



ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE OF THE PHILIPPINES

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org>

Activities and Accomplishments during the International Year of Astronomy 2009

A. July 22, 2009 Total Solar Eclipse Expedition

The Astronomical League of the Philippines sent contingents to document the Total Solar Eclipse that happened on the 22nd of July, 2009. Teams of astronomers were stationed at Wuhan, Shanghai, and Jiaxing, China to observe and record the longest solar eclipse of the century. A group of astronomers was also stationed at the Philippines to do public outreach and scientific observations. The results of the expedition have been published in the Philippine Journal of Astronomy, and posted in the official website of the Astronomical League of the Philippines.

http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/090722alp_wuhan_tse.html

http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/090722alp_shanghai_tse.html

http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/090722alp_jiaxing_tse.html

http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/090722alp_manila_pse.html

B. The 100 Hours of Astronomy, Starpeace Project, Galilean Nights, Seasons Without Borders 2009 and Dusk of IYA 2009.

Dr. Armando Lee, public relations officer of the *Society*, was designated by the ALP to head the 100 Hours of Astronomy cornerstone project and StarPeace global special project ambassador for the Philippines. The events were successful because of the cooperation and diligence shown by Filipino astronomers and the linkage to other Asian countries made possible through the efforts of Dr. Lee and Avivah Yamani of Indonesia especially in the **Starpeace Project between the Philippines and Indonesia**. It was the first time such peace bridge on the sky was done between the two countries. Simultaneous free public viewings were done in the Philippines and Indonesia during that event.

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/090404starparty.html>

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Video clips from StarPeace project can be viewed at the website below:

<http://www.justin.tv/clip/3721457b97b90af2>

Report from the Philippines submitted by Dr Lee can be found in the webpage below:

<http://www.starpeace.org/En/news/54/Default.aspx>

A photo gallery of the numerous **100HA events** organized by Dr. Lee and participated by ALP can be found in the webpage below:

<http://www.100hoursofastronomy.org/photo-galleries/category/17-100-pp>

Report of the 100HA activities participated in by ALP can be found in the June 2009 issue of Philippine Journal of Astronomy (pages 16 to 22) and in the webpage below:

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/090404starparty.html>

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/090405starparty.html>

The **Galilean Nights** held at Astrocamp Observatory SMBY Park SM MOA Complex Pasay City was organized and participated by ALP PRO Dr. Armando Lee last December 22 to 24, 2009. The report can be found in the webpage below:

<http://www.galileannights.org/events/reports/gngn158.pdf>

Before Christmas time, the Philippines again participated, through our National Coordinator for Astronomers Without Borders Dr. Armando Lee, in the **Seasons Without Borders** organized by the Astronomers Without Borders by giving the public free viewing of the planet Jupiter and its Galilean Satellites last December 23, 2009. This was attended by ALPers Dr. Lee, Kevin Dagunan and Myra Lee. Picture of this event can be viewed at the webpage below:

<http://astronomerswithoutborders.org/index.php/community/photo-galleries.html?func=viewcategory&catid=46>

Video clip of the Seasons Without Borders can be viewed in the website below:

<http://www.justin.tv/clip28c2611689dd4fd5>

The last event slated as the closing event for IYA2009 – the **Dusk of IYA 2009** which was initiated by Astronomers Without Borders (of which Dr. Lee is a National Coordinator for the Philippines as well) was also participated by ALPers Dr. Armando Lee, Christopher Lee, Myra Lee, Jason Lee, Kevin Dagunan, Crispin Riosa, ALP founder and Directress Chat Ty and ALP President James Kevin and son KC Ty last December

31, 2009 which highlighted also the Partial Lunar Eclipse the next day January 1, 2010. Report of this event can be found in the webpages below:

<http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/index.php/community/discusion-forum/view-postlist/forum-4-affiliate-activities/topic-46-dusk-of-iy-a-philppines-2009.html>

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/100101starparty.html>

C. Philippine Astronomy Convention

The year 2009 marked a significant milestone in Philippine astronomy. February 15th of the IYA 2009, the Astronomical League of the Philippines spearheaded the first Philippine Astronomy Convention, an annual gathering of amateur and professional astronomers in the country. The event was held at the Rizal Technological University with participants from various academic institutions and astronomical organizations. PAC is held during the National Astronomy Week celebration.

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/090215pac2009.html>
<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/pac.html>

D. Philippine Journal of Astronomy

The *Society* initiated the creation of the country's first scientific journal in astronomy, the Philippine Journal of Astronomy. The publication features technical and general articles written by amateur and professional astronomers, reviews of astronomy-related products and websites, and conference proceedings. The journal currently has three issues, and indexed in the NASA-ADS Database.

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/pjastro.html>
http://adsabs.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/nph-abs_connect?version=1&warnings=YES&partial_bibcd=YES&sort=BIBCODE&db_key=ALL&bibstem=PhiJA&year=&volume=&page=&nr_to_return=100&start_nr=1

E. Creation of Scientific Bodies

In order to foster the advancement of astronomy education and research, the Astronomical League of the Philippines established scientific bodies with particular emphasis in developing the various fields of astronomy. As of the moment, there are two (2) scientific divisions: the Division on Sun & Heliosphere, and the Division on Astronomy Education & Development, and two (2) commissions: Commission on Solar Activity, and the Commission on Eclipses.

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/scibodies.html>

F. Establishment of Scientific Programs

One of the major objectives of the society is to promote the science of Astronomy through scientific programs in observational astronomy and other fields. These programs enable professional and amateur astronomers to engage in research studies in collaborative effort.

An ongoing program of the *Society* is the Philippine Solar Index Program, where sunspot data is gathered from volunteers to produce the Philippine Sunspot Number (Wolf Number) and the Group Sunspot Number. Sunspot monitoring is a good example of basic and simple research program that the organization tends to support and promote.

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/sciprograms.html>

G. Active Role in Formal Education through Partnership with Academic Institutions

One of the major goals of the Astronomical League of the Philippines is to contribute to astronomy education and public outreach. The *Society* hosts variety of lectures and updates during its monthly meetings. It is also actively involved in formal astronomy education through partnerships with various educational institutions, like the Rizal Technological University.

February 27th, 2009, the Astronomical League of the Philippines headed by ALP President James Kevin Ty and Vice-President Dr. Jett Aguilar met with Rizal Technological University President Dr. Jose Macaballug and Vice-President Dr. Jesus Rodrigo Torres to formally sign a memorandum of agreement to bolster cooperation between the two institutions in terms of promoting each other's activities and projects, as well as promotion of astronomy-related courses currently offered by RTU.

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/education.html>

ALP Activities and Accomplishments during 2008

A. Philippine Messier Marathon

Observational astronomy is important in order to make astronomy popular to the general public. Most amateurs, or even professional astronomers, became interested in the field because of the amazing things they saw through the telescope – the craters on the moon, the cloud belts of Jupiter and, most especially, the magnificent rings of Saturn. And in its goal to promote and enhance the observing skills of astronomy enthusiasts, the Astronomical League of the Philippines initiated the Philippine Messier Marathon whereby participants use non-computerized telescopes to view all the Messier objects in just one session.

Philippine Messier Marathon 2008 Report

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/archive/news/080405starparty.html>

B. Observing Sessions

The organization conducts observing session once a month to let members and non-members experience the beauty of the heavens through telescopes and binoculars. Naked eye observing can be rewarding too, and the *Society* has conducted meteor watching events where participants get to see streaking meteors and fireballs. Some members also image the night sky during observing sessions and they are keen to share their knowledge and expertise to interested individuals.

ALP Observing Session Archive

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/art.html#observing>

C. Monthly Meeting Lectures

Lectures in astronomy are being conducted during regular monthly meetings of the organization. Topics range from advanced concepts to practical astronomy and updates.

ALP Monthly Meetings Archive

<http://www.astroleaguephils.org/art.html#meetings>

D. National Astronomy Week (NAW) Activities

National Astronomy Week or *NAW* was conceptualized by Edwin Aguirre and Imelda Joson, former members of the Philippine Astronomical Society, honorary members of the Astronomical League of the Philippines and the 2006 Father Badillo Astronomy Service Awardees conferred by the ALP. The event was then initiated by Francisco Lao, Jr.,

former member of the PAS and now member of the ALP, and 2008 Father Badillo Astronomy Service Awardee, into an annual celebration by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 130 signed by former President Fidel V. Ramos. The Astronomical League of the Philippines has joined in the celebration of the National Astronomy Week since 2004.

The National Museum – Manila Planetarium has often been co-celebrator of National Astronomy Week, and the ALP has collaborated with Manila Planetarium during the weeklong celebration to do public stargazing at the Boardwalk in the Luneta area, or setting up public displays and exhibits for people to appreciate the beauty and science of astronomy during the day, when they are not in front of a telescope.

The ALP has gone into more unconventional places to share the appreciation of astronomy with the public. Aside from the Manila Planetarium and the Boardwalk, the ALP has also brought the science and hobby of astronomy to the Malls, where a lot of people congregate. One such NAW celebration was done in cooperation with the SM Discovery Center and brought astronomy appreciation to people at the SM-Mall of Asia.

E. Souvenir Yearbook

2008 marked the 5th anniversary of the Astronomical League of the Philippines. Since its inception, it has taken a lead role in advancing Philippine astronomy through activities in observational astronomy and imaging, and education and outreach programs. To commemorate the five years of success, the organization published a yearbook which showcased ALP accomplishments and achievements since its establishment.