

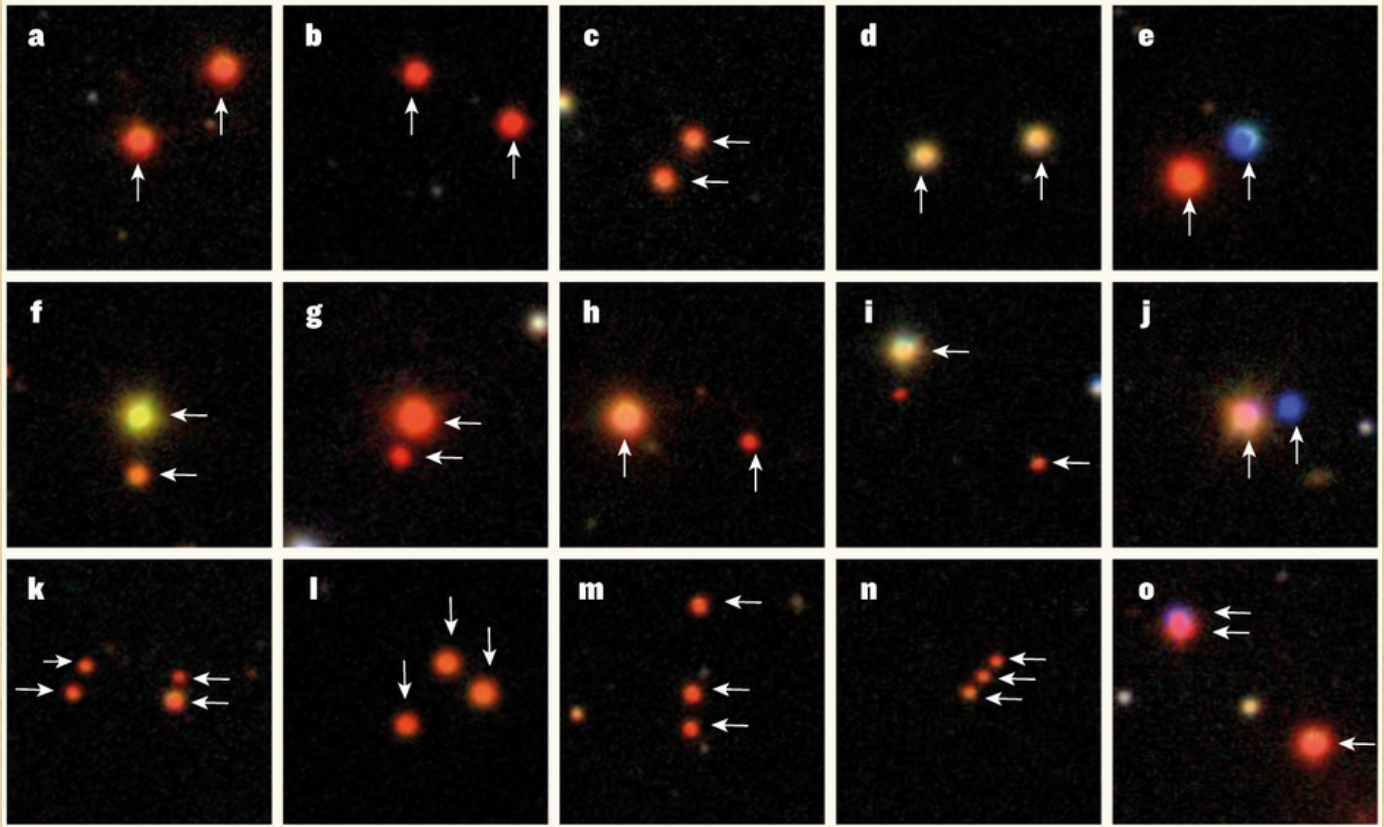
Eagle Valley Astronomical Society

Presents:

Discovering Double Stars

Thursday, April 11, 2013—7:30 to 9:00pm

**At Walking Mountains Science Center,
318 Walking Mountains Lane, Avon CO**



Colorful double and multiple stars are among the most popular targets for backyard telescopes. Thanks to their orbital motion and the laws of physics, they've been fundamental keys for understanding the true nature of stars. Amazingly, the actual *masses* of double-star systems have been weighed by *balancing* them, effectively, on delicate spider web! Local astronomer John Briggs will explain and demonstrate this with actual historical instruments. He will also show how to find and see some famous star systems by eye, binoculars, and telescopes. Seeing them well involves a revelation of the wave nature of light, a profound aspect of Nature. This will be underscored by the unsurpassed eloquence of several nineteenth century scientists who described the colorful beauty of these objects. An additional highlight will be the story of HUT Observatory's recent role in the discovery of a new "contact binary" double star system -- an extreme example of a double star that is nevertheless only beginning to hint at the exotic astrophysical nature of many of these systems.

Walking Mountains Science Center: (970) 827-9725 | info@walkingmountains.org

John W. Briggs, HUT Observatory: (970) 328-6228 | john.w.briggs@gmail.com

www.walkingmountains.org

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