



What's Up With the Astronomical League December 2016

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Los materiales seleccionados de la Liga Astronómica en español (Selected Materials of the Astronomical League in Spanish)

The Astronomical League would like to make available selected materials in Spanish. These would include the descriptions and instructions of some of the basic Observing Programs, and the more popular AstroNotes and Outreach Downloads. (All Observing Program submissions must continue to be written in English.) We need translators who could provide accurate and grammatically correct translations from English to Spanish.

If you are interested in helping this special project to bring amateur astronomy to more people, please contact Astronomical League President John Goss: president@astroleague.org.

Season's Greetings from the Astronomical League



2017 Astronomical Apparel

Do you want to enjoy Astrocon 2017 apparel now, before the big event? Then use this link to place your order and get your items conveniently delivered to your home:

<http://www.infini-tees.com/AstroCon2017.htm>

Popular Astronomy Club Turns 80!

A special banquet held on the evening of October 21 at the Viking Club in Moline, Illinois, marked 80 years since founder Carl H. Gamble formed the club. Immediate past president of the Astronomical League Carroll Iorg and his wife, Betty, were invited along with former members and friends of PAC to attend. Carroll gave a few words about the PAC and its prominent place as a founding member of the AL in 1941. He presented the club with a "Proclamation in Appreciation" award and thanked everyone for their commitment to amateur astronomy.

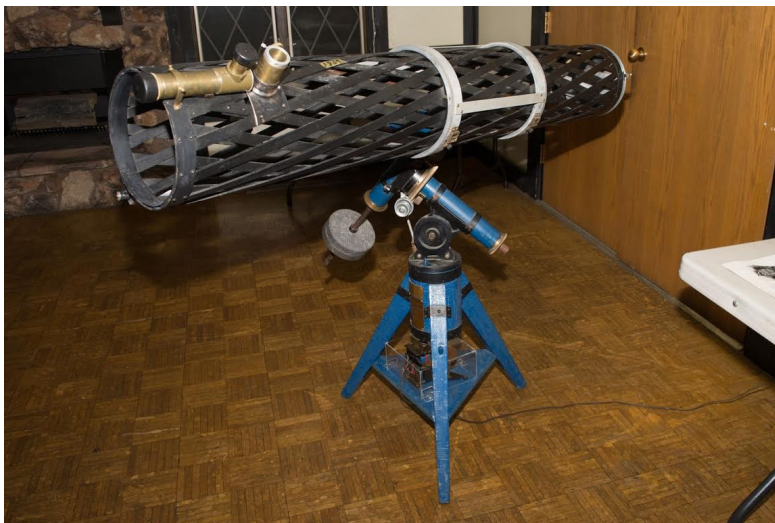
The keynote speaker, Mr. Floyd Perkins, gave an interesting talk on his association with Dr. James Van Allen and their work on the Air Density-Injun Explorer satellites in the 1960s.



An astronomy-themed cake to celebrate



Award presented to PAC President Alan Sheidler



A unique lattice tube telescope built by a member in 1934 and restored in 1987 was on display at the event



Mr. Floyd Perkins

Royal Astronomical Society Publications Available from League Sales

RASC Handbook 2017: \$24! RASC Observer's Calendar: \$18!

RASC Explore the Universe Guide: \$20!

The Astronomical League is striving to be the place to get the RASC Handbook and Calendar each year—and beginning this year, the new RASC *Explore the Universe Guide*. These are great items. If you haven't tried either before, this is the time and place. Many customers who have purchased the Handbook and Calendar become repeat customers! The AL has secured very special pricing on these three items and is passing the savings on to our customers!

Supplies are limited every year, so order early. Most years we sell out in December for the next year's products.

The RASC *Explore the Universe Guide*: An introductory guide to astronomy from the RASC. An illustrated book with information about astronomical coordinates, constellations, eclipses, the Moon, major and minor planets, comets and more. A great book to start learning your way around the sky!

Link for League Sales: <https://store.astroleague.org/index.php>

Youth Awards

National Young Astronomer Award

The Astronomical League sponsors the National Young Astronomer Award (NYAA) to recognize the outstanding astronomical research achievements of high school-age students throughout the United States. Please spread the word about this.

To apply, eligible young astronomers should submit the application package by the deadline, January 31. The package will consist of a completed application form, a well-documented astronomy project of the applicant's own work, a summary of astronomy-related activities, and optional exhibits. It is recommended that applicants be members of the Astronomical League, either through an astronomy club or a youth member-at-large membership. A team of professional astronomers will judge the entries.

This year the NYAA winners will be treated to a trip to the Northeast Astronomy Forum in April (instead of ALCon in the summer) where they will receive their awards.

Horkheimer/Smith Youth Service Award

The Jack Horkheimer Youth Service Awards are presented to eligible Astronomical League members who are under age 19 on the date of the application. This program recognizes exceptional service by young League astronomers, either directly or through service to any Astronomical League society. Service can be in the form of participating in educational outreach, giving presentations, writing, demonstrating knowledge and skills at public star parties, or conducting other astronomical activities.

The Horkheimer/Smith first-place winner will be given an expense-paid trip to the Northeast Astronomy Forum (NEAF) held in April 2017. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 15, 2017.

Complete information about all the AL awards can be found at: <https://www.astroleague.org/al/awards/awards.html>

A New Astronomical League Program: The Astronomical League/OPT Imaging Awards

Oceanside Photo and Telescope has always been a good friend to amateur astronomy and to the Astronomical League. They have now enthusiastically offered to sponsor a new AL award program, the OPT Imaging Awards.

The AL recognizes the efforts of imagers with a program where they can submit their best work that fall under four separate categories:

1. Solar System Award: Featuring either the moon, sun, planets, or comets
2. Deep Sky Award: Showing either star clusters, nebulae, or galaxies
3. Wide Field Award: Capturing either constellations, the Milky Way, planetary conjunctions and groupings, aurorae, or meteors
4. Video/time lapse Award: Showing movement in the heavens

Each category will have a first, second, and third place. The first place winners will each receive a \$250 gift certificate from Oceanside Photo and Telescope, second place winners will each receive a \$125 gift certificate, and third place winners will each receive a \$75 gift certificate.

Please see www.astroleague.org/al/awards/awards.html for complete details of the exciting new program!



One of two 2016 1st place NYAA winners

(photo courtesy Robert & Claire Gadbois)

Solar Eclipse Glasses from the Astronomical League!!



On August 21, 2017, at 10:16 a.m., PDT, the moon's shadow comes ashore just south of Astoria, Oregon, races across the United States and moves out to sea near Charleston, South Carolina at 2:47 p.m. Do you have the equipment to safely view the eclipse and the Sun? These glasses are ideal for viewing large sunspots on the Sun's face and partial, annual, and partial phases of total solar eclipses.

Get ready for the Great Total Solar Eclipse of 2017! Don't miss out, supplies are limited...

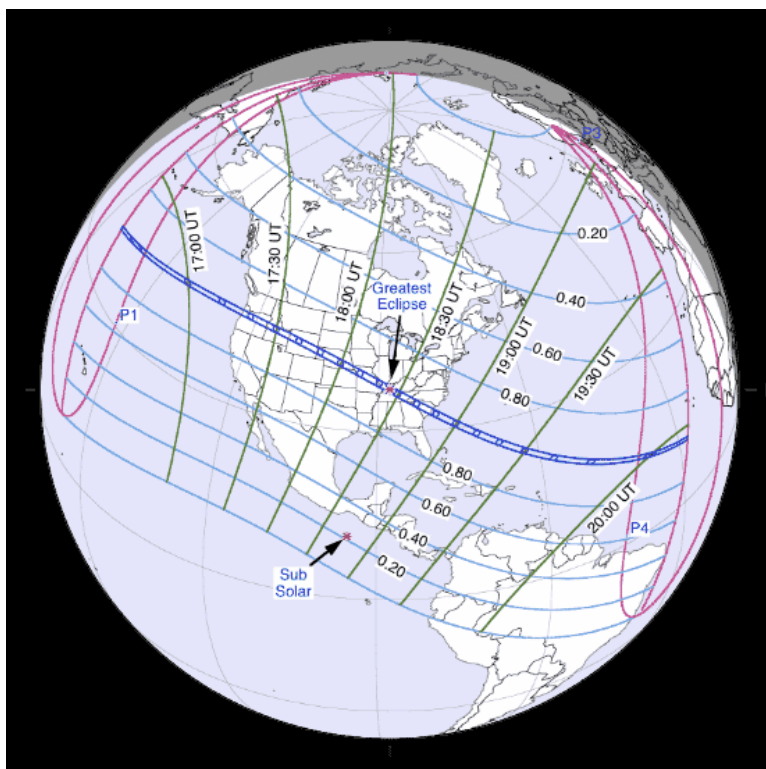


1 unit: \$ 1.00, plus shipping	100 units: \$ 60.00, plus shipping
10 units: \$ 9.00, plus shipping	250 units: \$ 112.50, plus shipping
25 units: \$ 20.00, plus shipping	500 units: \$ 175.00, plus shipping
50 units: \$ 37.50, plus shipping	1,000 units: \$ 300.00, plus shipping

Individual pairs of glasses are also available for \$1 each, plus shipping.

Available at <http://store.astroleague.org/>. Shipping rates will be added at checkout. Or call or email for shipping rates and options.

League office: 816-DEEP-SKY; leaguesales@astroleague.org.



NASA Reminder

Once again NASA reminds us to make sure we make a special effort to observe the 2017 total solar eclipse.

Study the maps from NASA and other groups such as the Great America Eclipse to pinpoint the area of totality in your area. You don't necessarily have to be in a densely populated area on eclipse day in order to have a memorable experience.

(graphic courtesy NASA)