

# THE FOCUS

## The Official Newsletter of United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey

August 1996

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### It's Here Again, Stella-Della X

The Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association will be hosting this year's annual Stella-Della Valley Conference, on October 11<sup>th</sup> thru 13<sup>th</sup>. The gathering will be held at Camp Onas in Ottsville, PA.

This is one of the very best gatherings of its kind, a fun-filled weekend of camping, discussions of astronomy, observing and friends. Additionally, skies at Camp Onas are rumored to host naked eye stars as faint as 7<sup>th</sup> magnitude.

For more information contact Ed Melnick at (215) 443-7929.

### AAI Running Two Trips To 1998 Eclipse

AAI is sponsoring two different trips to observe the February 26, 1998 total solar eclipse. There are both land and sea trips available.

The land trip consists of seven nights in Aruba. Airfare, hotel and transportation to the eclipse site are all included in the \$1550 cost.

If you're more inclined to observing the eclipse from the ocean, AAI is also running an Eclipse Cruise. The Cruise ship departs from Miami and will sail about the Caribbean for nine nights. The cost of the sea trip is approx. \$1700.

If you interested in going on either one of these trips you'll want to put in your deposit right away, as space is extremely limited. For more info on the land trip contact Joe Arcaro at 908-889-6607 (evenings). For cruise information call 908-248-2378 or 908-855-6941

### June Board Meeting

*Summary of the UACNJ Board of  
Directors Meeting, June 15 1996  
AAAP Jersey Starquest star party, near  
Beemerville NJ*

President Ralph Marantino opened the meeting at 10:10AM. VP Ron Russo seated the delegates and declared a quorum. There were no club announcements from the delegates.

Ron Russo reported that 13 of last year's 17 clubs had renewed memberships. Despite repeated contacts, the remainder had not responded. As Chair of the Constitution Committee, Ron reported that work was in progress, and they were looking for additional input. They will meet on June 29<sup>th</sup> to draft a new constitution.

The Observatory Committee (Barry Malpas) reported that the foundations were dug, and framing for the concrete pads fabricated. On June 22<sup>nd</sup> a work party will place the forms and backfill the foundations. This work is on schedule. For other Observatory projects: rugs were picked up, Don Greenwood is assembling a CCD camera at the CCD Workshop and Herb Johnson reported the Radio Telescope is progressing. Improvements to the observatory were discussed. The soda machine had a reported gross income of \$40 to \$50. The AOS club star party at Jenny

Jump had 25 in attendance. They made a donation to cover utility costs.

The Finance Committee (Larry Smith) is writing an Exxon grant proposal. The Membership Committee (Saul Moroz) reported 49 paid members, this number is down from last year. Donations from visiting members and the public were discussed. The Publications Committee's (Wayne Zuhl) newsletter was complimented.

In New Business: By unanimous resolution, the Board of Directors asked the Secretary to draft a letter of thanks from UACNJ to Bob Shandor, who provided the bulldozer and backhoe, as well as its paid operators. Barry Malpas will chair the Nominating Committee for next year's UACNJ elections. He could use additional members.

The next meeting of the UACNJ Board of Directors was set for Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at the Jenny Jump Symposium at 10AM. Any new business items should be reported to Ralph Marantino for inclusion on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM.

*Submitted by Herbert R. Johnson,  
Recording Secretary*

### UACNJ

### Board Meeting

*The next meeting will be held on  
Sat., September 7, 1996 at  
10 a.m.*

*The meeting will be held  
at Jenny Jump  
All are welcome to attend the  
meeting.*

*For directions call Barry  
Malpas at: 908-755-6932*



# THE JUMP NOTES

Several events will be taking place in the near future at the UACNJ Consortium Observatory at Jenny Jump State Forest in Hope, NJ.

There will be regular **Saturday Work Sessions** every Saturday except September 7<sup>th</sup>. Work sessions usually begin at 10 a.m. and run all day. During these Saturday work parties, renovations are made to the house, observatories as well as the grounds and anything else that needs work. If you haven't yet attended a work session, you really should. You'll not only be helping with the site but it's a great way to meet people from other clubs (and not bad exercise, either!)

In mid October of 1995 we received the official word from the State that the site plan had been approved. This means that five new observatories have begun construction. We have begun setting up work crews to help dig and pour the foundations. If all goes as planned we will be pouring the concrete for the foundations in late September or early October. If you have any spare plywood or 2x4's they are greatly needed! Please come out and lend a hand!

We need your support to make the Observatory a success. If you're already a supporting member of the Consortium then you know that yearly dues are due. Regular membership is \$20, Sustaining memberships cost \$50. Your dues help pay the bills that are incurred at the Observatory to keep it operating. This may sound like a beg-a-thon, but I assure you that it is not, that money is needed to help keep this fine dark sky site available to amateur astronomers. If you are not a Consortium member and would like to become one, contact Barry Malpas at 908-755-6932 for more info.



*Place Your Club  
Announcements Here!!!*

Submissions for The Focus should be sent to:

**The Focus**  
c/o Wayne Zuhl  
717 Brookside Place  
Cranford, NJ 07016

or via email at:  
[zuhlw@soho.ios.com](mailto:zuhlw@soho.ios.com)

All news regarding club events will be published on a first-come-first-serve basis.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual UACNJ Symposium

This year's UACNJ Symposium will take place on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, from 1 p.m. until well into the evening. The Symposium will be held at the UACNJ Consortium Observatory at Jenny Jump State Forest.

This year's symposium will consist of several speakers who will be discussing general and technical topics. General presentations will be on display, such as antique telescopes and a meteorite exhibit. Technical talks will be held on various topics such as:

- *Eclipses*
- *Radio Astronomy*
- *Astrophotography*
- *Deep Sky Observing*

There will also be a flea market for the buying and selling of ones astronomical wares.

During the day, weather permitting of course, there will be telescopes set up for safe solar viewing. Inside, several computers will be running demos of various astronomical shareware. There will also be displays of Astrophotography, CCD Imaging and other projects done by UACNJ members. The Greenwood Observatory, housing a 16" telescope will be open for your perusal.

After dark, once again weather permitting, many telescopes will be set up for observing. The 16" will also be used for observing.

Refreshments will be available. Contact Barry Malpas for more information.

## UACNJ to Host NDSOS

### Regional Gathering

On October 12<sup>th</sup> UACNJ will be hosting the 1996 *Northeast Regional NDSOS Deep Sky Forum* at the Consortium Observatory at Jenny Jump State Forest. For those of you not familiar with the NDSOS, it is the National Deep Sky Observers Society.

NDSOS members are invited to arrive by 11 a.m. and they will open the doors to everyone else at 1 p.m. This years speakers will be Wayne Augenstien, discussing his exploits in astrophotography, Karl Hricko expounding on his work with the Hubble Space Telescope and the continuing analysis of the peculiar galaxy-quasar association of NGC 4319 and Markarian 205 and Naomi Bates will be reviewing her work with high velocity gasses in galaxies as observed with Radio Telescopes. This should make for a fascinating afternoon.

There is no charge for attendance. There will also be a regular public night and star party that evening. All are invited to attend.

## Light Pollution Study Commission Submits Report to the State

*From a summary by  
John Batinsey*

In 1993, the state legislature established the NJ Light Pollution Study Commission to consider the problem of light pollution and the benefits of reducing it. (Thanks in part to a letter writing campaign by amateur astronomers.) The Commission first met in March 1995 and submitted their results to Governor Whitman in April of 1996.

Their report stated the hazards and wastes created by poor and excess lighting as well as 12 recommendations to reduce light pollution and its adverse effects.

Recommendations were made for both the State and Local levels. For a copy of the report, contact the NJ Office of Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630.