# W.M. Keck Observatory Spring Online Lecture Series



(photo courtesy Keck Observatory website)

The Astronomical League continues its collaboration with Keck Observatory with its lecture series.

Upcoming lectures are:

April 5, 2012, 7:00pm (1:00am EDT)

2012 Astronomy Lecture Series at Kahilu Theatre - Richard Wainscoat (UH/IfA)

Title: City Dark: Search for Night on a Sleepless Planet

May 10, 2012, 7:00pm (1:00am EDT)

2012 Astronomy Lecture Series at Kahilu Theatre - Brian Siana (UC Riverside)

Title: How Stars Destroyed Most of the Atoms in the Universe

**Both of these fine lectures will be available live on the League website or if you wish to view these at a better time, they will be available on the website for several days after the live event at [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org).**

## Spring Deadlines for the League Awards Programs

**Horkheimer Service & Journalism Awards:** Four fortunate youth will win \$1,000 each in these competitions plus many more special prizes. The deadline for the Horkheimer Service program is March 31. Young journalists who wish to write a science essay for the Horkheimer Journalism award have until April 10 to submit the application.

**Mabel Sterns Newsletter Award:** Clubs please submit your applications by March 31.

**Webmaster Award:** Submit your club's entry before April 1.

**SPECIFIC AWARDS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE.**