



FOCUS

The Newsletter of United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey, Inc.

Editor: Diane Jeffer info@uacnj.org www.uacnj.org www.facebook.com/UACNJ April 2018

2018 SEASON BEGINS APRIL 7

Our volunteers are getting ready for our season opener on Saturday April 7. Join us as Lonny Buinis of Raritan Valley Community College presents *What's Up in the April Sky?* After Lonny's presentation, you'll be able to view a variety of astronomical objects through our telescopes (weather permitting).

Our weekly Saturday evening programs begin at 8:00 PM and include a 45-60 minute presentation followed by observing on UACNJ equipment until 10:30 PM.

A complete list of our scheduled programs for 2018 can be found on the next page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7

First public event of 2018

April 14

Astronomy Day at UACNJ

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Planning Committee

Karl Hricko (AAI, NWJAA)
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee 2016-2018

Gregg Waldron (NWJAA)

Trustee 2017-2019

Paul Wojcik (NWJAA)

Trustee 2018-2020

Earl Pursell (LVAAS)

OUR MEMBER CLUBS

Amateur Astronomers Association of New York (AAA)
aaa.org, Brooklyn, NY

Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton (AAAP)
princetonastronomy.org, Princeton, NJ

Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI)
asterism.org, Cranford, NJ

Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomical Society (LVAAS)
lvaas.org, Allentown, PA

Morris Museum Astronomical Society (MMAS)
mmastrosociety.org, Morristown, NJ

New Jersey Institute of Technology Club (NJIT)
astronomy.njit.edu, Newark, NJ

North Jersey Astronomical Association (NJAA)
njaa.org, High Bridge, NJ

North Jersey Astronomical Group (NJAG)
njastro.org, Montclair, NJ

North West Jersey Amateur Astronomers (NWJAA)
nwjaa.org, Blairstown, NJ

Rockland Astronomy Club (RAC)
rocklandastronomy.com, Suffern, NY

Sheep Hill Astronomical Association (SHAA)
sheephillastro.org, Boonton, NJ

Skyland Stargazers (SSG)
skylandstargazers.tripod.com, Morris County, NJ

Have you joined your local amateur astronomy club? Members of clubs that participate in UACNJ are eligible to become volunteers at UACNJ. Volunteer Observers help with public programs and have access to the UACNJ facilities 24/7 for personal observing and astrophotography. Join our community of amateur astronomers!

Please see our website for a [list of our Member Clubs](#) with links to their websites. Also check out these new features on our website:

- A [locator map](#) showing where our Member Clubs meet.
- A [list of upcoming events](#) at our Member Clubs.

THANK YOU

Donations to UACNJ are tax deductible! You may donate when you visit or on our website at any time.

2018 PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT UACNJ

Date	Topic	Speaker
4/7/18	What's Up in the April Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
4/14/18	Stories of the Sky	Jason Kendall, WPU
4/21/18	Ham Radio and the 2017 Total Solar Eclipse	Nathaniel Frissell, NJIT
4/28/18	'Oumuamua: The First Known Interstellar Asteroid	Dale Gary, NJIT
5/5/18	What's Up in the May Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
5/12/18	A Cruise Through Space	Karl Hricko, AAI & NWJAA
5/19/18	Astronomy for Beginners	Ken Taylor, NWJAA
5/26/18	The Life and Legacy of Charles Messier	Bill Murray, AAAP
6/2/18	What's Up in the June Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
6/9/18	Eclipses, Transits, and Occultations	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
6/16/18	Backyard Astronomy	Paul Wojcik, NWJAA
6/23/18	The First Three Minutes of the Big Bang	Jason Kendall, WPU
6/30/18	Photographing Dark Sky and Urban Landscapes	Stan Honda, AAA
7/7/18	What's Up in the July Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
7/14/18	Ancient Astronomy (Aliens not included)	Sean Post, NWJAA
7/21/18	The Life (and Death) of Stars	Walt Windish, NJAG & RAC
7/28/18	Looking for Another Earth	Karl Hricko, AAI & NWJAA
8/4/18	What's Up in the August Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
8/11/18	Meteor Showers	Tony Fadoul, AAA
8/18/18	You've got a telescope! Now what?	Paul Fischer, NWJAA
8/25/18	Family Field Day - details coming soon	
9/1/18	What's Up in the September Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
9/8/18	Exoplanets	Mary Lou West, NJAG
9/15/18	Meteorites and the Formation of the Earth	Mark Zdziarski, NJAG
9/22/18	Astronomy for Beginners	Ken Taylor, NWJAA
9/29/18	Northern Lights	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
10/6/18	What's Up in the October Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
10/13/18	Some of the Strangest Objects in Our Universe	Walt Windish, NJAG & RAC
10/20/18	Black Holes: the Warp and Woof of Spacetime	Jason Kendall, WPU
10/27/18	How to Choose Your First Telescope	Bill Murray, AAAP

OTHER NEWS FROM UACNJ

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING ALL WINTER

Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, we have been able to complete several projects during the months when the observatory was closed. Among them: recessed ceiling lights have been installed in our lecture area, wireless internet to use in the observing field has been upgraded, deteriorating wheels on the roll-off roofs of our observatories have been replaced with phenolic wheels and side wheels have been added to improve roof alignment during roll-off.

The refurbishment of our Greenwood Observatory and its CAVE telescope continued over the winter. The telescope has been dismantled, sandblasted, and re-painted, and hardware has been replaced. The observatory structure has been refurbished, leaks have been eliminated, and the interior has been painted. We expect to have this telescope back in service for public programs sometime in May.

Plans are moving forward to build a 16' x 16' observatory to house the 25" Midkiff telescope which is being donated to UACNJ. Two new observing pads will also be installed as part of this project. A completion date for the new observatory has not been set.

The Nor'easter in early March knocked out power at our facilities for nine days; fortunately our generator was up to the task and we were able to protect our buildings and equipment from freezing.

MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT UACNJ

UACNJ participates in the Amazon Smile program. Bookmark the link at the bottom of our homepage to use whenever you shop online at Amazon.

Did you know that you can donate your car, boat, or other vehicle to UACNJ? Find a link to DonationLine at the bottom of our home page.

ASTRONOMY FOR KIDS

In addition to the Space Place newsletter from NASA, you'll find information about telescopes, plus lists of recommended books, websites, software, and more on our Astronomy for Kids page at <http://uacnj.org/kidsastro.php>.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

UACNJ volunteers recently participated in Maker's Day at the Northeast Branch of the Warren County Library.

Look for UACNJ at the Green Fair in Hope Township on April 14 and at the Pequest Open House on June 2.



Gil Jeffer & Karl Hricko represented UACNJ at the NEBWCL Maker's Day on March 10.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Everyone is welcome to join the NJAstronomers email list that UACNJ established more than a decade ago. Individuals and clubs from throughout the region share information on this list.

Write to NJAstronomers+subscribe@groups.io to join.

NATGEO TOURISM

Check out [our own page](#) on National Geographic's *Scenic, Wild Delaware River Geotourism Program* website. The NatGeo website is your gateway for finding all the things there are to do nearby.

delawareriver.natgeotourism.com

CLUB REMINDERS

- ▶ Please ensure that your club is represented at each meeting of the UACNJ Board of Directors.
- ▶ Club reps are encouraged to share news about club events via the NJAstronomers (see above) and UACNJ (Observers only) email lists.

FOLLOW UACNJ ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



www.Facebook.com/UACNJ



www.Instagram.com/UACNJ

2017 UACNJ STATISTICS

Public Visitors: over 2,500

Donations: \$8,053

Volunteer Visits: more than 600