



ALPO 2024 Conference a Success!!

(July 31, 2024) -For those who attended this year's ALPO 2024 Conference, THANK YOU so much to both the presenters AND the viewers, no matter whether it was via Zoom or the ALPO YouTube Channel! With 13 presenters and a total of 85 viewers over the two days, we believe we really did the amateur astronomical community proud. The conference was held July 26 and 27.

And here's another shout-out to our doorprize donors — Celestron, Explore Scientific and Catseye Collimation System. (We ask that the winners of their doorprizes to please take some time to write a thank-you letter (or email) to those doorprize contributors.)

For those who missed it:

- Tim Robertson (ALPO Conference 2024 chairman) for overseeing things and making the online arrangements run so smoothly.
- Matt Will (ALPO Membership Secretary/Treasurer) for his talk on the status of the organization today.
- Roger Venable (ALPO Mars Section lead coordinator & science advisor for the ALPO Journal), for his presentation "Mars in 2024".
- Frank Melillo (ALPO Mercury Section coordinator) for his presentation, "What's Up With Mercury in 2024" and also his talk about the Sun, "Catching the Nearest Star".
- Robert Garfinkle (ALPO Book Review editor) for his guidance on what the basic ALPO astronomy library should include.
- Jim Tomney (ALPO Online Section assistant coordinator) for his presentation, "Meet the Updated ALPO Website".
- Jeannie McKenney (of Knowledge Works Global, which provides online formatting services for the ALPO Journal) for providing some background on how her firm does what it does to keep our Journal the attractive and professional publication that it is today.
- Richard Schmude (ALPO Remote Planets Section coordinator and Jupiter Section coordinator) for his presentations, "The Remote Planets in 2024" and "Jupiter in 2024".
- Wayne Bailey (former coordinator of the ALPO Lunar Section) for his presentation on lunar polarimetry.
- David Teske (current ALPO Lunar Section coordinator) for his presentation about the lunar craters Messier and Messier A and also a discussion about "The Lunar Observer" newsletter.
- Greg Shanos (very active ALPO member) for his technical presentation about the Seestar S50 "smart telescope" by ZWO and its use as a research tool by the amateur astronomer.

- John O’Neal (ALPO Eclipse Section acting coordinator) for his discussion about the total solar eclipse of this past April.
- Tony Cook (ALPO Lunar Transient Phenomena Program coordinator) for his presentation about the “Lunar Meteoroid Impacts Observer Mission” (LUMIO) and how amateur astronomers can contribute.

As for our ALPO awards, we are proud to announce the following:

- The Walter H. Haas Observer Award for 2024 went to Robert Lunsford (our ALPO Meteors Section coordinator) in recognition of his many years of interest in and contributions to the ALPO, specifically observing meteors, including heading our Meteors Section since 1988, continued steadily contributing to the ALPO’s own Journal and authoring the book “Meteors and How to Observe Them.”
- The Peggy Haas Service Award for 2024 went to longtime ALPO member Robert Hays in recognition of his many, many years of interest in and contributions to the ALPO, especially with his lunar sketches that have graced the front page of The Lunar Observer newsletter. With over five decades of observing everything from eclipses, to lunar occultations, meteors, the planets, variable stars and other deep-sky objects, the ALPO believes that Bob has set a great example for all sky observers to emulate.

And let’s not forget Bob Garfinkle’s truly educational and enjoyable keynote talk on Saturday evening, “Fantasy Flights to the Moon”, where he provided some great graphics and descriptions of fictional journeys to our nearest celestial neighbor. While most of us believe that accounts of lunar journeys were first written in the 1800s, such is not the case; in fact, stories go back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, as detailed by Mr. Garfinkle.

In closing, we thank all of our presenters and viewers for being a part of this year’s event. Whether it was colleagues catching up on Zoom between sessions or just random chitchat, there is no denying the enjoyment and education we all had. Again, thank you again for participating and we look forward to seeing you all again next year online at ALPO 2025 in late July!

About the ALPO

The Association of Lunar & Planetary Observers (ALPO), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is an international organization devoted to study the Sun, Moon, planets within and beyond our Solar System, asteroids, meteors, and comets. The Association’s goals are to stimulate, coordinate, and generally promote the study of these bodies using methods and instruments available within the communities of both amateur and professional astronomers.

The ALPO collects and analyzes observations of various Solar System bodies and associated phenomena and publishes detailed reports concerning these bodies in its quarterly publication the ALPO Journal, otherwise known as The Strolling Astronomer.

-- Ken Poshedly
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