



June, 2026

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

President : Steve Dittmar
Secretary: Jim Rockrohr
Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace
Publicity: Tim Denman
Speakers: Bart Henin

Directors: Alex Passas, Jack Chastain, Steve Dittmar, and Willie Yee

groups.io Group: mhaa.groups.io

Vice President: Mike Goldstein
Treasurer: Eric Myers
Membership Coordinator: Steve Dittmar
Webmaster: Steve Dittmar
Outreach: Michael Goldstein
College Liaison: Dr. Amy Bartholomew

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The next meeting is June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, on Zoom and in person AT 7:15 PM. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

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June Speaker

"The Other Space Telescopes"
Dr. Willie Yee

The Hubble and Webb telescopes are the best known space telescopes, and deserve to be. However there are many other space telescopes, notably the others in NASA's Great Telescope Program and those that followed it that have explored space in wavelengths that those landmark telescopes cannot. This presentation will explore those space

telescopes that have peered into optical, infrared, x-ray, and gamma-ray frequencies and the science discoveries they made.

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Online link to the MHAA monthly Business Meeting Agenda:

<http://mhaa.midhudsonastro.org/agenda>

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"Astronomy at Lake Taghkanic State Park"

<http://spy-hill.net/myers/astro/ltsp/>

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## **Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association, May 19, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 PM by President Steve Dittmar in the Coykendall Auditorium at SUNY New Paltz, NY, and on the online application Zoom.

The minutes of the previous 2 meetings, March and April, were accepted and approved by acclamation.

### **Officer's Reports:**

**President:** Steve Dittmar was present.

- Steve has talked to a lawyer about our application for 501(c)(3) designation who answered many of his questions.

**Vice President:** Michael Goldstein was present.

- 23 people are signed up for our awards banquet on Thursday.
  - o It will be at Garvan's restaurant in New Paltz on May 21 at 7 PM.
  - o Please bring your money to the dinner.

**Recording Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr was present.

- Nothing to report.

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was not present.

- No report.

**Newsletter:** Rick Versace was not present.

- No report.

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See newsletter for the current numbers.
- We have spent \$680, so far, for the banquet. (Member discounts, honorees, etc.)
  - o A motion was made, seconded and approved to spend up to \$800.
- Are we a 501(c)(7) organization?
  - o After discussion we fit better as a 501(c)(3) and proceeding with the application.
  - o We typically are below the \$5,000 in annual revenue so no need to file.
    - If 3 times over \$5,000 then must submit IRS forms.
  - o If interested, see IRS Publication 557.

**Outreach:** Michael Goldstein was present.

- Girls camp in Windham, date TBD.
- Auto Camp, date TBD.

**Speakers:** Bart Henin was present.

- June – Willie Yee: “The Other Telescopes”.
- July – Tom Evangelist - “Nuclear Reactions in Stars”.
- August – (currently open).

**Membership:** Steve Dittmar was present.

- Repaired glitch in web site.
- We currently have 113 paid members with 7 also joining the Astronomical League.

**Solar System Ambassador:** Willie Yee was present.

- Is anyone tracking the people who attend outreach events so he knows how many pins to order?
  - o Jack is trying to keep a list.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was present.

- New membership cards are available on web site.
- Steve is looking for a new web site host.
- Library is now live on the web site.

#### **Old Business:**

- 15 people attended the last club star party.
- The last Walkway event was good.
  - o Next Walkway events on 6/26 and 7/25.
- An Autocamp event and 1 private event were cancelled due to weather.
- Remember the Banquet at 7 PM this Thursday.
- The summer picnic will be on August 8.

#### **New Business:**

- (none)

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- (Not discussed)

#### **Reminders:**

- Paid members get access to club equipment (telescopes, imagers, trackers) and club DVD/VHS video library.
  1. See the website or Steve for a list of available items and how to pay to join the club.
- Paid members can also get access to the club Slack channels. Contact Steve or Eric for access.

#### **Observing Reports:**

- (none)

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. There were 11 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 12 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, on Zoom and in person AT 7:15 PM. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

The presentation that followed was by Irene Pease: “Artemis II: Moon Joy!”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, June 12, 2026.

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MHAA Treasurer’s Report for June 2026

As of 14 June 2026 we have \$3,584.52 in our PayPal account, \$83.00 in petty cash, and \$8,736.95 in our Bank Account, with \$289.58 in outstanding checks for our first set of Astronomical League memberships (\$91), reimbursement for Banquet awards (\$48.58), and a deposit for the Pavilion at Field of Dreams Park for our annual Picnic (\$150). I expect the deposit check to be torn up after the event, but we will need to pay for the Pavilion rental itself before the event.

Our monthly payment for Google gSuite on the first of the month was \$36.33, and tomorrow we will pay \$16.99 for Zoom for one month. We again paid \$123.00 for Insurance, and we paid a \$100 honorarium to our speaker for the May meeting. This month we received \$198.00 in dues for 8 renewing members, and \$49.20 for 2 new members.

There were 21 attendees at the club Banquet on May 21st, including the 3 honorees (with 2 spouses) and 12 members (along with 4 spouses). The overall expense paid by the club was \$400 for the honorees and their guest, \$240 to reduce the expense for the other members by \$20, and \$48.58 for the award plaques, for a total of \$688.58.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Myers

MHAA Membership Report for June 2026

As of June 14, 2026

Club Membership: 119 total

Members	Students	Honorary from SUNY New Paltz
98	19	2

Astronomical League Members: 9

Social Network Engagement

Slack	Meetup	Groups.io	Facebook	Instagram	YouTube
29 active of 140	2635	124	1347	273	625

Astrobin Engagement

Members	Images
10	398

Thanks,
Steve Dittmar
MHAA President & Webmaster

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| Date        | Arrival Time | Civil Dusk |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Jul 10 2026 | 8:30 PM      | 21:05 EDT  |
| Aug 14 2026 | 8:00 PM      | 20:27 EDT  |
| Sep 11 2026 | 7:00 PM      | 19:39 EDT  |
| Oct 9 2026  | 6:30 PM      | 18:51 EDT  |
| Nov 6 2026  | 4:30 PM      | 17:12 EST  |
| Dec 4 2026  | 4:30 PM      | 16:54 EST  |
| Jan 8 2027  | 4:30 PM      | 17:11 EST  |
| Feb 5 2027  | 5:00 PM      | 17:43 EST  |
| Mar 5 2027  | 5:30 PM      | 18:17 EST  |

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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:

- ♦ 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.