FEATURES

22 The Stars that Host Planets
Based on mass, composition, and other traits, planet-hosting stars offer vital clues to planetary formation and evolution.
By John A. Johnson

28 Stellar Winds Above Atlantic Clouds
On a cold mountaintop in the Canary Islands, amateurs work with pros on a hot-star research project.
By Thomas Eversberg

34 The Backyard Sky: Spring
Explore the season’s well-known and lesser-known deep-sky showpieces.
By Rod Mollise

64 Photometry for All in the Digital Age
You can make valuable scientific contributions to astronomy with just your off-the-shelf digital camera and appropriate computer software.
By Brian Kloppenborg and Tom Pearson

68 A Classic Wooden Tube
This easy-to-build tube will give your scope a touch of 18th-century class.
By Tim Parker

70 Star Trails from the Top of the World
TWAN ambassadors photograph the night sky from the Himalayas.
By Babak A. Tafreshi

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

6 Spectrum
By Robert Naeye

8 Letters

10 50 & 25 Years Ago
By Leif J. Robinson

12 News Notes

20 Cosmic Relief
By David Grinspoon

40 New Product Showcase

42 Northern Hemisphere's Sky
By Fred Schaaf

43 April’s Sky at a Glance

45 Binocular Highlight
By Gary Seronik

46 Planetary Almanac

48 Sun, Moon, and Planets
By Fred Schaaf

50 Exploring the Moon
By Charles A. Wood

56 Celestial Calendar
By Alan MacRobert

58 Deep-Sky Wonders
By Sue French

52 Autoguiding Breakthrough: Celestron’s NexGuide
A stand-alone autoguider for $300 that really works! Can it be true?
By Alan Dyer

56 S&T TEST REPORT

4 April 2011 SKY & TELESCOPE