

# PANOPTES GAZETTE

Panoptic Astronomical Networked Observatories for a Public Transiting Exoplanets Survey

## NEAIC/NEAF

Last month Josh was in south-east New York state for the back-to-back [NEAIC](#) and [NEAF](#) conferences, hosted by the [Rockland Astronomy Club](#).

Josh made some great contacts for PANOPTES with several groups signing on to be beta builders. One unit is already well underway!

## AstroDay

Saturday May 6 was International Astronomy Day, and Hilo once again participated in the 16th annual [AstroDay](#) event in the Prince Kuhio Mall. All Hawaii PANOPTES team members were in attendance along with a demo PANOPTES unit that traveled to Jet Propulsion Laboratory the next day to get ready for [Explore JPL](#)!

## We are hiring!

Project PANOPTES will soon be hiring a postdoctoral researcher in astronomy. Look for the ad in an upcoming AAS Job Register and on the PANOPTES website.



## PANOPTES@NEAIC/NEAF

PANOPTES made its first visit to the annual NEAIC and NEAF conferences this year. Bob Moore, the organizer of the Northeast Astro-Imaging Conference (NEAIC) invited us to give a presentation on PANOPTES. NEAIC is focused on astro-imaging: “this two-day event hosts leaders and acknowledged experts in extra solar planets, variable star, minor planets, asteroids, comets, and supernova research with the intention of fostering pro-am collaborations.” Josh Walawender made the trip out and gave a talk on PANOPTES. This experience at NEAIC put us in contact with advanced amateurs and school groups. Based on this talk, we have recruited two additional build teams for our beta test phase, both from the east coast — an area we had not had a presence in so far. One of those builders, James Synge, is blogging about his experiences building a PANOPTES unit. Check out his progress here: <https://enigma2eureka.blogspot.com/search/label/PANOPTES>.

In the two days following NEAIC, the Northeast Astronomy Forum (NEAF) is held at SUNY Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY. This was the 24th annual NEAF and it is the



## Beta Testers Wanted

Are you interested in building and operating your own PANOPTES unit? For more information about how you could get involved with Project PANOPTES send an e-mail to [info@projectpanoptes.org](mailto:info@projectpanoptes.org)

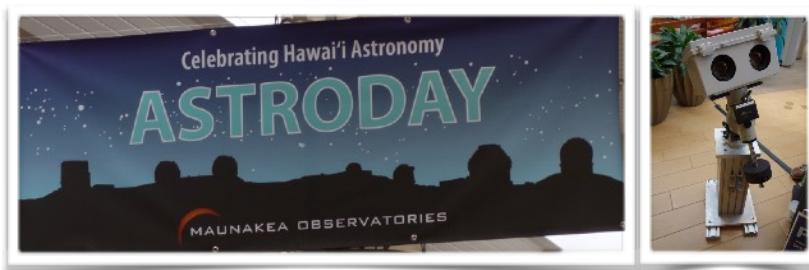
## PANOPTES @ meetings

PANOPTES team members will be in attendance at several upcoming events, and are happy answer your questions.

- [Ticket to Explore JPL 2017](#), Pasadena CA, May 20 & 21: Olivier Guyon & Wilfred Gee
- [Texas Star Party](#), Fort Davis TX, May 21-28: Doug & Christina LeGrand
- [Symposium on Telescope Science, Society for Astronomical Sciences](#), Ontario CA, June 15 - 17: Doug and Christina LeGrand
- [Robotic Telescopes, Student Research, and Education](#), San Diego CA, June 18 - 22; Olivier Guyon & Wilfred Gee
- [AAAS Pacific Division Annual Meeting](#), Waimea HI; June 19 - 23; Josh Walawender

biggest trade show in amateur astronomy. Bob kindly put us in contact with Mary Lou West who was organizing the Northeast Pro/Am Conference (NPAC) which runs coincident with the main NEAF trade show and we made a second PANOPTES presentation there making additional contacts with the amateur community. In addition to reaching out to potential builders in the amateur astronomy community, the NEAF trade show gave us an opportunity to talk to astronomy equipment manufacturers including iOptron, the maker of the mounts used in our PANOPTES baseline unit. As a result, iOptron featured PANOPTES in their May [iOptron Steady Scope Newsletter](#) and the article was subsequently picked up by [Astronomy Technology Today](#) magazine. This trip gave a huge boost to the PANOPTES project, and we plan to have an even bigger presence at NEAF and NEAIC next year. Look for us there!

Conference logos taken from NEAIC & NEAF Facebook pages. NEAF exhibit floor photo by Josh Walawender.



## PANOPTES @ AstroDay

On the first Saturday in May the Prince Kuhio Plaza in Hilo is always teeming with astronomy enthusiasts as representatives from most of the observatories on Maunakea, Mauna Loa and Haleakala (Maui) set up display booths and exhibits throughout the mall. The 16th annual AstroDay celebration was no exception, and Project PANOPTES made an appearance featuring our traveling demo unit (Panny) and the core Hilo team. The event lasted 6 hours and we were busy the entire time, showing off Panny and explaining the project to kids, parents, educators, robotics teams and astronomers (amateurs and professionals). Several of the people we talked with expressed an interest in building their own unit! Next stop for Panny, JPL May 20 & 21. We hope you enjoy these photos (next page) taken by PANOPTES Hilo team members.

