June 2011
VOL. 121, NO. 6

FEATURES

20 Having a BLAST in Antarctica
By Mark Devlin & Mark Halpern

28 The Great Telescope Race
In the 1800s, the United States transformed itself from an astronomical backwater into a juggernaut.
By Trudy E. Bell

34 The AAVSO’s New Sky Survey
The AAVSO begins its second century with one of the greatest photometric surveys ever undertaken.
By Arne Henden

52 Binocular Sights for City Nights
Even a light-polluted sky offers rewards for binocular astronomy.
By Hugh Bartlett

68 Galaxies Near Bright Stars
These faint fuzzies are easy to find, but not always easy to see.
By S. Kent Blackwell

72 Layering Image Contrast
Bring out faint details in images.
By R. Jay GaBany

S&T TEST REPORT

56 Orion Parsec 8300M
Does Orion’s newest CCD camera live up to claims that it’s the company’s best model yet for deep-sky photographers?
By Johnny Horne

58 Quick Look: Tele Vue’s New Delos Eyepieces
There is more to these eyepieces than you might expect from their specifications alone.
By Dennis di Cicco

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

6 Spectrum
By Robert Naeye

8 Letters

10 75, 50 & 25 Years Ago
By Leif J. Robinson

12 News Notes

18 Cosmic Relief
By David Grinspoon

38 New Product Showcase

66 Telescope Workshop
By Gary Seronik

76 Gallery

86 Focal Point
By Daniel N. Baker

June 2011 SKY & TELESCOPE