

**Register For ALCON EXPO 2009**  
**([www.alcon2009.org](http://www.alcon2009.org))**



**The Amateur Observers' Society of New York (AOS-NY)** located on Long Island, N.Y., is hosting the annual Astronomical League Convention, the ALCON EXPO 2009.

For 2009, the ALCON EXPO is being sponsored by AOS and Hofstra University, and it is taking place during the week starting Sunday, August 2, 2009 and ending Saturday, August 8, 2009.



Hofstra University is sponsoring the ALCON EXPO 2009 through an alliance with Hofstra's Department of Physics and Astronomy. The University is providing the Convention with a central location in Nassau County, New York with easy access to

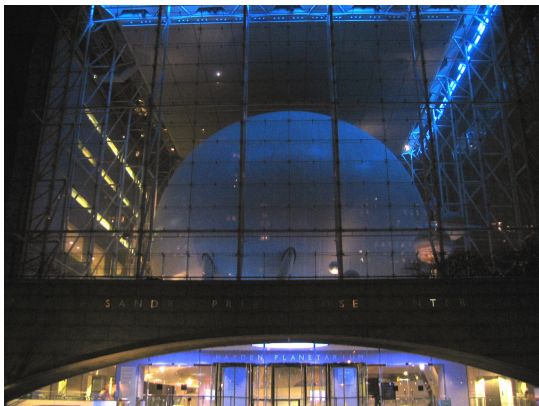


public transportation to and from area Airports and New York City. AOS is also taking advantage of their extensive meeting rooms and facilities in the Hofstra Student Center. We are also offering inexpensive accommodations for ALCON Week in the Hofstra Student Housing.



It is with special pride that AOS is hosting the Convention in 2009, since 2009 is also the International Year of Astronomy (IYA). This is in commemoration of Galileo's contributions to Astronomy on the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his achievements, and we have a special surprise speaker to honor him.

AOS has planned an ambitious list of Events and Speakers for the week of the ALCON Expo 2009. For people traveling to the New York Area, AOS will be offering tours



to some of the most important sites and landmarks in New York City, such as Rockefeller Center, the NYC Theatre District, Ground Zero, and astronomical sites such as the Rose Center Of Earth and Space (Hayden Planetarium).

There will also be a tour of a famous Long Island Beach and Lighthouse, and there will be a chance to taste Long Island cuisine and North Fork Long Island wine.

A tour will also be offered of the Brookhaven National Laboratories, where cutting edge physics is being done including work on the Hadron Collider.



On the same tour, attendees will be able to visit the facility of Spectrum Thin Films, where coatings are deposited on filters for NASA space probes such as the NASA's Mars Phoenix Lander project, and Astronomical light pollution filters and other optics used by amateurs.



Attendees will also be treated to a tour of the famous Long Island Cradle Of Aviation, a special museum which showcases the aircraft and spacecraft developed on Long Island by

Grumman and other companies located here. The “Cradle” is home to the Lunar Lander that was meant to fly on the cancelled Apollo





19 Mission. It also has the Lunar Lander Trainer developed by Grumman Aerospace, an actual F14 Aircraft and many other historic aircraft built by Grumman and other Long Island companies.

The main event, ALCON 2009, will include speakers on diverse astronomical subjects, and there will be a special



schedule of Astrophotography talks. The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers will also have a schedule of speakers on planetary science, and the American Association of Variable Star Observers will also provide speakers. The Northeastern Region of the Astronomical League, a sub-group within the Astronomical League, will be sponsoring a Light Pollution Pow-Wow.



A Star-B-Que (Barbeque under the Stars) will take place at Custer Institute, which is a historic astronomical landmark on the North Fork of Long Island. Dinner will feature local



culinary specialties and wine tasting, and there will be some special speakers during dinner. Following that, the Observatories on the grounds of Custer Institute will be open for stargazing.

In addition to its own Observatory, Custer Institute hosts the Observatories of the Amateur Observers' Society and the Astronomical Society of Long Island.

The ALCON 2009 Banquet will be held at Hofstra University, where a special Keynote Speaker and presentation will provide a fitting end to ALCON 2009 celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Galileo's remarkable achievements.

The following is the Schedule for the ALCON Week.

**Pre-Convention Tours Available:**

**Sunday, August 2, 2009** – A special tour of New York City will be offered showing many of the famous landmarks.

**Monday, August 3, 2009** – A tour will be offered of the Brookhaven National Laboratory and Spectrum Thin Films.

**Tuesday, August 4, 2009** – You will be able to tour the famous Rose Center Of Earth and Space in New York City. This is the updated venue of the historic Hayden Planetarium.

**Wednesday, August 5, 2009** – You will have an opportunity to tour the Fire Island Lighthouse and spend an Afternoon on the Beach at Robert Moses State Park.

**Pre-Convention Activities:**

**Thursday, August 6, 2009** – The Astronomical League Council Meeting will take place at Hofstra University at the

site of the Convention. Thursday evening, the Cradle of Aviation will be open for a tour by Conference participants.

### **Convention Opens:**

**Friday, August 7, 2009** – The Convention officially opens at Hofstra University. During the day, there will be various lectures and workshops in General Topics in Astronomy, in Astrophotography, Lunar and Planetary Studies (ALPO Organization), and Variable Star Research (AAVSO Organization). Vendors will also be available onsite selling the latest in Astronomical Equipment. On Friday evening, Attendees will board buses for the trip to the Starbeque being held at Custer Institute.

**Saturday, August 8, 2009** – Various lectures will continue and vendors will be available all day. During the day, the Astronomical League will also conduct an Annual Meeting. In the evening, the Banquet, which is the grand finale of the Convention, will be held at Hofstra University. During the Banquet, there will be a special keynote speaker and the Astronomical League will also present various national awards to members and attendees.

The following is a partial list of the speakers who will be presenting at ALCON on Friday, August 7, and Saturday, August 8.

#### **David Levy:**



David Levy is the Canadian Astronomer who is most famous for his co-discovery of the Shoemaker-Levy comet which in 1994

collided with the Planet Jupiter. Levy has had an illustrious career as comet hunter with 22 discoveries to his credit. He has written more than 30 books, the most famous being “The Quest For Comets” and his book about Gene Shoemaker, the famous astronomer with whom he collaborated on many of his comet discoveries.

### **Nancy Kiang, PhD.**



Nancy is a researcher for NASA Goddard Institute For Space Studies where she has hypothesized how the light from other colors of stars may affect plant life that could develop.

Nancy is the author of a Scientific American article entitled “The Color Of Plants On Other Worlds.”

### **Phil Harrington:**



A lifelong amateur astronomer, Phil has been a staff member of New York City's Hayden Planetarium and instructor at the Vanderbilt Planetarium in Centerport, New York.

Phil has written many books on stargazing and the best equipment to use along with many articles in popular astronomy magazines and is an accomplished and sought after speaker at star parties throughout the northeast

### **Al Nagler:**



As the leader and inspiration of Televue, Al has introduced some of the most revolutionary and high quality optics ever conceived for Amateur Astronomers. His latest development is the Ethos Eyepiece with its 100 degree apparent field of view. Al is a familiar figure at Amateur Astronomy Conventions and Star Parties and he is noted for his generosity in helping these functions.

### [Tony Pirera:](#)



Tony is a member of the Astronomical Society of Long Island, and is the founder and President of the Spectrum Thin Films Corporation. Tony's company has provided coatings for government projects such as NASA's Mars Phoenix Lander project, and it also produces coatings for a wide range of commercial optical products.

### [Dr. Richard Greenberg:](#)



Richard Greenberg is a University of Arizona Researcher who authored the book "Unmasking Europa – The Search For Life On Jupiter's Ocean Moon." In this book, he contends that the icy surface of Europa is so thin or even melted in some places that it will be relatively easy to sample the ocean underneath for lifeforms. Dr. Greenberg was a long time



member of the Galileo Imaging Team and is currently part of the team planning a NASA mission to Europa.

### **Dr. Michael Inglis:**



Mike Inglis is an astrophysicist with a life-long passion for the promotion of astronomy and astrophysics. In addition to observing the night sky whenever he can, he teaches several astronomy courses, writes books and magazine articles for various audiences, and lectures to

Mike is the author of numerous astronomy books for the amateur astronomer and astronomy student. Additionally, he has had many articles published in popular astronomy magazines, such as Sky & Telescope (the world's best selling astronomy magazine), the Journal of the SPA [Society for Popular Astronomy], and Astronomy Now (the UK's best selling magazine), as well as in research-level journals.

### **Dr. Mike Reynolds:**



Mike is an expert on Meteorites and he conducts a “hands on” workshop to teach people the science of meteorites and how to identify and classify them.

Dr. Reynolds has spent thirty-one years in

astronomy and space sciences in the gamut of a high school and college instructor, planetarium and museum director, researcher, writer, and lecturer. He has written a number of astronomy books and articles and has just completed his fifth book about using binoculars for astronomy.

### **Bob Crelin:**



Since 1994, Bob Crelin has been actively working with community and state lawmakers regarding outdoor lighting concerns. Co-founder of Lighting by Branford, LLC manufacturing, Bob invented the patented [GlareBuster™](#), a unique, 'dark sky' floodlight for homeowners, which won a 2008 [Lighting for Tomorrow](#) award from the American Lighting Association. He also wrote a popular childrens' book, [There Once Was A Sky Full of Stars](#) (Sky Publishing), and he is a longtime member of the [International Dark Sky Association](#).

### **Astrophotography Techniques**

### **Jim Burnell:**



Jim is a telescope maker and co-author of *The Handbook of Astronomical Image Processing* and the *Astronomical Image Processing for Windows* software package.

**Steve Walters** ([www.CCDWare.com](http://www.CCDWare.com))



Steve is the author of CCDNavigator, has been imaging the night sky since 1980 with film and CCD cameras. Steve is past-President of S\*T\*A\*R Astronomy Society in N.J. and taught Astronomy at Brookdale Community College in Holmdel, N.J. He holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech, is a Fellow of the IEEE, a Telcordia Fellow, and a Vietnam Veteran (USAF). Steve provided the confirmation image of supernova 2008cy for the Puckett Observatory SuperNova Search Team.

**Neil Fleming:**



Neil a noted astrophotographer, specializing in the capture of very high-quality images from light polluted locations, such as those in the Boston area. His images have been published in both *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy* magazines, and featured on the popular, “Astronomy Picture of the Day” (APOD) web site. Additionally, his imagery was included in Timothy Ferris’ PBS documentary, *Seeing in the Dark*.

Neil has spoken at the Advanced Imaging Conference (San Jose, CA), the Midwest Astro-Imaging Conference, and the NorthEast Astro-Imaging Conference

**Association Of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO)**

## William Sheehan:



Bill is a member of ALPO and is an authority on the Planet Mars. He has written a book entitled The Planet Mars: A History of Observation and Discovery.

## *American Association Of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO)*

## Mike Simonsen:



Mike Simonsen, from Imlay City, Michigan, is one of the most active variable star observers in the world. Mike has published papers in refereed astronomical journals, is a writer for the AAVSO publication Eyepiece

Views and the astronomy blog, Simostronomy. He is on the governing council of the AAVSO, coordinator of the AAVSO Mentor Program for new observers, coordinator of AAVSO chart and sequence production and a member of the AAVSO Education and Outreach Committee.

Mike has given dozens of talks on various aspects of variable star science to astronomy clubs, organizations and university groups. In 2005, he coordinated the AAVSO



Visual Workshop, bringing in speakers from around the globe to educate visual observers of variable stars.

Please be sure to attend ALCON EXPO 2009. For more details and to Register for the Convention, please see the ALCON website at *[alcon2009.org](http://alcon2009.org)*. Note: **Early Registration is open** and will continue **through June 30, 2009**.