
United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey Newsletter



UACNJ Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the UACNJ will be held on Saturday, October 3, 1992 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon at the Stella-Della-Valley VI Star Party at Camp Onas in Ottsville, PA at the invitation of the Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association who will host. Please try to have representatives from your club there. If your representative is there for just the UACNJ meeting there will be no charge. If they are attending the event, the regular charges will apply. Some of the discussion items will be:

- the UACNJ Messier Certificate
- the 1993 Calendar
- State-wide observing or research projects
- Election of Officers for 1993
- Light Pollution Update

Light Pollution Quickie

The Light Pollution Study Commission Bill that was not signed by Governor Florio earlier this year has been re-introduced.

A golf course in New Jersey apparently has such bright lights (to golf at night?) that people across the Hudson River are complaining of the illumination keeping them awake at night. This could have light pollution implications at the federal level.

A "Turn on your lights" day was aired in late August on Princeton and Philadelphia area TV stations inspiring citizens to illuminate everything in the name of security.

Details in the next UACNJ Newsletter.

UACNJ 1993 Slate of Officers

The nominating committee will present the following 1993 slate of UACNJ officers at the October 3, 1992 meeting.

President:	Larry Smith (AAAP)
Vice Pres.:	Grace Casalino (NJAG)
Secretary:	Karen Roundy (HAAA)
Treasurer:	Wayne Zuhl (AAI)

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Stella-Della-Valley VI

UACNJ's newest member, the Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association, will be hosting their annual Stella-Della-Valley VI Star Party on the weekend of October 2-4. There will be observing, a swap table, vendors, door prizes, etc. The Saturday night speaker will be Plasma Cosmologist, Eric J. Lerner. There will also be other amateur astronomy speakers. Continental breakfast is available mornings, and a Pizza dinner Saturday evening. Sites for tents and campers are available as well as some indoor accommodations. Contact Ed Radomski (215) 822-8312, or Bob Post (215) 322-8284 for further details and registration.

Astronomy Awareness Day

Astronomy Awareness Day will be held this year on or about Saturday, September 26. Each club is encouraged to interface with the public to promote anti-light pollution activities. Several IDA informational bulletins are being made available for distribution by each club. This is an event where the members of each club can mingle locally with the public, advertise themselves, and try to promote darker skies. Although some feel that NJ is a light polluted lost cause, without some deterrents and legislation with respect to the extravagant lighting in our state, everyone interested in celestial viewing will have to migrate to Maine, or become solar observers. It's important, get involved.

Doing it together

Its has been noted by a number of amateur astronomers, that I have talked to, that since the

creation of the UACNJ a few years ago, several New Jersey clubs have been getting together to do astronomy. Not only during the larger events, such as the Astronomy Day Symposium put on by AAI in the spring, or the Princeton Clubs' New Jersey StarQuest, but with observing and projects as well. This summer AAI members got together with HAAA for observing in the darker skies near Hopatcong, while AAAP held a joint star party with CAC in August. Members of STAR attended an AAI research committee meeting to help them work on a meteor observing project.

This is what UACNJ is all about. By communicating, discussing ideas, and observing with different groups, all the New Jersey area clubs can benefit, no matter what their size. Those who want to observe in dark locations, and who doesn't, can find those locations with help from other clubs who are in those locations. Amateurs who wish to hone their observing, or astrophotographic techniques, can talk to a broader number of people from which to draw knowledge, and possibly a different point of view. And those who wish to do more serious projects can get in touch with others who have a similar interest.

Looking for NJ area speakers.

One of the advantages of the UACNJ is its state-wide speaker's bureau, the first copy of which was distributed at New Jersey Star-Quest. The major benefit to small clubs is an inexpensive pool of presenters upon which to draw to make their general meetings more interesting. The bureau is a plus to the larger clubs as well, offering a wider draw for speakers at their special events.

If you give presentations on astronomically related topics, or know someone who does, send a letter to: Barry Malpas, 20 Helen Street, Warren, NJ 07059-5817. Please include: speaker's name, affiliation, presentation topic(s), and a contact phone number. This information will be distributed to the UACNJ club representatives, and hence, their program chairpersons.

New Jersey Astronomy Clubs

AAAP The Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc. Meet on the second Tuesday for their monthly meetings at Peyton Hall on the Princeton campus and have their observatory open every Friday evening, weather permitting. Call (609) 737-2575 for information and observatory directions.

AAI Amateur Astronomers, Inc. Monthly Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the Campus Center Auditorium on the campus of Union County College, Cranford, NJ. Sperry Observatory is open most other Fridays to the public from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Call evenings (908) 709-7520 for information, or (201) 276-STAR for a sky message.

BMAA The Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association is located in Bucks County, PA, and are known for their annual Fall Stella-Della-Valley event. For information, meeting schedule and times, call (215)598-7673.

CAC The Concordia Astronomy Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Concordia club house, in Jamesburg. CAC invites members from other clubs to attend their presentations. However, special security arrangements must be made. Please call for information first (609) 655-1422.

HAAA The Hopatcong Area Amateur Astronomers meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at Hudson Guild Farm, on Sparta-Stanhope Road, in Hopatcong. Public events and special presentations are held several times each month at various locations and are scheduled during the week as well as on weekends. For information call (201) 770-1625.

MMAS The Morris Museum Astronomical Society holds their monthly meetings at the museum in Morristown. Their Solar observing session will be at 6 DeForest Ave. E. Hanover, NJ. For further information about their events call (201) 368-1848.

MTC The Montclair Telescope Club is an observing group that meets periodically at a dark-sky location at Kemah Lake in Sussex County. For information about their club and next meeting date call (201)447-2581.

NJAA The New Jersey Astronomical Association of High Bridge holds its monthly meetings at their Observatory at Vorhees State Park. Call (201) 638-8500 for information.

NJAG Public nights are held at the Observatory at Rifle Camp Park, Rifle Camp Road, West Patterson, NJ. For information or directions, call the Nature Center at (201) 523-0024. Business meetings and program are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

SHAA The Sheep Hill Astronomical Association meets the 1st Sunday of the month at the Boonton Town Hall Community Room. Observatory Open House is on the 3rd Friday of the month. Call (201) 335-5990 for information.

SJAC The South Jersey Astronomy Club meets at the Vineland City Hall on the first Thursday of every month. Call (609) 825-2196 for further information.

STAR The STAR Astronomical Society, Inc. hold their monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at the Holmdel Park Activity Center in Holmdel and hold bimonthly observing weekends. For further information call (201) 536-4663 or (201) 264-1723.

WAS The Willingboro Astronomical Society is a group devoted primarily to observation and astrophotography. They hold their meetings at the Willingboro Municipal Building on the first and second Friday of each month. Call (609) 627-3043 or (609) 829-4345 for information.