



## ASTRONOMERS WITHOUT BORDERS

### News Update March 2008



[The World at Night \(TWAN\)](#) has a new logo. Incorporating elements of the [International Year of Astronomy 2009 \(IYA2009\)](#), the new logo highlights TWAN's status as a Special IYA2009 Project. Astronomers Without Borders is an Organizational Node of IYA2009 and is actively participating in several projects.

An article about TWAN in the February 2008 issue of the International Astronomical Union's journal, *Communicating Astronomy with the Public*, is available for free download at [www.capjournal.org/issues/02/index.php](http://www.capjournal.org/issues/02/index.php)



The issue's cover features an image of Orion and the bright star Sirius over Haraz Valley in the Alborz Mountains of northern Iran taken by TWAN founder and director Babak A. Tafreshi. The glow from within the valley comes from headlights along a major road connecting Tehran with the Caspian Sea to the north. This is one of many images by TWAN photographers that have been featured on NASA's [Astronomy Picture of the Day](#) web site.

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#### Contact Information

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## Astronomers Without Borders News Update March 2008

### **AWB launches new web site**

The long-awaited web site of Astronomers Without Borders is now online! The web address is the same: [www.astronomerswithoutborders.org](http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org).

The new web site's contents and capabilities closely mirror the old one's but new content and features will be continued to be added, including forums, projects and more that Affiliates and their members can take part in. We welcome feedback on the new design and features you'd like to see. See the end of this newsletter for contact information.

### **Star Trek creator's son lends support**

Eugene "Rod" Roddenberry, Jr., son of the legendary creator of the original Star Trek television series more than 40 years ago, is lending his support to the AWB effort. Rod sees the AWB effort as similar to his father's vision of uniting humanity through space. Rod has recorded a [videolog](#) about AWB on [Roddenberry.com](http://Roddenberry.com), the Roddenberry family enterprise's web site. Thanks, Rod! Live long and prosper.

### **First AWB branded merchandise**

The first of many possible items from AWB is now available. Affiliate and AWB supporter [Woodland Hills Telescopes](#), a major local and online dealer of telescopes and accessories, has created a new section of their web site to sell AWB merchandise, with 100% of all proceeds going to support AWB programs. The eclipse filter glasses shown below is the first of what we hope will be many promotional items supporting AWB programs and allowing member groups and supporters to demonstrate their participation. These *Eclipse Shades*<sup>TM</sup> imprinted with the AWB logo and web site address were generously donated by the manufacturer, [Rainbow Symphony](#), a supplier of science items and novelties. Items being considered for future promotions include more safe solar filter options for binoculars and small telescopes, t-shirts, cups and perhaps even telescopes to be distributed by AWB. To purchase the AWB *Eclipse Shades*<sup>TM</sup> and other merchandise as it becomes available, visit the [Woodland Hills Telescopes web site](#).



## Astronomers Without Borders News Update March 2008

### **New Director for STAR**

Sharing Telescopes and Resources (STAR) has a new director. Babak Sedehi, a member of the AWB Board of Trustees, has taken over management and development of this important program to share telescopes and other resources in the developed countries with those in less fortunate circumstances around the world (see [www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/star](http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/star) for more about STAR). Babak was an important advocate of astronomy and outreach in his native Iran before taking positions in a variety of locations around the world. Now settled in Vancouver, BC, Canada working for Nokia Corporation, Babak understands the need for a program like STAR that makes telescopes and other resources so common in the developed countries available to those in developing countries as well. Babak's interest is in taking STAR beyond the current model of donating used or new telescopes to clubs in developing countries. He hopes that a self-sustaining business model involving integrated educational programs will eventually be developed. For more information on the STAR program, see the AWB web site or contact Babak Sedehi at [sedehi@astronomerswithoutborders.org](mailto:sedehi@astronomerswithoutborders.org).

### **Dr. Sky Interviews AWB President**

Steven Kates, also known as Dr. Sky, recently interviewed AWB Founder and President Mike Simmons on the Dr. Sky radio program. The interview by the Phoenix-based astronomy personality can be heard on Teen Talk Radio at <http://newvoices.info/audio/ttn/steve228.wma>.

### **AWB Mentioned in Astronomy Technology Today**

A feature article on Farah Payan, owner of Woodland Hills Telescopes, in [Astronomy Technology Today](#) mentions her support for Astronomers Without Borders. Ms. Payan has been a supporter of AWB's efforts from its inception and continues to be one of our biggest supporters today.

### **TWAN in Sky and Telescope Magazine**

Look for AWB's project, The World at Night (TWAN), to be featured in an article and image gallery in [Sky and Telescope Magazine's](#) May 2008 issue. The sampling will present just a few of the more than 300 photos already in the online collection.

### **Second International Sidewalk Astronomy Night (ISAN)**

The Second International Sidewalk Astronomy Night will be held this year on April 12, and everyone interested in bringing astronomy to the public is encouraged to join in. Organized by AWB Affiliate Sidewalk Astronomers, this year's event coincides with another worldwide effort, Yuri's Night, a long-time annual event that celebrates man's first spaceflight that is organized by another AWB Affiliate.

For complete information on International Astronomy Sidewalk Night go to

[www.sidewalkastronomynight.com](http://www.sidewalkastronomynight.com).

There you'll find a map of participants around the world. Click on the globe on the page titled "Take Part - Join In!" to register your event. Volunteers are needed to help make this year's ISAN a success.