



**July, 2026**

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

**President :** Steve Dittmar

**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr

**Newsletter Editor:** Rick Versace

**Publicity:** Tim Denman

**Speakers:** Bart Henin

**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:** Raj Pandya

**Directors:** Alex Passas, Jack Chastain, Karl Loatman, and Willie Yee

~~~~~

The next meeting is July 21<sup>st</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.

~~~~~

## Meetings start time moved to 7:15 PM

Please take notice: At the June meeting held on 6/16/2026, the members in attendance voted to keep 7:15 PM Eastern as the official start time for our club business meetings going forward.

This vote concludes our three-month trial of beginning meetings at 7:15 PM instead of 7:30 PM. The earlier start time was originally proposed because we often found ourselves rushing through agenda items, delaying important votes, shortening valuable discussions, and starting speaker presentations later than planned.

The additional 15 minutes has proven helpful - giving us room to handle occasional technical issues, allow fuller discussion, and conduct club business without feeling rushed.

The next club meeting is on July 21st.

Steve

MHAA President

Dittmar

## July Speaker

### "Nuclear Reactions in Stars"

Mr Thomas Evangelist

~~~~~

Online link to the MHAA monthly Business Meeting Agenda:

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

~~~~~

"Astronomy at Lake Taghkanic State Park"

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

~~~~~

## Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association, June 16, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 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 meeting were accepted and approved with the following correction: the \$680 mentioned as spent in the treasurer's report for the Banquet was not yet spent, only estimated.

### Officer's Reports:

**President:** Steve Dittmar was present.

- Discussion regarding 7:15 PM start time.
  - o Most people like it.
  - o Motion to make the start time 7:15 for all future monthly business meetings was made, seconded and approved unanimously.
- Steve has talked to our lawyer about our application for 501(c)(3) designation.
  - o Last couple of small issues nearly done.
- Discussion about where our 501(c)(3) approval letter (once received) should reside for access.
  - o Web page, or
  - o Doc file, or
  - o Google doc or

- TBD

**Vice President:** Michael Goldstein was not present.

- Banquet went well.

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

- Nothing to report.

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present.

- Nothing to report.

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

- No report.

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See newsletter for the current numbers.
- We spent \$688 for the banquet.
- Insurance is being paid monthly since we may be switching companies.
- Astro League set up in progress.
- Eric spent time on the 501(c)(3) application.
  - An account was established on the government web site.
  - Applicable filing form is 1023EZ.
  - \$275 application fee will be due when we submit the application.
  - Application will be reviewed for the members in the August business meeting.
  - Final vote for approval will be at the September business meeting.

**Outreach:** Michael Goldstein was not present.

- See Events below.

**Speakers:** Bart Henin was present.

- July – Tom Evangelist - “Nuclear Reactions in Stars”.
- August – Irene Pease – topic tbd
- September – Dr. Frank Melshiemer – topic tbd

**Membership:** Steve Dittmar was present.

- Adding 5-10 per month.
- We currently have 119 paid members with 9 also joining the Astronomical League.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was present.

- Added links to Astro League.

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

- Nothing to report.

### **Old Business:**

- Club’s June star party was moved to Saturday due to weather. 25 people attended.
- Had to cancel several paid events due to weather.
- 21 people attended the Banquet.

### **New Business:**

- Remember the new 7:15 business meeting start time.
- We have a possible donation of a 10 inch Orion telescope.
- The 11” Celestron is available. Needs an “owner”.
- The Field of Dreams pavilion is reserved for August 1<sup>st</sup> club picnic.

**Upcoming Events:** (as of June 15<sup>th</sup>)

- MHAA July Star Party - Fri Jul 10
- Walkway Over the Hudson - Sat July 25 (Eric)
- Camp Oh-Neh-Tah in East Windham - Aug 3 (4) (Michael G)
- MHAA August Star Party - Fri Aug 14
- M&D Farms Wedding - Sat Aug 15 (Michael G)
- Gardiner Parks & Rec star party – Fri Aug 21 (Michael G)
- MHAA September Star Party - Fri Sep 11
- Innisfree - Sept 19 IOMN (Eric)
- Woodchuck Lodge Star Party – Sat Oct 3 (4)
- MHAA October Star Party - Fri Oct 9
- Gather Greene Wedding – Sat Oct 10 (Michael G)
- Edelman Star Party – Oct 29 (Michael G)
- MHAA November Star Party - Fri Nov 6
- MHAA December Star Party - Fri Dec 11
- Pleasant Valley Historical Society – November 24 - Presentation about the connection between Astronomy and the American Revolution (Karl)

#### **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 8:03 PM. There were 9 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 14 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is July 21<sup>st</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 Willie Yee: “The Other Space Telescopes”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, July 18, 2026.

~~~~~

#### **MHAA Treasurer’s Report for July 2026**

As of 19 July 2026 we have \$3,976.39 in our PayPal account, \$83.00 in petty cash, and \$8,614.68 in our Bank Account, though 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 or immediately after the event.

Our monthly payment for Google gSuite on the first of the month was \$36.33, and on the 15th we paid \$16.99 for Zoom for one month. We again paid \$123.00 for the month for Insurance. This month we received \$98.40 in dues for 4 new members, and \$123.00 for renewal of 5 annual memberships. We also received \$250.00 from our newest Lifetime member, Eli Mensch (less the transaction fee taken by PayPal).

I am continuing to work on an application to the IRS for a Letter of Determination certifying our status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. I've determined that we will need to modify our bylaws to satisfy the IRS requirements, and I expect to have the suggested modifications ready for a vote at one of the early fall meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Myers

## MHAA Membership Report for July 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 | <a href="#">Groups.io</a> | Facebook | Instagram | YouTube |
|------------------|--------|---------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| 29 active of 140 | 2635   | 124                       | 1347     | 273       | 625     |

Astrobin Engagement

| Members | Images |
|---------|--------|
| 10      | 398    |

Thanks,  
Steve Dittmar  
MHAA President & Webmaster

~~~~~

### June Newsletter Corrections

- Minutes say we "spent" \$680 for the banquet, but actually that was only the anticipated spend; we hadn't spent it yet.
- List of directors is wrong, it should be Alex Passas, Jack Chastain, Karl Loatman, and Willie Yee, but not me
- SUNY NP College Liaison is no longer Amy Bartholomew, it's now Raj Pandya

~~~~~

## Star Party Schedule

| 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 |

~~~~~

## 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](http://www.midhudsonastro.org).