1163-57-1040   **Thomas Kindred*** (`thomas.kindred@unl.edu`), 2844 Washington St., Lincoln, NE 68502.

Symmetries of alternating link exteriors, spatial graphs, and branched surfaces. Preliminary report.

Menasco-Thistlethwaite observed, in the 1991 announcement of their proof of the flyping theorem, that "any element of the mapping class group of the pair $(S^3, [\text{an alternating link } L])$ must be "obvious", in the sense that it must arise from flypes and symmetries of the planar graph underlying the diagram" of L. I will unpack some of the geometric content of this observation by relating the symmetries of alternating link exteriors to symmetries of certain spatial graphs and branched surfaces. (Received September 14, 2020)

1