

June 2012 VOL. 123, NO. 6



On the cover:

New LRO views such as this topographic farside map unveil the Moon in striking detail.

MOON: NASA GSFC / DLR / ASU

FEATURES

Seeing the Moon Like Never Before

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance
Orbiter reveals spectacular landforms on our deceptively familiar
satellite.

By Jim Bell

24 Alan Hale and His 500 Comets

Along the way to achieving his goal of viewing 500 comet apparitions, this New Mexico astronomer discovered one of the 20th century's finest comets.

By David H. Levy

28 Perilous Journeys: The 1761 Transit of Venus

Braving warfare, storms, and disease, astronomers ventured across the globe to measure the scale of our solar system.

By Eli Maor

62 A Springtime Globular Cluster Tour

These amazing starballs, more varied than you might imagine, are now swarming into view.

By Ted Forte

68 Deep Sky with Your DSLR

Getting started in astrophotography has never been easier. By Michael A. Covington

OBSERVING MAY

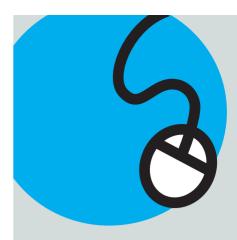
- 41 Moon Map
- 43 In This Section
- 44 Planetary Almanac
- 45 May's Sky at a Glance
- 46 Binocular Highlight
 By Gary Seronik
- 47 Northern Hemisphere's Sky By Fred Schaaf
- 48 Sun, Moon, and Planets By Fred Schaaf
- 50 Celestial Calendar By Alan MacRobert
- 54 Exploring the Moon
 By Charles Wood
- 56 Deep-Sky Wonders
 By Sue French

S&T TEST REPORT

34 S&T Test Report
By Dennis di Cicco

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 8 **Spectrum**By Robert Naeye
- 10 Letters
- 11 **75, 50 & 25 Years Ago** *By Roger W. Sinnott*
- 14 News Notes
- 38 New Product Showcase
- 60 Telescope Workshop
 By Gary Seronik
- 72 Gallery
- 82 Focal Point: Crossword By Naomi Pasachoff



There's more to find online @ SkyandTelescope.com

SKYWEEK

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



SKY AT A GLANCE

Our popular column highlights celestial delights for the upcoming week. Also available as an app — with sky charts included! skyandtelescope.com/ataglance

NEW EQUIPMENT DIRECTORY

Browse hot products for all types of observing.

skyandtelescope.com/directory

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.



6 June 2012 SKY & TELESCOPE

TOC layout.indd 6 3/28/12 3:00 PM