



The Newsletter of United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey

FOCUS

www.uacnj.org

Editor: Diane Jeffer, astrodiane@gmail.com

Fall 2009



UACNJ Facilities in Jenny Jump State Forest
Photo by Gil Jeffer

Starquest and UACNJ Symposium October 16-17-18

Diane Jeffer, NWJAA, UACNJ Vice President

Events will be held from Noon to 6 PM on Saturday and Sunday at the UACNJ facilities in Jenny Jump State Forest to complement Starquest activities at nearby Hope Conference and Renewal Center. The UACNJ events will include lectures, solar observing, exhibits, a geology display and hike, and a practicum on observing with binoculars. Food will be available for purchase. Contact Jim Norton at norton@optonline.net if you have unused astronomy equipment that you would like to sell at the swap table.

For more information about the Symposium, including a tri-fold registration brochure to share with your club, please see www.uacnj.org. The registration discount ends October 1.

If you can help during the symposium please contact Jim at norton@optonline.net.

The twentieth annual Starquest, sponsored by Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton (AAAP), begins at 5 PM on Friday and ends at noon on Sunday. It includes camping, a Deep Sky Observing Contest, a raffle and door prizes, and plenty of stargazing opportunities.

More information about Starquest, including registration details, can be found at www.princetonastronomy.org.

UACNJ Board of Directors

President

Ron Russo (MMAS, SSG)

Vice President

Diane Jeffer (NWJAA)

Secretary

Bill Eberly (MMAS)

Treasurer

Jim Norton (NWJAA)

Trustee 2007-2009

Warren Westura (SHAA)

Trustee 2008-2010

Walter Rothaug (RAC)

Trustee 2009-2011

Dale Gary (AAI)

Credentials Committee

Ron Russo (MMAS)

Finance Committee

Karl Hricko (AAI)

Observatory Committee

Gil Jeffer (NWJAA)

Communications Committee

Sherwood Waggy (NWJAA)

Membership Committee

Diane Jeffer (NWJAA)

Upcoming Events

October 16-17-18

Starquest and Symposium

October 31

Final public night of 2009

November 7—Noon

Board meeting

All Observers welcome

Club Memberships

The 2010 Club Membership Form and fee are due by January 15, 2010 in order to have your club listed on the 2010 Observer Form.

To access the form, which includes a list of the benefits of club membership, please visit www.uacnj.org.

ITEK Update

Gil Jeffer, NWJAA, UACNJ Observatory Chair

A link to progress updates on the ITEK telescope joint project with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) can be found on the homepage at www.uacnj.org. A team of workers and volunteers have been working to prepare the Itek site for the foundation pour. Thank you to the following:

Andrew Gerrard, Associate Professor NJIT

Peter and Austin Karcher, Karcher Construction

Ron Petersen Excavating

Equipment

- Alan Midkiff (NWJAA, UACNJ) - vibrating compactor
- Jim Norton (NWJAA, AAI, UACNJ) - power washer
- John Walters - Symons forms

Dig #1 Volunteers (May 2009)

- David Jeffer
- Gil Jeffer (NWJAA, UACNJ)
- Nor Schramm (NWJAA, UACNJ)

Dig #2 Volunteers (September 2009)

- Amaru Alzogaray (AAI, UACNJ)
- Dale Gary (NJIT, AAI, UACNJ)
- Gil Jeffer (NWJAA, UACNJ)
- Joe Molnar (SSG)
- Jules Papp (RAC, UACNJ)
- Ron Russo (SSG, UACNJ)
- Anthony Teti (NJIT)
- Warren Westura (SHAA, UACNJ)

2009 Dark Sky Award

Warren Westura, SHAA

On August 19, United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey (UACNJ) presented its Third Annual Good Lighting Award to Mayor Louis Lanzerotti and the Township of Harding. The award, presented to an individual, group, or organization that makes extraordinary effort to preserve dark skies, was presented to Mayor Lanzerotti and former mayor John Murray representing the Township of Harding. The award recognizes the consideration of good lighting design and the effort extended to utilize illumination fixtures that cut glare, eliminate energy waste, and maintain dark skies over the new township hall, library, and skating rink. The results of this effort allow the skies over Harding Township to remain one of the few spots on the U.S. eastern seaboard that is free of light pollution. The resulting dark skies are a quality-of-life benefit shared by all who live in and pass through the township.

This award is particularly meaningful in 2009, the International Year of Astronomy. It was presented by Sherwood Waggy, the UACNJ Dark-Sky Chairman, and last year's winner, Nic Platt of Hartley Farms Partners, in an era of near universal encroachment of electronics and technology, every effort to maintain clear, dark skies and glare-free lighting while saving energy is noteworthy, and this example by Harding Township is clearly the best our organization has found in the state for both effort and results.

For further information about dark skies or to recommend an individual, group, or organization for the 2010 Dark Sky Award, please contact Sherwood Waggy at Sherwood.waggy@optonline.net.



Mayor Lanzerotti, Sherwood Waggy, John Murray, Nic Platt
Photo by Warren Westura

Sustaining Observers

Thank you to each of the following who made a donation to UACNJ by becoming Sustaining Observers in 2009:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Vladimir Alexandrov | Gil Jeffer |
| Amaru Alzogaray | Mike Luciuk |
| Ann Blazier | Walter Rothaug |
| Kevin Conod | Ray Shapp |
| Jim DeLillo | Toby Terranova |
| Bill Eberly | Marcus Valdez |
| Dale Gary | Lois Walters |

Observer and Team Leader Training

Gil Jeffer, NWJAA, UACNJ Observatory Chair

It is important for Observers and Team Leaders to attend training sessions before each observing season to review procedures and renew their qualification status. This year, several sessions were held in March and procedures were put into place to orient new Observers. Dates for 2010 training sessions, which will include qualification for the solar telescope, will be announced in the next issue of Focus.