



#### ON THE COVER:

Yes, you can enjoy amateur astronomy despite a light-polluted sky! The Moon, for instance, burns right through. (Photos: Dennis di Cicco, NOAO, Oshin Zakarian, Robert Gendler.)

# SKYWATCH 2013

## Table of Contents

### INTRODUCTION

- 4 **Good Astronomy Under Not-Good Skies**  
by Alan MacRobert

### SUBURBAN ASTRONOMY

- 6 **Stargazing Near Cities**  
You can see more from the suburbs with a few astronomical tricks.  
by Tony Flanders

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

- 14 **Celestial Highlights of 2013**
- 15 **Using Our Sky Maps**  
Here's how to use our monthly maps to spot evening stars and constellations.  
by Alan MacRobert
- 16 **Thirteen Months of Sky Maps**  
Your first step into astronomy is to befriend the evening stars awaiting you.  
by Alan MacRobert and Fred Schaaf

### LUNAR EXPLORATIONS

- 42 **Telescopic Moon Map**
- 44 **Close-up of an Alien World**  
Our great big Moon offers the richest alien realm to explore with any telescope at all.  
by Alan MacRobert

OSHIN ZAKARIAN

### OBSERVING AND IMAGING THE SKY

- 46 **The Planets in 2013**  
Season by season, the highlights of the solar system parade in and out of view.  
by the Editors of *Sky & Telescope*
- 50 **Exploring the Sun**  
In this year of peak solar activity, gear up to watch the closest star.  
by Stephen W. Ramsden and Alan MacRobert
- 54 **How To See Very Faint Things**  
The weakest part of your telescope is your eye. Here's how to improve your reach.  
by Alan MacRobert
- 58 **Around the Deep-Sky Seasons**  
Telescopes and binoculars can show countless spectacles in the starry deeps. Start here!  
by Tony Flanders
- 66 **Astronomy Photography**  
Modern technology has opened up astrophotography to everyone. Here's what you need to know to begin.  
by the Editors of *Sky & Telescope*
- 74 **Deepen Your View with Video**  
Put a videocam instead of an eyepiece in your telescope, and it can blow your eyeball away.  
by Glenn Norman
- 76 **Using Telescopes Over the Web**  
With an internet connection, you can rent and run telescopes from the Rockies to the Andes — cheap.  
by J. Kelly Beatty
- 82 **Things That Matter**  
We lust after gorgeous instruments, but lasting love in astronomy comes from other stuff.  
by Alan MacRobert

