



# Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association October, 2019

Website: [www.midhudsonastro.org](http://www.midhudsonastro.org)

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

**President :** Jack Chastain

**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr

**Newsletter Editor:** Rick Versace

**Publicity:** Tim Denman

**Speakers:** Paul Granich

**Vice President:** C. E. Raum

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers

**Membership Coordinator:** C. E. Raum

**Webmaster:** Paul Chauvet

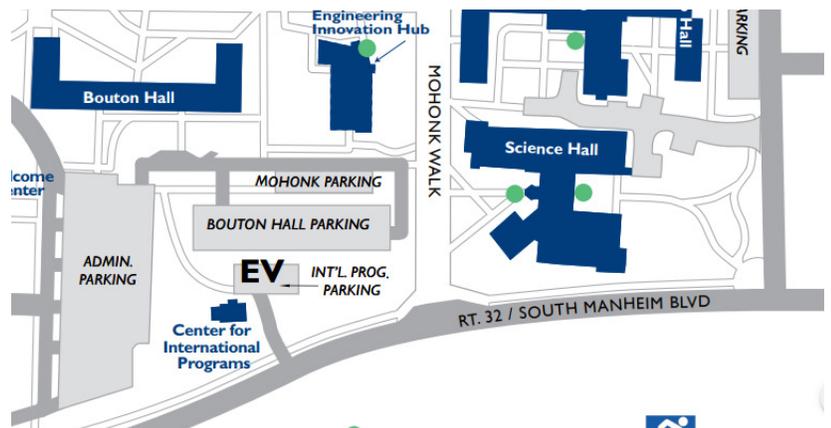
**Outreach:** Joe Macagne

**College Liaison:** Dr. Amy Forestell

**Directors:** Joe Macagne, Steve Carey, Willie Yee, Karl Loatman

## !!! The Meeting location has changed !!!!

The Meeting will be in the Science Hall, SH181 (The square at the South entrance area in the image). The building is at the corner of Rt 32 and Plattekill Ave. Parking is available on the road or possibly in the large Admin parking lot. The Bouton Hall and Mohonk parking are not necessarily recommended, particularly when college is in session. Parking is available on the street as well, and there are a couple spaces on the North West parking on the road - MAKE SURE they are unmarked places though!



## MHAA MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17 2019 MEETING

The meeting was called to order about 7:30 by Eric Meyers, Treasurer and Membership Chair at The SUNY New Paltz Science Center. President Jack Chastain was not available.  
The minutes of September newsletter were approved.

### OFFICERS' REPORTS

**Acting President:** Eric Meyers present.

Request was made for more documents about the history of the MHAA. Tom Crepet suggested contacting Dave Lindeman.

**Vice President:** C.E. Raum still unavailable.

**Treasurer:** Eric Meyers was present.

#### **Treasurer's Report for October 2019**

As of 14 October 2019 we have \$2,685.93 in our bank account, with no outstanding checks, and no new membership payments.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr was out of town.

Tim Denman to take minutes using Eric Meyer's agenda.

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present.

Press release not sent out about tonight's planetarium presentation to avoid overflow. Will work with Eric on changing "above the line" portion of Meetup.

**Newsletter:** Rick Versace not present.

**Webmaster:** Paul Chauvet was not present.

The Computer Security account will no longer be used soon. Eric suggested we give it to Ken Bailey for an astronomy club he is starting at his new locale.

**Outreach:** Joe Macagne was present.

**Speakers:** C.E. Raum unavailable. Eric Meyers is filling in.

- October 15 will be Steve Hoffman. He will talk about his home-built observatory and his related astrophotography.
- November will be Dr Eric Meyers speaking on "Multi Messenger Astronomy".

**Membership:** C.E. Raum unavailable.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **August 2 Star Party:**

Jim Rockrohr sent in a report: "We had 4 telescopes with 3 operators and about a dozen visitors. The skies were intermittent clouds. We got some views of Jupiter and Saturn and a few of the brighter globulars and galaxies. At one point the Milky Way was visible. But the clouds got the better of us and we started packing up about 10:30."

### NEW BUSINESS

- Girl Scout Jamboree Saturday October 19 in the Wallkill area at Camp Wendy. The camp is located near the intersection of Plains Road and Route 33 by the Magnanni Winery. **WE NEED PEOPLE AND SCOPES DURING**

**BOTH DAY AND NIGHT ACTIVITIES.** If Willie is available we could use a SSA table as well.

- Star Party Sept 27.
- Elections are coming up at the December meeting. An Election Committee needs to be created next month at the regular meeting. We are in need of members to run for positions!
- We may need a member to stand in as VP.
- Still looking for member-made imagery for our opening background presentation! Currently we have images from members Greg Salyer, CE Raum, and Steve Dittmar and possibly others.
- Eric reminded us of the "Cosmic Lego - Making Molecules...." STEM lecture on Sept. 24 at the Coykendall lecture room at 4:30.

### CLUB TELESCOPES AND EQUIPMENT

#### **Scopes:**

Meade 80mm – Karl

Criterion RV6 - CE

Orion 8" Dob - Jim

Meade ETX-125 Maksutov - Eric

Dobsonian 13.1" built by Gordon Waite - Tim

Meade 6" reflector needing repair - Jack

heavy duty molunt like RV6 needs new motor needs minor maintenance

Bushnell Northstar motorized GoTo 125?mm reflector - Eric

by John Spring at tonight's meeting

and Barlow lens

donated  
includes 20mm eyepiece

#### **Imaging Devices:**

1000mm camera lens - CE

2

cameras - deep space and planetary - Jack

### EVENTS

#### **Scheduled:**

Sept 27 Star Party

Oct 15 meeting

Oct 19 Girl Scout Jamboree

Oct 25 Walkway at Night (last for the year) and Star Party at Lake Taghkanic

Nov 19 meeting: Eric Meyers presentation "Multi-messenger Astronomy"

Dec 17 meeting: Elections, Member presentations, and Holiday Party

#### **Proposed:**

request from Girl Scouts in Mahopac - no specifics yet  
for 50th birthday celebration - no info yet

request

#### **Guests:**

John Spring - donated Busnell telescope others possible at the planetarium presentation

### PRESENTATION

Eric Meyers presented the newest full-dome video at the John R Kirk Planetarium called "Moons: Worlds of Mystery".  
about 15 present including 8 from the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Tim Denman Oct 9 at 19:00

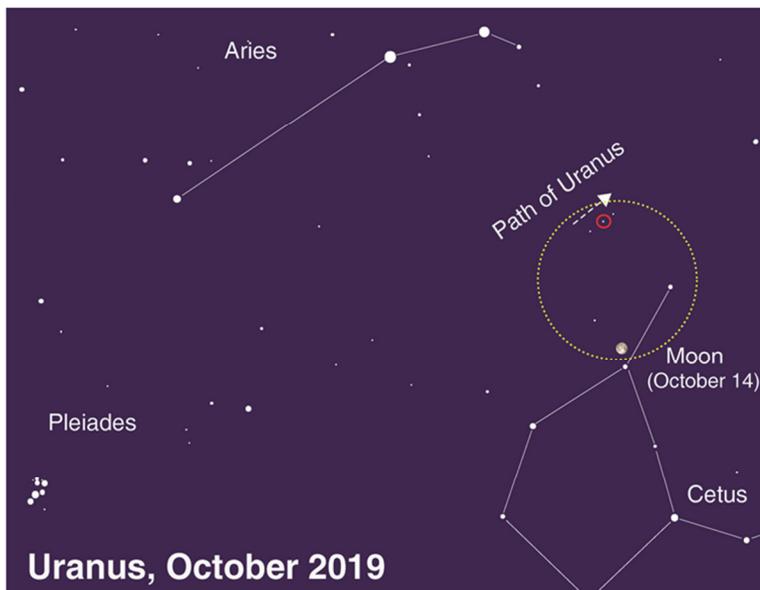


## Find Strange Uranus in Aries

David Prosper

Most of the planets in our solar system are bright and easily spotted in our night skies. The exceptions are the ice giant planets: Uranus and Neptune. These worlds are so distant and dim that binoculars or telescopes are almost always needed to see them. A great time to search for Uranus is during its opposition on October 28, since the planet is up almost the entire night and at its brightest for the year.

Search for Uranus in the space beneath the stars of Aries the Ram and above Cetus the Whale. These constellations are found west of more prominent Taurus the Bull and Pleiades star cluster. You can also use the Moon as a guide! Uranus will be just a few degrees north of the Moon the night of October 14, close enough to fit both objects into the same binocular field of view.

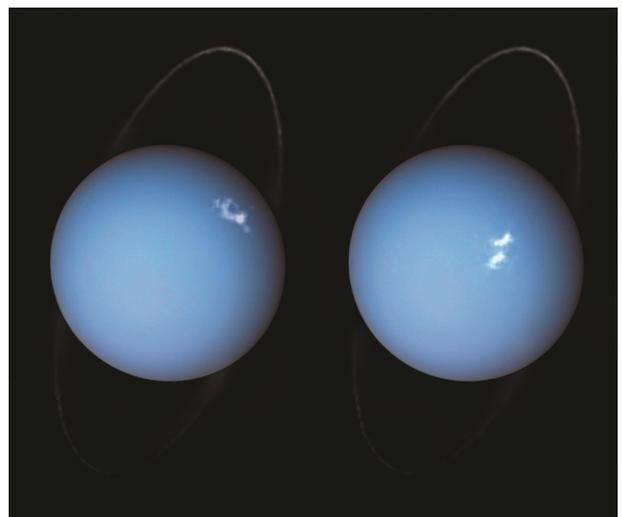


The path of Uranus in October is indicated by an arrow; its position on October 14 is circled. The wide dashed circle approximates the field of view from binoculars or a finderscope. Image created with assistance from Stellarium.

However, it will be much easier to see dim Uranus by moving the bright Moon just out of sight. If you're using a telescope, zoom in as much as possible once you find Uranus; 100x magnification and greater will reveal its small greenish disc, while background stars will remain points.

Try this observing trick from a dark sky location. Find Uranus with your telescope or binoculars, then look with your unaided eyes at the patch of sky where your equipment is aimed. Do you see a faint star where Uranus should be? That's not a star; you're actually seeing Uranus with your naked eye! The ice giant is just bright enough near opposition - magnitude 5.7 - to be visible to observers under clear dark skies. It's easier to see this ghostly planet unaided after first using an instrument to spot it, sort of like "training wheels" for your eyes. Try this technique with other objects as you observe, and you'll be amazed at what your eyes can pick out.

By the way, you've spotted the first planet discovered in the modern era! William Herschel discovered Uranus via telescope in 1781, and Johan Bode confirmed its status as a planet two years later. NASA's Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to visit this strange world, with a brief flyby in 1986. It revealed a strange, severely tilted planetary system possessing faint dark rings, dozens of moons, and eerily featureless cloud tops. Subsequent observations of Uranus from powerful telescopes like Hubble and Keck showed its blank face was temporary, as powerful storms were spotted, caused by dramatic seasonal changes during its 84-year orbit. Uranus's wildly variable seasons result from a massive collision billions of years ago that tipped the planet to its side.



Composite images taken of Uranus in 2012 and 2014 by the Hubble Space Telescope, showcasing its rings and auroras. More at [bit.ly/uranusauroras](http://bit.ly/uranusauroras) Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, L. Lamy

Discover more about NASA's current and future missions of exploration of the distant solar system and beyond at [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov)

## 2019 Star Party Schedule

January 11	7:00 PM
February 1	7:00 PM
March 8	7:00 PM
April 5	8:00 PM
May 3	8:00 PM
May 31	8:30 PM
July 5	8:30 PM
August 2	8:00 PM
August 30	8:00 PM
September 27	7:30 PM
October 25	7:00 PM
November 29	7:00 PM
December 27	7:00 PM

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- ♦ 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](http://www.midhudsonastro.org).