

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

Mary Lou West, Host

SATURDAY, APRIL 8



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.

10 – 10:50 AM **Ted Blank**, IOTA
'Getting Started with Asteroid Occultation Timing'

11 – 11:50 **Nathaniel Frissell**, NJIT
'HamSCI and the 2017 total Solar Eclipse'

LUNCH

1:30 – 2:20 PM **Dennis Conti**, AAVSO
'Exoplanet Observing by Amateur Astronomers'

2:30 – 3:20 **Mario Motta**, AAVSO
'Observing a Disintegrating Asteroid Around a White Dwarf'

3:30 – 4:20 **Josh Walawender**, W.M. Keck Observatory
'PANOPTES Project: Finding Exoplanets with DSLR cameras'

4:30 – 5:20 **Dennis Conti**, AAVSO
'Exoplanet Detection via Microlensing'

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

11 – 11:50 AM **Stephen Ramsden**, Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project
'Narrowband Solar Imaging & Solar Spectroscopy'

LUNCH

12:30 – 1:20 PM **Michael West**, Lowell Observatory
'Galaxy Cannibalism'

1:30 – 2:20 **Ted Blank**, IOTA
'Getting Started with Asteroid Occultation Timing'

**Speakers & schedule are subject to change.*

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 8

Exhibit Hall Hours: 8:30 am – 6 pm

- 10:30 - 10:45 Welcoming remarks by **Joe Rao** with Vince Coulehan
- 10:45 - 11:45 **Roberto Abraham**, University of Toronto,
'The Dragonfly Telephoto Array Project'
- 12:00 - 1:00 **Frank DeMauro**, VP and General Manager of Advanced Programs,
'Cygnus and Antares Program Development'
- 1:15 - 2:15 **James Albury & Dean Regas** Co-hosts of PBS TV series Star Gazers,
'Star Gazers: Popularizing Astronomy'
- 2:30 - 3:30 **Todd May**, Director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center
'Mars and Beyond: Enabling Deep Space Exploration and Science'
- 3:45 - 4:45 **Sara Seager**, planetary scientist and astrophysicist, MIT,
'Mapping the Nearest Stars for Habitable Worlds'
- 5:00 - 6:00 **Scott Bolton**, Principal Investigator, Juno Mission to Jupiter

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Exhibit Hall Hours: 10:00 am – 5 pm

- 12:15 - 1:15 **Robert Reeves**, Imager / writer, 'The Moonlover's Guide to the Bright Sky'
- 1:30 - 2:30 **Mike Reynolds**, Professor of Astronomy at FSC, 'The Great American Total Solar Eclipse!'
- 2:45 - 3:45 **Joe Rao**, FIOS1 on-air meteorologist, 'How to Survive August's Total Eclipse'
- 4:00 - 5:00 **Caleb Weiss**, ULA, Commercial Crew Program Manager,
'Bridging History: Preparing to Launch Astronauts atop ULA's Atlas V'
- 5:15 **Raffle Drawing**

**Speakers and schedule are subject to change.*



(FIELD HOUSE) THEATER

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Exhibit Hall Hours: 8:30 am – 6 pm

- 10:30 - 11:45 **Dr. Bernard Sokolowski**
'Telescopes for Beginners'
- 12:00 - 12:45 **Astronomical League Youth Awards**
With presentations by
Perri Zilberman & Shanmurugan Selvamurugan
- 2:00 - 2:45 **Dustin Gibson, OPT,**
'Simple Imaging'
- 3:00 - 3:45 **James L. Chen,** 'Astronomy for Older Eyes'
Springer Book Signing
- 4:00 - 4:45 **Stephem Pizzo**
'The Rayox Saddle Plate'
- 5:00 - 5:45 **Celestron/Simulation Software Presentation:**
'Using Sky Safari Software with Celestron Telescopes'

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Exhibit Hall Hours: 10 am – 5 pm

- 10:30 - 11:45 **Dr. Bernard Sokolowski**
'Telescopes for Beginners'
- 12:00 - 12:45 **Dr. Ken Blumberg**
Live Acoustic Music
- 1:00 - 2:15 **Greg Bragg**
'Star Chasers' video series
- 2:30 - 3:15 **Dustin Gibson, OPT,**
'Simple Imaging'
- 3:30 - 4:30 **International Dark-Sky Association**
Dave Ingram, 'Dark Sky Beyond the Star Party'
- 5:15 **Raffle Drawing** in the Celestron (Main) Theater

**Speakers and schedule are subject to change.*