
United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey - Newsletter

September 1993 - Vol. 4, No. 3

UACNJ Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the UACNJ will be held on Saturday, October 23, 1993 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon at the Sperry Observatory, Union County College, Cranford. AAI are the hosts. Please try to have a representative from your club attend. Much is to be discussed about Jenny Jump and other topics at this meeting.



UACNJ 1994 Slate of Officers

The nominating committee will present the following 1994 slate of officers. The positions of VP and Secretary, at this printing, are not verified, and hence are being left blank. Due to the incorporation of the UACNJ as a nonprofit corporation, three trustees (each normally for a three-year term) will also be voted on. However, this year staggered terms will be set so in the future only one trustee will come up for vote each subsequent year.

President:	Larry Smith (AAAP)
Vice-President:	-
Secretary:	-
Treasurer:	Wayne Zuhl (AAI)
Trustee (1994 term):	Barry Malpas (AAI, HAAA)
Trustee (1994-5 term):	Ron Russo (MMAS)
Trustee (1994-6 term):	Ralph Marantino (AAAP)

Astronomy Awareness Weekend

Astronomy Awareness Weekend is September 24-26 at each of the participating club locations. This event is to educate the public about the local astronomy clubs and the problems associated with light pollution. Each club may select Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or any combination of the three weekend days to have presentations for the public. Any club who wishes to have their event included in the Newark Star Ledger article must get the who, what, where, and when to Rick Kurczewski (201) 437-8255 by September 17. For IDA distribution literature call Barry Malpas (908) 755-6932.

HELP at Jenny Jump

For the past several months amateurs from many of the UACNJ clubs have been trekking up to Jenny Jump State Forest every other Saturday to work on the state observatory project which consists of refurbishing a home into lecture and meeting rooms, office and computer room, etc., and

building the first shed observatory. Although much has been accomplished (electrical and phone lines corrected, plumbing and bathroom fixed, new chimney and roof, puttying and painting) several projects, such as heating and insulation, must be completed by the end of October before the cold weather begins. If you have experience with heating systems or plumbing, or can solder pipe, know a little carpentry, or can use a paint brush, we need your help badly because time is growing short. We will be holding work sessions every Saturday during September and October, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Jenny Jump to complete this needed work.

The Jenny Jump project also needs more observers to sign up. Although there will be just a few programs this year, we need the support of many more of you in this worthwhile project. We are also looking for an architect that can help us with plans for future observatories. There are few dark sky locations left in New Jersey where amateurs can go to observe, do astrophotography or research, and this one will have sleeping accommodations.

Jenny Jump Public Nights

The following three Saturday evenings, October 16 (rain date 24), November 13, and December 11, will be the only dates programs will be presented by the UACNJ at the Jenny Jump Observatory site this year. The public portion will run from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and will include a short slide presentation and sky observing with observer's telescopes. Members of UACNJ astronomy clubs are encouraged to come and view from the site, observe the progress made during the summer, and stay beyond 10 p.m. to observe from one of the few dark sky locations left in New Jersey.

Light Pollution Update

■ **Highway Lighting in New Jersey** - As most of you know, Gov. Florio signed Bill S-342 into law on March 17, 1993 to establish a Light Pollution Study Commission. The Governor made appointments to the committee, but the Senate Judiciary Committee and the State Senate must confirm all of the appointments. This was not done by the time the legislature recessed in June for the summer. Hopefully, this will be a high priority item when the state senate resumes action in September.

There is an added way to voice club and individual opinion concerning light pollution. Many of you are aware of our latest nemesis, the offset expressway light (shaped like a dentist's mirror with a tiltable elliptical shaped lamp) and the high mast cluster lights that populate our state highways and intersections of interstate and state highways (i.e. I78, I80, I287.) Due to a lack of full cut-off shielding, all of these lights are copious with light and glare which impedes motorists visibility and causes considerable sky glow. I have heard numerous complaints from individuals from UACNJ clubs who have spoken with family and friends, especially

the elderly, who have difficulty, or have given up driving at night, because of poor visibility caused by unshielded lighting. Perhaps you know others who have experienced similar problems.

We spend millions for graffiti riddled sound barriers, so why can't the NJDOT provide night lighting with full cutoff shielding to reduce roadway glare and sky-glow? In addition, any excessive lighting is "overkill" and does nothing to promote energy conservation. Now is the time to express your opinion. Write to:

Mr. Thomas M. Downs
Commissioner NJDOT, CN 600
Trenton, NJ 08625

■ **New Baseball Stadium** - An \$8 million, 4200 seat minor league baseball stadium, and future home of the New Jersey Cardinals, in Frankford Township, in rural Sussex County has recently been the subject of light pollution reductions discussions. Improperly implemented, this stadium could effect observing by the Hopatcong and Montclair clubs.

Fred Voight, an amateur astronomer, and principle participant concerning the construction of Skylands Park Sports and Recreation Center was very cooperative during a telephone conversation I had with him concerning the preservation of Sussex County's relatively dark night sky. I talked to Mr. Voight at length about UACNJ light pollution concerns and provided him with the names of sports lighting manufacturers recommended by the IDA. These manufacturers make low glare and low sky-glow sports lighting fixtures. I would like to take this time to thank Fred for his light pollution concerns - Rick Kurczewski, Light Pollution Chairman

Special Club Events

The the seventh annual Stella-Della-Valley star-party/camping event hosted by the Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association will be held October 15 - 17. Every attendee will have an opportunity to win a 3.5-inch Questar telescope. For information on registration, fees, overnight accommodations, etc., contact Ed Melnick, 1443 Devon Road, Warminster, PA 18974, or call (215) 443-7929.

The Rockland Astronomy Club is sponsoring an Astronomy Bermuda '94 Cruise which will take place from August 28 to September 4, 1994. for information and details contact Bob Slone (212) 807-7025.

UACNJ Messier Certificates

The UACNJ Messier Certificate program is to encourage amateurs to get involved in observing deep sky objects. For information contact Duane Degutis, P.O.Box 373,

Hopatcong, NJ, 07843, (201) 398-1039.

New Jersey Area 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 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 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 (908) 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 second Wednesday 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) 398-1039.

MMAS The Morris Museum Astronomical Society holds their monthly meetings at the museum in Morristown. 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 holds its meetings Saturday evenings at their Observatory at Vorhees State Park, High Bridge, NJ. Call (201) 638-8500 for information.

NJAG North Jersey Astronomical Group public nights are held at Montclair College, Montclair, NJ. For information or directions, call (201) 785-1865. Meetings and program are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

RAC The Rockland Astronomy Club holds its meetings on the third Saturday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at various locations. For information call (201) 768-6575.

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 (908) 536-4663 or (908) 264-1723.

Notices to the UACNJ Newsletter should be mailed c/o Barry Malpas, 20 Helen Street, Warren, NJ 07059.