

# 16 NORTHEAST PRO/AM CONFERENCE



The Pro/Am Conference features free walk-in classes where you can learn how to do real science and collaborate with professional astronomers and scientists. All are welcome.

**LOCATION: ROOM 5140**

## SATURDAY, APRIL 9

- 10:00–10:50 **Dr. Dennis Conti**, AAVSO  
'Exoplanet Observations by Amateur Astronomers'
- 11:00–11:50 **Dr. Gerard van Belle**, Lowell Observatory  
'Photometric Data Mining and Spectral Template Fitting of Selected Stars'
- 1:30–2:20 **David Cotterell**, RASC, Canada  
'Measuring Visual Binary Stars with an 8" Telescope'
- 2:30–3:20 **Dr. Cliff Ashcraft**, AAI  
'Speckle Interferometry of Close Double Stars'
- 3:30–4:20 **Ted Blank**, IOTA  
'Getting Started with Asteroid Occultation Timing'
- 4:30–5:20 **Dr. Toni Santana**, GAIA–GOSA, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland  
'Measuring Asteroid Light Curves'

## SUNDAY, APRIL 10

- 11:00–11:50 **Dr. Michael Richmond**, Rochester Institute of Technology, 'Stars that GO BOOM!'
- 12:30–1:20 **Dr. Toni Santana**, GAIA–GOSA, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland  
'Measuring Asteroid Light Curves'
- 1:30–2:20 **Dr. Mike Reynolds**, NASA/Florida State College  
'Opportunities for the 2017 Total Eclipse'
- 2:30–3:20 **Kevin Schindler**, Lowell Observatory  
'History & Renovation of the Lowell Observatory's 24-inch Clark Telescope'

*\*Speakers and schedule are subject to change.*



**Held right here at NEAF, NPAC brings together advanced amateurs and professional astronomers seeking collaborative assistance in research projects.**

With the multitude of research projects being conducted by professional astronomers, universities, and researchers worldwide, the high demands made for extensive data gathering, there is quite simply not enough telescope time available on all of the world's professional observatories. Waiting lists are extremely long and the competition for research time is has become more and more demanding.

Astronomers are turning to the amateur community for assistance. With the quality and sophistication of equipment now available to the amateur, the quality of data gathering by this method can rival that of the large observatories. Professional astronomers now have an alternative to waiting in line for large telescopes and interested amateurs have an opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research and potentially make significant contributions to science.

## 6 NEAF TALKS SCHEDULE \*

NEAF features two theaters in addition to classes & workshops.  
Please see our other schedules (pages 13 & 16) for additional events & times.

### **CELESTRON® (MAIN) THEATER**

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 9**

**Exhibit Hall Hours: 8:30 am – 6 pm**

- 10:15–10:30 Welcoming remarks by **Joe Rao**, with Vince Coulehan
- 10:30–1:00 **Christopher Go**, Astro Imager, 'Supporting the JUNO Spacecraft JunoCam: Image, Discuss, Vote & Process...'
- 11:45–1:00 **Alan Stern**, Principal Investigator of the New Horizons Mission to Pluto
- 1:15–2:15 **Annette & Alden Tombaugh**, with J. Kelly Beatty, 'Remembering Clyde'
- 2:30–3:30 **Bernard Kutter**, Manager Advanced Programs at United Launch Alliance (ULA), a joint venture of Lockheed Martin Space Systems and Boeing Defense
- 3:45–4:45 **David Shoemaker**, Senior Research Scientist at MIT and Director of the Advanced LIGO project. 'The Confirmation of Gravitational Waves'
- 5:00–6:00 **Fred Espenak**, NASA astrophysicist and eclipse specialist/GSFC, 'The Great American Total Eclipse of 2017'
- 6:15–7:15 **Special Movie Presentation**  
ST New Voyages Movie 'Mind Sifter' – A very special presentation of the Star Trek Original Series New Voyages

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 10**

**Exhibit Hall Hours: 10 am – 5 pm**

- 11:00–12:00 **Gerard van Belle**, Lowell Astronomer, 'The Pluto Vote: One Astronomer's Personal Story'
- 12:15–1:15 **Kevin Schindler & W. Lowell Putnam IV**, Lowell Observatory's Pluto Heritage
- 1:30–2:30 **Marcia Bartusiak**, author of *Black Hole* and *The Day We Found the Universe*
- 2:45–3:45 **Hans Koenigsmann**, SpaceX, Vice President of Flight Reliability  
'SpaceX, Exploration through Innovation'
- 4:00–5:00 **Alice Bowman**, Mission Operations Manager, New Horizons mission to Pluto.
- 5:15 **Raffle Drawing**

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## SATURDAY, APRIL 9

**Exhibit Hall Hours: 8:30 am – 6 pm**

- 9:30–10:15     **John Pazmino**, 'Manhattanhenge' (NY Skies Club)
- 10:30–11:45     **Dr. Bernard Sokolowski**, 'Telescopes for Beginners' (FREE walk-in class). The three basic kinds of telescopes and mounts and what to look for when buying and using them.
- 12:00–12:45     **Dustin Dickens**, 'Martian Meteorite'
- 1:00–1:45         **Mike Reynolds**, 'Eclipses for Dummies: The 2017 Total Solar Eclipse'
- 2:00–2:45         **Jerry Krassner**, 'Observing Satellites'
- 3:00–3:45         **Jim Chen**, 'Hubble Space Telescope Objects: Name That Deep Sky Object'
- 4:00–4:45         **Filippo Bradaschia**, Radio Astronomy, 'Affordable Advanced Astronomy'
- 5:00–5:45         Lecture TBA

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**Exhibit Hall Hours: 10 am – 5 pm**

- 10:30–11:45     **Dr. Bernard Sokolowski**, 'Telescopes for Beginners' (FREE walk-in class). The three basic kinds of telescopes and mounts and what to look for when buying and using them.
- 12:00–12:45     **Dr. Ken Kremer**, NASA Ambassador, RAC Board of Directors 'The Road to Mars, The Equipment that Will Get Us There'
- 1:00–1:45         **Dean Regas**, co-host of PBS TV Show; Star Gazer, 'Tour of the Universe: You Are Here'
- 2:00–2:45         **Mike Simmons**, Astronomers Without Borders Worldwide Astronomy Programs & 'Global Astronomy Month'
- 3:00–3:45         **Jon Baker**, 'Star Chaser' Documentary Movie (Special Preview Viewing)
- 4:00–5:00         **The Temple Dudes**, Live Music Concert featuring Dr. Ken Blumberg & Friends
- 5:15                 **Raffle Drawing** in the Celestron (Main) Theater

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