

March 2012

VOL. 123, NO. 3



FEATURES

18 An End in Sight

COVER After 200 years of mystery,

its secrets to an organized

STORY Epsilon Aurigae's is surrendering

professional-amateur campaign.

On the cover: The Sun's first light may have shone in a cloudy, star-studded region like this one.

THIS MONTH'S SKY

- 42 Northern Hemisphere's Sky
 By Fred Schaaf
- 43 March's Sky at a Glance
- 45 Binocular Highlight
 By Gary Seronik
- 46 Planetary Almanac
- **Sun, Moon, and Planets** *By Fred Schaaf*
- 50 Exploring the Solar System By Thomas Dobbins
- 60 Celestial Calendar
 By Alan MacRobert
- **Deep-Sky Wonders**By Sue French
- **Going Deep**By Steve Gottlieb

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 **Spectrum** *By Robert Naeye*
- 8 Letters
- 9 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago By Roger W. Sinnott
- 10 News Notes
- 40 New Product Showcase
- 68 Telescope Workshop
 By Gary Seronik
- 76 Gallery
- 86 Focal Point

 By Jim Higgs

30 Finding the Sun's Lost Nursery

By Robert Stencel

Astronomers are trying to understand the cluster where the Sun was born 4.6 billion years ago.

By Robert Zimmerman

38 A Different Pathway to the Stars

Astronomy outreach could benefit from the Czech approach: cityfunded observatories. By Peter Foukal & Štěpán Kovář

70 Targeting the International Space Station

This orbiting outpost is within reach of anyone with a camera By Thierry Legault

S&T TEST REPORT

56 **S&T Test Report**By Dennis di Cicco

58 Quick Look
By Richard Tresch Fienberg

SKY & TELESCOPE (ISSN 0037-6604) is published monthly by Sky & Telescope Media, LLC, 90 Sherman St., Cambridge, MA 02140-3264, USA. Phone: 800-253-0245 (customer service/subscriptions), 888-253-0230 (product orders), 617-864-7360 (all other calls). Fax: 617-864-6117. Website: SkyandTelescope.com. © 2012 Sky & Telescope Media, LLC. All rights reserved. Periodicals postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post Publications Mail sales agreement #40029823. Canadian return address: 2744 Edna St., Windsor, ON, Canada N8Y 1V2. Canadian GST Reg. #R128921855. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sky & Telescope, PO Box 171, Winterset, IA 50273. Printed in the USA.

4 March 2012 SKY & TELESCOPE

What you will find online @

SkyandTelescope.com

INTERACTIVE SKY CHART

Find out what the sky looks like for your time and place. skychart.skyandtelescope.com



SKYWEEK

Watch our weekly PBS segment on what's currently up in the sky. skyandtelescope.com/skyweek

NEW EQUIPMENT DIRECTORY

Browse hot products for all types of observing SkyandTelescope.com/directory

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

New to astronomy? Here's everything you need to jump into the fun.

SkyandTelescope.com/gettingstarted



TOC new layout indd 4 12/28/11 10:44 AM