



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

April, 2020

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

groups.io Group: mhaa.groups.io

President : Jack Chastain
Secretary: Jim Rockrohr
Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace
Publicity: Open
Speakers: ?

Vice President: Tim Denman
Treasurer: Eric Myers
Membership Coordinator: Open
Webmaster: ?
Outreach: ?
College Liaison: Dr. Amy Forestell

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

A message from the President concerning the April meeting via Zoom

Greetings to all. I hope this finds you well and healthy in this time of overall Isolation!

Our April MHA A General Meeting, and a talk after, will be held using Zoom chat. The time will be the usual, 1930 (7:30 pm) on Tuesday, April 21.

If you have heard of Zoom but have never used it, you are probably aware of some negative commentary around it. Not to diminish the issues, but most of the problems are relatively easily managed and I believe we will mitigate nearly, if not all, of these issues.

You don't really need to download anything to use Zoom - it will handle all that for you for the meeting. All you will need to do is click the link (below and in Meetup, etc) at the appropriate time - Zoom will handle loading up what you need.

If you do not have a microphone on your computer, you can select "Connect audio by phone" - several numbers to call in will be presented - dial in and you will be asked for the meeting number and your "participant code" - enter these when prompted and you should be connected to Audio. Video or not is at your discretion.

When you join by computer or device, after entering the password, you will enter a "holding room" - the meeting manager will be able to allow you to enter the Zoom session from there, unless we have more than 100 people show up for the meeting.

Audio will be muted, at least initially. It will be up to the Meeting Manager to allow individuals to un-mute - or not. You may use video, or not as you wish.

As this is our first time trying this, we HOPE it will go smoothly, but there's always a chance we will have some issues, so if that happens, please be patient, we will try to iron them out as soon as possible.

There MAY be a "large scale test" made before the actual meeting - if you are interested in attending that for experience or just to help us stress-test things, please join it. Nothing of consequence will go on but it might be nice to have a larger-than-normal group to test things before Tuesday evening!

We will announce a stress-test ahead of time if we do put one together.

The meeting link is below, but it will not be active until Tuesday evening. It will also be in Meetup. Please use Meetup to indicate you wish to join the Zoom session. We will be using Meetup to pass along the password to the meeting.

We should be opening the Meeting session earlier than 1930 (7:30 pm) so if you care to join early, that should be fine. The link below should be good to get you to the room, but you WILL need the password once there to actually join. Again, we will pass that through Meetup to all attending individuals.

Hope to "see" you Tuesday Evening!

Jack

Initial Zoom room link: <https://zoom.us/j/95802617571>

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## Board Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the MHAA board was held on Thursday, April 2 at 1900 on Zoom chat. Six board members attended, as well as two additional members. In attendance was:

- Jack Chastain (president)
- Eric Myers (Treasurer)
- Tim Denman (vice-president)
- Rick Versace (Newsletter)
- Willie Yee (Board)
- Steve Carey (Board)
- Karl Loatman (Board)
- Ken Bailey (MHAA-South Liason)
- Bill Walsh (Member)

The meeting was called for two main items - discussion of use of the Zoom Platform for both meetings and star parties, as well as other possibilities, and issues with use of the MHAA logo imagery for Ken's "southern extension" of the Association

Discussion:

It was noted that the \$200 allocated for purchasing awards for the Dutchess County Science Fair was unused as the Fair was canceled. A suggestion was made by Jack that this money be re-allocated for a monthly trial purchase of a "Pro" level of the Zoom chat system on a trial basis. Motion was made and seconded and vote was unanimous that we set up an MHAA account on a month-to-month basis at \$14.99 per month. This amounts to \$179.88 annually, if used each month.

Eric assumed the responsibility to set up the account, a management email ID will be established that may be used to communicate with the managing individuals (currently Eric and Jack) and we will evaluate the usefulness of the platform.

Various questions about the mechanics of operation were addressed or left for further understanding. Eric and Jack to be principle contacts for the initial use.

A suggestion was made that we might seek time on "other scopes" as well for presentation. We will examine that possibility at a later time - once we evaluate the Zoom platform itself.

Item 2: Use of MHAA logo imagery for Ken's Southern group in Kershaw, SC: No issues known, the Board gave approval to use the "Star Arc" image as Ken sees fit.

Other discussion: Eric added a note that we should be able to shortly offer Ken a Meetup space once Paul is able to move his Security Group meetup item off to a separate Meetup account.

The Board meeting concluded at roughly 2010 and some general discussion continued for a few minutes following.

Submitted 15Apr2020 by Jack Chastain

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MHAA Treasurer's Report for April 2020

As of 16 April 2020 we have \$2,799.30 in our bank account, with no outstanding checks or debts. I did not submit a report for March because we did not have a monthly business meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic (and I was unfortunately distracted).

Our insurance bill has now been paid for the entire year, at a total cost of \$528.00 (compared to \$511 last year, which is the amount I estimated in my budget in March). It was going to be \$561, but I had them remove an endorsement for a venue we no longer use. They also modified the endorsements for the two venues we still use — SUNY New Paltz and Lake Taghkanic State Park — to make the wording clearer.

Last week the Board approved the purchase of a Zoom Pro account, at \$14.99 per month, for up to a year. We intend to use this for an on-line monthly meeting in April, and hopefully also for an on-line star party. We can continue to use it in subsequent months if we find it useful, or we can cancel when we no longer need it. I have paid for the first month.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer



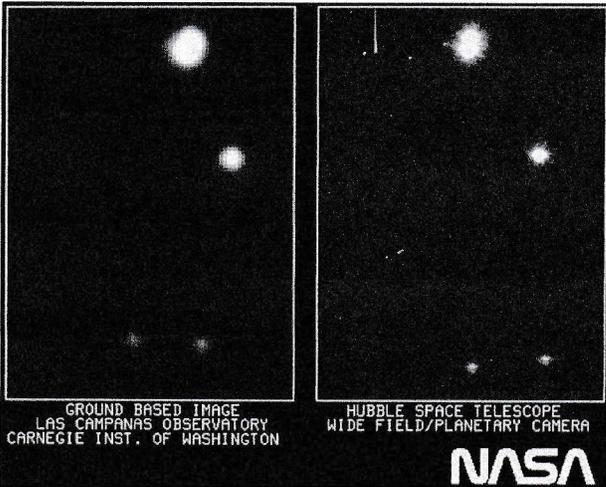
This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

Hubble at 30: Three Decades of Cosmic Discovery

David Prosper

The Hubble Space Telescope celebrates its 30th birthday in orbit around Earth this month! It’s hard to believe how much this telescope has changed the face of astronomy in just three decades. It had a rough start -- an 8-foot mirror just slightly out of focus in the most famous case of spherical aberration of all time. But subsequent repairs and upgrades by space shuttle astronauts made Hubble a symbol of the ingenuity of human spaceflight and one of the most important scientific instruments ever created. Beginning as a twinkle in the eye of the late Nancy Grace Roman, the Hubble Space Telescope’s work over the past thirty years changed the way we view the universe, and more is yet to come!

We’ve all seen the amazing images created by Hubble and its team of scientists, but have you seen Hubble yourself? You actually can! Hubble’s orbit – around 330 miles overhead -- is close enough to Earth that you can see it at night. The best times are within an hour after sunset or before sunrise, when its solar panels are angled best to reflect the light of the Sun back down to Earth. You can’t see the structure of the telescope, but you can identify it as a bright star-like point, moving silently across the night sky. It’s not as bright as the Space Station, which is much larger and whose orbit is closer to Earth (about 220 miles), but it’s still very noticeable as a single steady dot of light, speeding across the sky. Hubble’s orbit brings it directly overhead for observers located near tropical latitudes; observers further north and south can see it closer to the horizon. You can find sighting opportunities using satellite tracking apps for your smartphone or tablet, and dedicated satellite tracking websites. These resources can also help you identify other satellites that you may see passing overhead during your stargazing sessions.



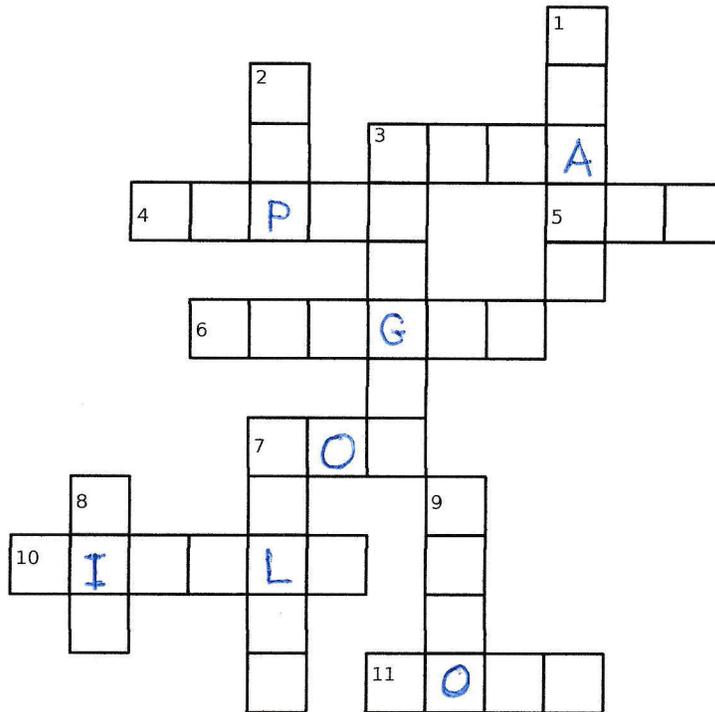
NASA has a dedicated site for Hubble’s 30th’s anniversary at bit.ly/NASAHubble30. The Night Sky Network’s “Why Do We Put Telescopes in Space?” activity can help you and your audiences discover why we launch telescopes into orbit, high above the interference of Earth’s atmosphere, at bit.ly/TelescopesInSpace. Amateur astronomers may especially enjoy Hubble’s images of the beautiful objects found in both the Caldwell and Messier catalogs, at bit.ly/HubbleCaldwell and bit.ly/HubbleMessier. As we celebrate Hubble’s legacy, we look forward to the future, as there is another telescope ramping up that promises to further revolutionize our understanding of the early universe: the James Webb Space Telescope!

Discover more about the history and future of Hubble and space telescopes at nasa.gov.

Hubble’s “first light” image. Even with the not-yet-corrected imperfections in its mirror, its images were generally sharper compared to photos taken by ground-based telescopes at the time. Image Credit: NASA

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# Nothing



Down:

- 1. nothing
- 2. nothing
- 3. nothing
- 7. nothing
- 8. nothing
- 9. nothing

Across:

- 3. nothing
- 4. nothing
- 5. nothing
- 6. nothing
- 7. nothing
- 10. nothing
- 11. nothing



# 2020 Star Party Schedule

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| January 24   | 5:00 PM |
| February 21  | 5:30 PM |
| March 27     | 7:00 PM |
| April 24     | 7:30 PM |
| May 22       | 8:00 PM |
| June 19      | 8:30 PM |
| July 17      | 8:30 PM |
| August 21    | 7:30 PM |
| September 18 | 7:00 PM |
| October 16   | 6:00 PM |
| November 13  | 4:30 PM |
| December 11  | 4:30 PM |
| <b>2021</b>  |         |
| January 15   | 4:30 PM |

## Directions To The Star Party Site

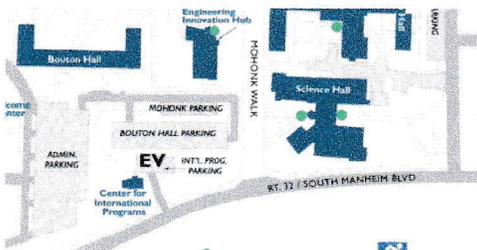
[Lake Taghkanic State Park](#) is in the town Ancram, NY. The park entrance is on the Taconic Parkway 10 minutes north of the exit used for Wilcox park.

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 the Science Hall Bldg., SUNY New Paltz (directions below) 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).



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!