

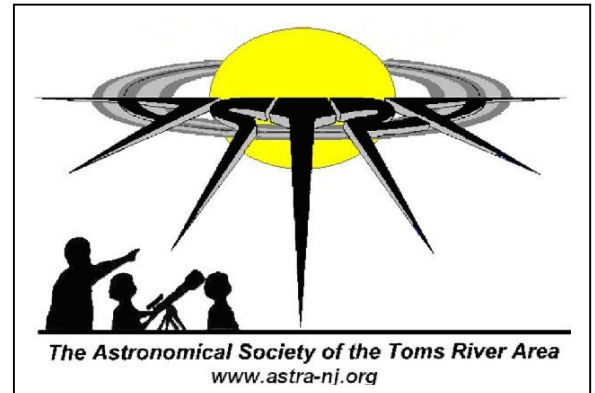
ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

December 2007

www.ASTRA-NJ.org

****** PLEASE NOTE ******

The ASTRA meeting will be at 8 PM in room P109 of the Planetarium.



NEW FOR 2007 As a paid-up member for 2007, when you attend a monthly meeting, you can enter into a free drawing for a door prize to be given away during the meeting.

Meeting Schedule 2007

Dec. – Election Results, and Awards; Presented by Sarah Waters.
Cinema Scopes II; Presented by Bob Salvatore.
Dues; Ro Spedaliere will collect dues for next year's membership.

2008

Jan. – Telescope Workshop to help the public use their telescope - all members. Early start, 7:00 PM.
Dues; The Treasurer will collect dues for this year's membership.

Feb. – Astronomy Equipment and/or Book, Show & Tell - all members.
Dues; The Treasurer will collect dues for this year's membership.

Our Next Meeting – **December 14, 2007**

Elections; - Please bring your Election Ballot to the meeting, or mail it to ASTRA before the meeting. The form to use is at the end of the newsletter. The Ballots will be counted at the meeting and the results announced.

Awards; - Once again the President will announce the ASTRA awards. Some will be serious and others will be less so. Come see whom we have fun with.

Dues; - Our Treasurer will collect dues for next year's membership. See the form to use at the end of the newsletter. Please bring to the meeting or mail to ASTRA.

Contributed by Bob Salvatore.

Cinema Scopes II; - Last years presentation was lots of fun so I'm trying again this year. I don't have as many movies as last year or the help of my son Lucas who is at the University of Maryland. What I do have is a fun presentation with some surprises planned for both the young and old Astronomers. Don't miss it. See you all there.

Highlights of the Last Meeting

Contributed by Randy Walton and Sarah Waters

In September I had requested the kids come to the November meeting with a quiz for the other ASTRA members. The kids were to ask a question and be able to tell us about the answer. I thought this would be fun to see what interested our junior Astronomers. While many of the kids were unable to attend because of the flu going around, Hannah Gamba and Adam Gamba were brave enough to participate. Adam went first with a wonderful question and display. While Adam had lots of help from Dad Gamba with the answer we all had a fun time with the activity. Hannah went second with another great question and a little less help. She drummed up another discussion that everyone participated in. They both received a prize for their great work. I really enjoyed seeing them so involved as they both did a great job. The other Junior Astronomers will get a chance to quiz us in December if they wish.

Ro Spedaliere our Star Party Coordinator gave a wonderful talk about all the Star Parties in 2007. She reviewed all the locations we enjoyed and groups we observed with. We all remembered the cloudy nights we made the best of and the wonderful food Eileen treated us to at the Lighthouse Encampment. When we were unable to show the stars to others we were treated to the knowledge of the turtle researchers. Who can forget the first look at a turtle the size of a quarter? After Ro's wonderful talk she displayed a fantastic show of pictures from all of the star parties.

We had a representative from Project ASTRO NOVA tell us about the project. Each school year, Project ASTRO NOVA pairs teachers with volunteer astronomers. Astronomers commit to making visits to classrooms. During these visits astronomers answer students' questions and lead or assist the teacher with astronomy activities. Astronomers who are interested in participating should fill out an Astronomer Volunteer Form. Forms and more information can be obtained at <http://www.raritanval.edu/planetarium/astronova.html> or from Project ASTRO NOVA, Raritan Valley Community College, P.O. Box 3300, Somerville, NJ 08876, (908) 526-1200 x8942, fax (908) 526-7938, or email tmood@raritanval.edu.

We have been getting new members at many of our meetings. Welcome everyone, it is great to see all the new faces.

Keep an eye on the Board for future meeting locations as the Planetarium is due to close soon for renovations. If we are not in the Planetarium look for us in the solar lounge.

Gloria Villalobos the Planetarium Director, Astra member and friend to many of us has been very sick. Please keep her, along with the other ASTRA members that have been ill, in your thoughts as we hope they will all be feeling better soon.

See you in December for the close election results and Bob Salvatore's presentation.

Star Party Plans

For members who enjoy observing the skies, checkout the following list. ASTRA hosts several *public* and *private* star parties, coordinated by Ro Spedaliere. Many members also attend star parties put on by *other* groups held at other locations.

Coyle Field (*private*)

[See Message Board for dates and times](#)

2007 Dec. Celestial Events: supplied by J. Randolph Walton (Randy)

Day	Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Sat	1	03:20	Venus Rises
		06:15	Mercury Rises
		07:02	Sunrise
		07:44	Last Quarter Moon
		12:31	Moon Set
		16:35	Sunset
		17:40	Jupiter Sets
		18:27	Mars Rises
		23:20	Saturn Rises
Sat	8	03:32	Venus Rises
		06:45	Mercury Rises
		07:09	Sunrise
		15:28	Moon Set
		16:35	Sunset
		17:20	Jupiter Sets
		17:45	Mars Rises
		22:55	Saturn Rises
Sun	9	12:40	New Moon
		16:12	Moon Set
Fri	14	12:00	Geminid meteors peak (ZHR 120)
		21:24	Moon Set
Sat	15	03:45	Venus Rises
		16:36	Sunset
		17:00	Jupiter Sets
		17:10	Mars Rises
		22:30	Saturn Rises
		22:32	Moon Set
Mon	17	05:17	First Quarter Moon
		12:03	Moon Rise
Tue	18	16:36	Sunset
		16:55	Mars Rises
		tonight	Mars 15.9" across, nearest Earth
Sat	22	01:08	Winter Solstice
		04:00	Venus Rises
		15:01	Moon Rise
		16:35	Mars Rises
		16:38	Sunset
		20:00	Ursid meteors peak (ZHR 10)
		22:03	Saturn Rises
Sun	23	16:04	Moon Rise
		20:16	Full Moon
Sat	29	04:17	Venus Rises
		07:03	Jupiter Rises
		07:15	Mars Sets
		07:21	Sunrise
		16:43	Sunset
		22:03	Saturn Rises
		23:07	Moon Rise
Mon	31	02:51	Last Quarter Moon
		11:36	Moon Set

Astronomical League

www.AstroLeague.org

As an ASTRA member you have a membership in the Astronomical League, which gets you the Reflector magazine, discounts on books, and Observing Awards. If you are not getting your Reflector magazine or want to apply for an Observing Award contact the club **ALCOR**: Ro Spedalieri.

Items for Sale

ASTRA-WEAR: For Embroidered and/or Printed items with the ASTRA Logo

You can see some samples at ASTRA meetings and ordering information for all items on our website, <http://www.astra-nj.org/ASTRA-WEAR.pdf>.

Canon 50mm f/1.8 Camera Lens with FD mount. Contact: *Wally Hager III.* at an ASTRA meeting.

Stellarvue 4" f/6.9 Achromatic Refractor Optical Tube Assembly, Model # 102D. Focal length 704mm. The objective is partially attenuated, meaning visible color is very minimal. I've seen traces of color only on the Moon and brightest planets and stars. Contrast is unusually high. Includes a nesting dew cap and a fully rotating JMI Crayford 2" type tailpiece. Also with a 1¼" adaptor, Stellarvue tube rings, and a soft padded Stellarvue carry case. Combined original cost over \$1075. ~~Sell for \$850~~, Now reduced to \$550.

TeleVue 32mm Plossl Eyepiece; Like new in original packaging with spec. sheet. New \$110. Sell for \$60.

Contact: *Phil Zollner* at 732-905-0889 or pazap@juno.com

Astronomic Group Purchase, Items for Sale, or Help Wanted Advertisements: If you want to handle a Group Purchase, have Sale items, or need Help contact the President President@astra-nj.org to announce it at a meeting and send the advertisement to the newsletter (See *Newsletter* below).

Education Article: If you have written a general interest astronomy article, please submit it to the newsletter (See *Newsletter* below). Try to keep it less than one page or it may need to be split over several months. It would be helpful if it were sent as an MS Word document attachment to an e-mail.

Newsletter: E-mail material to Newsletter@astra-nj.org or mail to: Novins Planetarium, ASTRA Newsletter, Ocean County College, P.O. Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001. If you do send something please call Randy Walton, phone 732-458-3465 as I may only check for e-mail at my local library weekly or the Planetarium only on the night of an ASTRA meeting. ***Deadline:*** Material for *ASTRAL PROJECTIONS* must be received 21 days before the next meeting.

Astronomy Courses: Planetarium staff offers a number of mini-courses on astronomy. Call the OCC Department of Continuing and Professional Education, 732/255-0404, for information or to register.

Planetarium office: 732/255-0343 weekdays 9 AM - 4 PM. **Hot line:** 732/255-0342. Select 6 for ASTRA. Visit the Planetarium web page at <http://ocean.edu/planet.htm> or visit our web page at <http://astra-nj.org>

Executive Board: **President** Sarah Waters, President@astra-nj.org; **Vice President-Secretary** Rich Gamba, VP@astra-nj.org; **Treasurer** Ro Spedalieri, Treasurer@astra-nj.org; **Newsletter Editor** Randy Walton, phone 732-458-3465, Newsletter@astra-nj.org, checked weekly; **Webmaster** John Endreson, Webmaster@astra-nj.org.

A.S.T.R.A. Dues

To renew your membership, all you need to do is fill out this form and send it with your dues to:

Robert J. Novins Planetarium
ATTN: ASTRA
Ocean County College
Toms River NJ 08754-2001

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ASTRA.

You can also pay at a meeting. If you do, please complete this form and bring it with you.

Annual dues, per family:	\$15.00
Refreshment fee — \$1.00 for <i>each additional family member</i> who comes to ASTRA meetings:	_____
Telescope Fund assessment (Mandatory first year , Optional for continuing members):	5.00
TOTAL (minimum \$15.00):	_____

Privileges of membership include ASTRA's newsletter (*Astral Projections*), use of a Club telescope (after suitable training), student discount on admission to Planetarium shows, membership in the Astronomical League, the Astronomical League's newsletter (*Reflector*), and use of the Night Sky Network kits (after suitable training). Dues are payable January 1 each year, and past due as of the end of the March meeting.

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

NAMES OF OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS JOINING (Include \$1.00 Refreshment fee for Each):
(Please indicate if member is over 18 - for voting purposes)

_____	18+	_____	18+	_____	18+	_____	18+
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

I grant permission to publish the following to ASTRA members only (check any that apply):

phone number e-mail address put me on the star party phone list

ELECTIONS for 2008

Elections for ASTRA's Club Officers will take place at the December meeting. Please use the attached Election Ballot to cast your vote. You can fill out your ballot and mail it to: Robert J. Novins Planetarium, Attn: ASTRA, Ocean County College, Toms River NJ 08754-2001 or you can bring it with you to a meeting.

Election Ballot

The President- The President shall be the primary point of contact for the organization, speak for the organization in all official matters, and preside over all meetings.

Sarah Waters _____ Or Self Nominate- Your Name _____

The Vice President/Secretary- Assume the responsibilities of the President in the President's absence. Make a record of any formal actions taken by the organization. Coordinate with the Newsletter Editor in mailing appropriate club business. Keep the official version of the Bylaws and Policy documents.

Rich Gamba _____ Or Self Nominate- Your Name _____

The Treasurer- The Treasurer shall be the club membership chairperson, shall maintain the club treasury, shall collect club dues, and shall expend funds as directed. Recurring expenditures normal to the operation of the organization are authorized. The Treasurer shall provide a written report of the year's expenditures, which shall be included in the Newsletter, published within the first calendar quarter. Separate accounting will be maintained for the Telescope Fund and it will not be used for general club operations without a vote at a regular meeting.

Ro Spedaliere _____ Or Self Nomination- Your Name _____