



What's Up With the Astronomical League January, 2015

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Compiled by Carroll
Iorg, Media Officer

Promoting Your Astronomy Club: Great Idea From the MAS

by Terry Trees, Chair, MERAL

Astronomy societies offer a special value to local communities that no other organization provides. After all, how many groups experience firsthand the wonder, beauty and mystery of this incredible universe – and happily share their views with the public! Why not produce a video highlighting your club and amateur astronomy like that which the Minnesota Astronomical Society created? You just might connect with your community.

The Minnesota Astronomical Society created an impressive work. They enlisted the talents of Chris Heins, a young member who needed a community service project to fulfill the requirements of the Eagle Scout program. He is a son of MAS member Ric Heins, owner of Ric Heins Productions, a video recording and production company in the Twin Cities.

Unfortunately, just as the idea was gaining momentum, Chris' father suddenly died. This was a tragic loss both for his family and the MAS. However, Chris wanted to continue the project because his father had been so involved in both Scouting and the MAS. Chris directed the production crew in the on-site filming as well as editing and creating the final product.

As I'm sure you agree, the final product is an amazing video about the MAS, a fitting tribute of his father by Chris. After viewing this, wouldn't you want to become a member of the MAS? http://youtu.be/2PRk_HXGapk

If your club were to create a similar video, how would it benefit you, what could you do with it? Our ideas include posting it on YouTube like the MAS did, posting it on club Websites, on Facebook and in your club's MeetUp Group. It could also be sent to local TV stations, in the hope that some of it might be shown during the news or weather programs. Perhaps PBS stations would occasionally run the entire video between scheduled programs. Additionally it could be sent to the astronomy departments of local colleges and universities and to high school and middle school science teachers. Finally, perhaps it could generate interest in scouting and civic organizations.

Staff Changes at the National Office

After four years of dedicated service to the Astronomical League, Joe Alburty has resigned as National Office Coordinator. Joe was tasked with Member-at-Large membership processing and the general operations of the National Office. He also attended ALCons, presenting status reports at the Council meetings, and helping League Sales, as well as giving other assistance where needed.

Joe has found full-time employment in the Kansas City area, but will still remain an active member in the Astronomical Society of Kansas City. Let's all wish him well!

Replacing Joe is Mike Stoakes (shown in this photo on duty at the National Office) who will continue his work as part-time Operations Manager at the Burroughs Audubon Nature Center and Bird Sanctuary in Blue Springs, MO. His knowledge of non-profit operations will serve him well as the Astronomical League's National Office Coordinator. Please take the opportunity and welcome Mike!

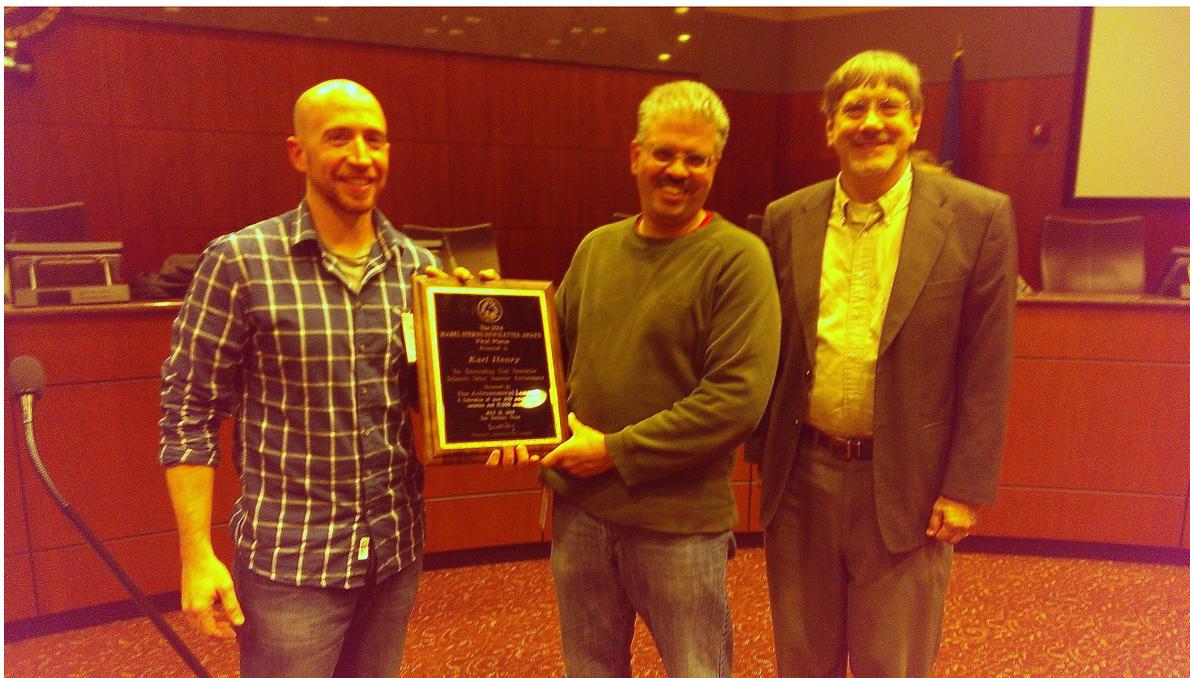


National Young Astronomer Award (NYAA) Submission Deadline 1/31/2015

If that young person in your society is debating whether to enter the competition or not, tell her/him to send an email to NYAA@astroleague.org and alert us that they are intending to submit an entry. If the young astronomer needs a few extra days to submit their packet that is acceptable, but we need to know this information before the 1/31 deadline. The top two finishers receive an all expenses paid trip to ALCon 2015 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, scheduled for July 6-11, a beautiful commemorative plaque and other benefits. Please see a copy of the application and instruction sheet on pages 3 and 4 of this issue.

2014 Mabel Sterns Newsletter Award Presentation

The Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers recently presented its newsletter editor, Karl Henry, with the Astronomical League's Mabel Sterns Newsletter Award. This society is located in the Philadelphia area. Congratulations, are in order for Karl and the rest of the DVAA membership for this special accomplishment.



(From left, Bill McGeeney, President; Karl Henry and John Symborski, ALCOR)

Happy 2015 From the Astronomical League

Thanks for your support this past year. May 2015 bring you great observing and all the good things you desire.

Greetings from the A.L. Executive committee, National Office personnel, Observing Program Coordinators and all the many other members who give of their time and other resources to make our country's largest group of amateur astronomers the best it can be.



2015 National Young Astronomer Award (NYAA) Application Form

To recognize the outstanding research 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 _____ Email: _____

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: _____ Email: _____

If you are a member, list the name of your Astronomical League astronomy club or Member at Large status:

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 2015 award is January 31, 2015.**

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)

2015 INSTRUCTION SHEET (PAGE 2)

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. (It must be postmarked on or before January 31.)

4. Only one project per applicant, please.

5. Your work should be original research and your sources should be well-documented in a generally accepted format.

6. **If your project was conducted as part of a team effort, your own contribution must be clearly indicated.** Not doing so may adversely affect the judging.

7. 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.

8. **The deadline for submitting your entry is January 31, 2015.** If sent electronically, it must be received by the National Office by that date, or, if mailed through the postal service, the postmark must be on or before that date.