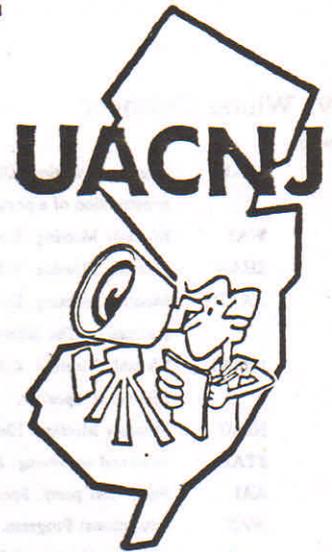

United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey Newsletter



Winter 1991

Volume 2
Number 1

How fared the Mars Astro-Vaganza?

Hosted by the New Jersey Astronomical Association of High Bridge, the Nov. 23rd Mars opposition event was unfortunately lightly attended due to expected inclement weather. However, for the two to three dozen who did show, Eric Jacoves of the Sheep Hill Astronomical Association gave an interesting slide presentation on the solar system, with emphasis on Mars. Later Al Witzgall, NJAA/AAI, discussed various techniques in planetary astrophotography, what to look for, type of telescope and camera equipment, film, etc. Al also gave out some of his astrophotography notes. Although the weather was cloudy, the skies did clear for almost two hours and Mars was observable through the observatory's 26-inch Newtonian reflector. A video tape of Mars was later shown as well as a Mars 3-D movie. Each in the the audience was loaned a pair of 3-D glasses. The images were those from the stereo-cameras of the Mars lander. The effect was "you-are-there". On Saturday, the 24th, another two-dozen guests showed up to a shortened version of the same. Kudos must be given to Ben Cavotta and his NJAA team for providing the organization, facility, and food, for this, the UACNJ's first sponsored state-wide event.

The Small Scope Observers

Trying to identify all the astronomy clubs in New Jersey in order to let everyone know about the the UACNJ, I came upon a group calling itself the Small Scope Observers Association. I recently contacted Robert Browning who filled me in on the organization. The SSOA is actually a network of amateur astronomers devoted to using and promoting research and observation with small telescopes (usually 6-inches and less). Although Robert lives in New Jersey, the group is national with several hundred members. If you have an interest in any aspect of observing, Robert says they have contacts with many people doing variable stars, meteor observing, double star work, etc. who may be of help. Robert's number is (609)547-9487.

Spot-Light on Light Pollution

Rick Kurczewski, UACNJ light pollution chairman, has reported the New Jersey Bill S-2608, the bill to establish a Light Pollution Study Commission, passed through the State Senate Quality Committee on December 3rd. Although far from completion, this is a milestone since only one in thirty bills make it this far. The Bill still needs your support. A letter directed to the Honorable John Lynch, President of the New Jersey State Senate, Trenton, NJ suggesting that Bill S-2608 be introduced before the senate would be most timely.

UACNJ Meeting of November 23

The fifth meeting of the United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey was held on Friday, Nov. 23, 1990 at the New Jersey Astronomical Association's North Branch facility at 10:00 a.m. just prior to the Mars Observation Event. 15 individuals from 7 clubs attended. The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Vice President Barry Malpas. Anthony Pisano of the nominating committee presented the 1991 slate. There were no nominations from the floor. The following

were elected to office for the year

1991: President - Ron Russo

(MMAS); Vice President - Barry Malpas (AAI); Secretary - Grace Casalino (NJAG); and Treasurer - Larry Smith (AAAP). Major topics of discussion were: A request for member clubs to help make their members known who give presentations for inclusion in the UACNJ the speaker's bureau; A state-wide event guideline was passed; April 20th Astronomy Day events; proposal of a September "Lights out for the Stars" dark-sky theme event; the possibility of the light pollution committee becoming the New Jersey section of the IDA; Correspondence and UACNJ stationary; and ideas for a state observatory. The next two meetings of the UACNJ will be held at the Morris Museum, Morristown, on January 5, and Sperry Observatory, Cranford, on April 20, both at 10:00 a.m.

Newest Observing Club in North Jersey

Hopatcong Area Amateur Astronomers (HAAA) was founded in April, 1990, and currently has 35 members. The regular monthly meeting is held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at Hudson Guild Farm, on Sparta-Stanhope Road, in Hopatcong. An Observing session follows, weather permitting. Public nights are on selected Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year at Hudson Guild Farm. For further information call Duane Degutis, (201) 398-1198, or Ken and Karen Roundy, (201) 770-1625 (co-founders).

New Jersey Planetariums

Although not astronomy clubs, the planetariums in New Jersey have at least one common goal with astronomy clubs, the interest and education of people in astronomy. The UACNJ Newsletter is sent to the following planetariums as a courtesy: New Jersey State Museum Planetarium, Trenton; Raritan Valley Community College Planetarium, North Branch; Trailside Nature and Science Center, Mountainside; Ocean County College, Robert Novins Planetarium, Toms River; and Newark Museum Planetarium, Newark.

UACNJ Speakers Bureau

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.

1991 Winter Calendar

January		
2	STAR	Members meeting. Discussion on telescope resolution and construction of a portable 14.25" Newtonian.
4	WAS	Monthly Meeting. 8:30 p.m.
6	SHAA	Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m.
8	AAAP	Monthly Meeting. Dr. Don Schneider, Space Telescope Institute on The Hubble Telescope.
	MMAS	Monthly Meeting. 8:00 p.m. John Scala, County College of Morris, is speaker.
9	NJAG	Monthly Meeting. Election night.
11	STAR	Weekend observing. Jan 11-12.
	AAI	Public star party. Sperry Observatory. 8:00 p.m.
	WAS	Educational Program. 8:30 p.m.
17	HAAA	Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Hudson Guild Farm.
18	STAR	Weekend observing. Jan 18-19.
	SHAA	Observatory Open House.
	AAI	Monthly Meeting. Rick Dilanian, Westchester Com. College, on "Solar Astrophotography and the Solar Maximum".
26	NJAA	Monthly Meeting. Speaker to be announced. 8:30 p.m.
February		
1	WAS	Monthly Meeting. 8:30 p.m.
3	SHAA	Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m.
6	STAR	Members meeting. Dr. John Balley, AT&T Bell Labs. on Submillimeter Astronomy and Cosmologies from Antarctica.
8	STAR	Weekend observing. Jan 8-9.
	WAS	Educational Program. 8:30 p.m.
12	AAAP	Monthly Meeting. Charles Gammie, Princeton University, on "The fate of the Earth".
	MMAS	Monthly Meeting. 8:00 p.m. Video on the Sun.
13	NJAG	Monthly Meeting. Program to be announced.
15	STAR	Weekend observing. Jan 15-16.
	SHAA	Observatory Open House.
	AAI	Monthly Meeting. Joe Caruso, Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, on "Mapping the Moon".
21	HAAA	Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Hudson Guild Farm.
23	NJAA	Monthly Meeting. Speaker to be announced. 8:30 p.m.
March		
1	WAS	Monthly Meeting. 8:30 p.m.
3	SHAA	Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m.
8	NJAG	Public Night. "Winter Sky". Rifle Camp Park Obs. 8-10 p.m.
	WAS	Educational Program. 8:30 p.m.
12	AAAP	Monthly Meeting. Members Night.
	MMAS	Monthly Meeting. Slide presentation on the universe.
13	NJAG	Monthly Meeting. Program to be announced.
15	SHAA	Observatory Open House.
	AAI	Monthly Meeting. Dr. George Munford, Tufts University, on "A tale of Two Telescopes", the Bruce telescopes.
	AAAP	Messier Marathon. At the Observatory. At dark.
21	HAAA	Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Hudson Guild Farm.
22	NJAG	Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Obs. 8-10 p.m.
23	NJAA	Monthly Meeting. Speaker to be announced. 8:30 p.m.

April

20 UACNJ Next UACNJ sponsored event. Astronomy Day hosted by AAI and SHAA, at Sperry Observatory, Cranford, NJ.

AAAP The Amateur Astronomers 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 Monthly Meetings are held at the Campus Center Auditorium, and Public Star Parties at Sperry Observatory. Both are on the campus of Union County College, Cranford, NJ. The Observatory is open every Friday to the public. Call evenings (908) 709-7520.

ASTRA The Astronomical Society of Toms River Area is home based at the Novins Planetarium, Ocean County College. For star party and other events at Novins call (201) 255-0343. For Miller Air Park star party information call (201) 370-1685.

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 nights are on selected Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year. For further information call (201) 398-1198 or (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 club information 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 Astronomy 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.

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 the meetings at the Willingboro Municipal Building on the 1st and 2nd Friday of each month. Call (609) 627-3043 or (609) 829-4345.