



MHAA

Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association November, 2018

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

President : Jack Chastain

Secretary: Jim Rockrohr

Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace

Publicity: Paul Chauvet

Speakers: Paul Granich

Vice President: Paul Granich

Treasurer: Karen Tulchinsky

Membership Coordinator: Caryn Sobel

Webmaster: Paul Chauvet

Outreach: (open)

College Liaison: Dr. Amy Forestell

Board of Directors: Joe Macagne, Karl Loatman, Steve Carey, Willie Yee

From the Editor: An apology to the secretary for accusing him of forgetting the minutes for the September. He sent me the minutes early because he was going to be away when I usually asked for them. Because I haven't been paying close attention to things the past few months I forgot he did that when the time came. Again, I apologize.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, September 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by past President Willie Yee in the Coykendall Science Center Auditorium at SUNY, New Paltz, NY. (Our current president, Jack Chastain, was not available but submitted his report through Willie.)

There were no official minutes to approve from the last meeting since there was no quorum at that meeting.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack has been working on transition documents and will distribute them for comments when ready. There are also some minor By-Law updates coming.

Membership: Caryn Sobel was not present

Treasurer: Karen Tulchinski was present. No report was given.

Publicity/ Webmaster: Paul Chauvet was present. There are no issues with the web page or MeetUp. Paul reported that he cannot continue as Publicity officer after the first of the year due to his teaching a class.

Outreach:

- Joe Macagne was not present.
- **Moonwalk on the Walkway:** September 21. Need scopes. Meet at the west entrance in Highland at about 6 PM.
- **Next Club Star Party:** October 5, 7 PM. Be sure to RSVP with car license plate number, make and model by the Thursday evening before the star party, even if there is only a remote chance that you will attend on Friday evening or Saturday, if postponed due to weather. It's better to have too many people on the list rather than someone who isn't registered.
- The Columbia Land Conservancy in Chatham would like us to help put on a program. It was suggested we refer them to the Albany Astronomy club as they are much closer.
- **Saugerties High School Star Party:** October 12 (rain date 10/19 or 10/26). Scopes needed.

Upcoming programs: The following information was shared:

- October: Eric Myers, "LIGO and Use of its Data".

Old Business:

- Club telescopes are available to paid-up members:
 1. If you have one of the club 'scopes, take a picture and send it to Jack so we can display them.
 2. 13" dobsonian, currently with Jack Chastain, is available.
 3. ETX125 maksutov, currently with Joe Macagne.
 4. 4" Tasco refractor on an EQ mount, currently with Jack who plans to junk it.
 5. A planetary camera and a "deep space" camera are available. See Willie.
- The Star Walk on the Walkway, Sept. 7, attracted over 2000 people.
- The last Club Star Party on Sept. 7 had 2 telescopes and about 20 people.

New Business:

- **(none)**

Observing Reports:

- Willie recently travelled to Los Angeles and JPL. Saw the Mars test ground and several of the rovers including the new 2020 rover. Also visited the Griffith Observatory.

Visitors/New Members:

There were about 27 people in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:03 PM. **The next meeting is on October 16th, 2018, in the Coykendall Auditorium at SUNY, New Paltz.**

The presentations that followed were "Sight Tube Mark II" by Eric Myers who is managing the physics labs and teaching at SUNY New Paltz, and "Naked Eye Comets" by Karl Loatman.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, October 2nd, 2018.

=====

MHAA Business Meeting Minutes 16 October 2018

President Jack Chastain called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

No minutes were available for approval.

Reports:

President: By-laws review in process.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominations for officers are due next month. Open positions needing candidates are:

- Publicity
- Vice President / Speaker coordinator
- Treasurer
- Membership coordinator
- Outreach coordinator

OLD BUSINESS

Club telescopes available for loan:

- 80 mm Meade refractor just donated to the club
- Tasco 4 in
- 13.1 in Dob
- Meade 125 ETX
- Planetary and deep sky astrophotography cameras

Communications: An account has been set up for SLACK, a messaging service. Members wishing to be on this service should email Eric Myers. This service has some advantages over Yahoo. Alternative group email services are being evaluated.

It is not certain if all new members are receiving the newsletter via email or if they are getting onto the Yahoo group.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Desmond Fish Library, Garrison Oct 18 Jack and Rick committed to go. Additional help welcome.

Saugerites High School reschedule from last week Oct 19. Additional help welcome.

International Observer the Moon Night, SUNY New Paltz. Willie Yee will present a review of lunar exploration at 7 PM, observing at Smolen Observatory 8-10 PM.

Hudson River Walkway, last MoonWalk of the year, Oct 26

MHAA Star Party Nov 9

Harrington Lecture on LIGO, SUNY New Paltz 5 PM Nov 13

14 members and visitors present.

Eric Myers presented his review of LIGO and the educational and public projects connected with it.

From the President:

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS DUE!

From our current ByLaws for the Association:

Article IV - Officers

Section 1 The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Chairperson and Newsletter Editor. These six persons plus four additional Association members called Directors will constitute the Steering Committee. These ten officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

Section 2 At the regular meeting in October a Nominating Committee will be elected by the Association to draw up a list of candidates for an election of officers. Said list will be announced at the November meeting and elections held at the December meeting.

Additional nominations from the floor may be made by members at the November meeting.

Section 3 The officers shall be elected by ballot to serve for one year or until their successors are elected and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

Section 4 No member shall hold more than one office at a time.

Please consider running for one of the officer positions for the Association! We have received notification that the following positions will be OPEN and need to be filled!



November's Dance of the Planets

By Jane Houston Jones and David Prosper

This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach.

Visit nightsky.jpl.nasa.org to find local clubs, events, and more!

November's crisp autumn skies bring great views of our planetary neighbors. The Moon pairs up with Saturn and Mars in the evenings, and mornings feature eye-catching arrangements with dazzling Venus. Stargazers wanting a challenge can observe a notable opposition by asteroid 3 Juno on the 17th and watch for a few bright Leonid meteors.

Red **Mars** gleams high in the southern sky after sunset. **Saturn** sits westward in the constellation Sagittarius. A young crescent Moon passes near Saturn on the 10th and 11th. On the 15th a first quarter Moon skims by Mars, coming within 1 degree of the planet. The red planet receives a new visitor on November 26th, when NASA's InSight mission lands and begins its investigation of the planet's interior. News briefings and commentary will be streamed live at: bit.ly/landsafe

Two bright planets hang low over the western horizon after sunset as November begins: **Jupiter** and **Mercury**. They may be hard to see, but binoculars and an unobstructed western horizon will help determined observers spot them right after sunset. Both disappear into the Sun's glare by mid-month.

Early risers are treated to brilliant **Venus** sparkling in the eastern sky before dawn, easily outshining everything except the Sun and Moon. On November 6th, find a location with clear view of the eastern horizon to spot Venus next to a thin crescent Moon, making a triangle with the bright star Spica. The following mornings watch Venus move up towards Spica, coming within two degrees of the star by the second full week of November. Venus will be up three hours before sunrise by month's end – a huge change in just weeks! Telescopic observers are treated to a large, 61" wide, yet razor-thin crescent at November's beginning, shrinking to 41" across by the end of the month as its crescent waxes.

Observers looking for a challenge can hunt asteroid **3 Juno**, so named because it was the third asteroid discovered. Juno travels through the constellation Eridanus and rises in the east after sunset. On November 17th, Juno is at opposition and shines at magnitude 7.4, its brightest showing since 1983! Look for Juno near the 4.7 magnitude double star 32 Eridani in the nights leading up to opposition. It is bright enough to spot through binoculars, but still appears as a star-like point of light. If you aren't sure if you have identified Juno, try sketching or photographing its star field, then return to the same area over the next several days to spot its movement.



The **Leonids** are expected to peak on the night of the 17th through the morning of the 18th. This meteor shower has brought “meteor storms” as recently as 2002, but a storm is not expected this year. All but the brightest meteors will be drowned out by a waxing gibbous Moon.

Stay warm and enjoy this month’s dance of the planets!

You can catch up on all of NASA’s current and future missions at nasa.gov

With articles, activities and games **NASA Space Place** encourages everyone to get excited about science and technology. Visit spaceplace.nasa.gov to explore space and Earth science!

2018 Star Party Schedule

Date	Time	Sunset	End Civil Twilight	Nearest New Moon
January 19th	7:00 PM	4:55 PM	5:25 PM	January 17th
February 16th	7:00 PM	5:30 PM	5:58 PM	February 15th
March 16th	7:00 PM	7:03 PM	7:31 PM	March 17th
April 13th	8:00 PM	7:34 PM	8:03 PM	April 16th
May 11th	8:00 PM	8:04 PM	8:35 PM	May 15th
June 15th	8:30 PM	8:31 PM	9:06 PM	June 13th
July 13th	8:30 PM	8:29 PM	9:02 PM	July 13th
August 10th	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:31 PM	August 11th
September 7th	7:30 PM	7:18 PM	7:46 PM	September 9th
October 5th	7:00 PM	6:30 PM	6:58 PM	October 9th
November 9th	7:00 PM	4:41 PM	5:10 PM	November 7th
December 7th	7:00 PM	4:25 PM	4:46 PM	December 7th

Directions To The Star Party Site

[Lake Taghkanic State Park](#) is in the town Ancram, NY. The park entrance is on the Taconic Parkway 10 minutes north of the exit used for Wilcox park.

Star Parties at Lake Taghkanic are held in the West Parking lot, next to the beach. The skies are darker than in Wilcox, with less stray light to deal with. The horizon is also much lower, especially to the south and east, making many more targets possible.

IMPORTANT: all events at Lake Taghkanic State Park require an **RSVP** which includes license plate number of the car you are bringing (please do so via [Meetup](#)). The park is patrolled by state police, and all non registered cars will be ticketed and risk our use of the park.

General Information:

- ♦ For the foreseeable future, all indoor meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in Coykendall Science Bldg., SUNY New Paltz (directions above) at 7:30 PM. All indoor events are FREE! All are welcome. The presentations are generally geared towards teenagers and up. For more information, call the Club Hotline.
- ♦ Dates listed for star parties are the primary dates. The rain date is the following night unless otherwise noted. Only one session is held for a given weekend, usually on the primary date, Friday, unless postponed (usually due to inclement weather) to the backup date, Saturday. Exceptions to this are noted in the “Scheduled Events” section above.
- ♦ All outdoor events are FREE! All are welcome. If you bring small children, it is **your** responsibility to keep a close eye on them. Please do not bring white-light flashlights. Instead, bring a red astronomer’s flashlight or an ordinary flashlight covered with several layers of red cellophane. If in doubt about the weather, check the status of the event at www.midhudsonastro.org.