

**"Citizen Scientists Track Down New Planets"**  
**By Raphael Rosen**  
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The Kepler mission is on a roll. Launched in 2009, NASA's planet-hunting space telescope has found gobs of exotic worlds orbiting faraway stars. In fact, at a Wyoming conference earlier this month, the Kepler team announced the discovery of 500 exoplanet candidates, beyond the 1,200 in hand as of February, an embarrassment of riches that would make any astronomer smile.

What's not as well known is that "citizen scientists" are playing a crucial role in this intergalactic treasure hunt. A paper in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society details how volunteers helping with Planet Hunters (a Zooniverse) might have uncovered the existence of two more exoplanets that automated computer detectors had overlooked. Astronomers now plan to study these candidates more closely.

For the full article, go to:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/community/skyblog/newsblog/130789458.html>