

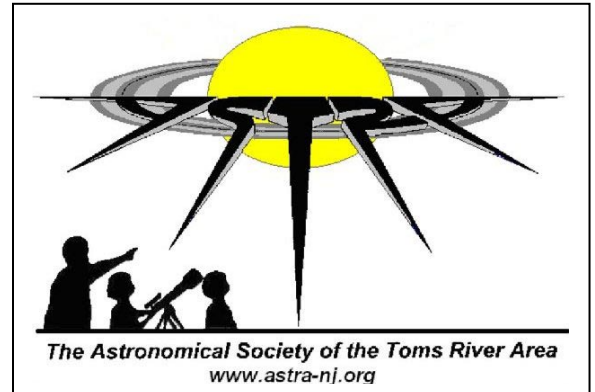
ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

April 2008

www.ASTRA-NJ.org

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

Beginning in March 2008 and until further notice, the monthly ASTRA meetings will be held in the Solar Lounge beginning at 8:00 PM. The Solar Lounge is located in the Ocean County College Center building across from the Planetarium. The relocation of the meeting is due to the impending renovation of the planetarium building to begin in 2008.



With a paid-up family membership for 2008, when you attend a monthly meeting, each family may enter their name into a free random drawing for a door prize to be given away during the meeting.

2008 Meeting Schedule

Apr. – Astronomy Day Preparation; Review of the Night Sky Network topics and ideas for Astronomy Day presentations. All members.

May – Astronomy Day Final Preparation; Final preparation for Astronomy Day on May 10th, and also open discussion. All members.

May 10th Astronomy Day; (*public*); 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Presentations inside Ocean County College Center.
Dayviewing: Solar observing outside the Ocean County College Center.
Nightviewing: 7:30 to 10:00 PM, Outside the OCC Planetarium building;

Jun. – Astronomers in History; Presentation by Bob Salvatore.

Jul. – Speaker - George Hamilton; Former director of the Franklin Institute.

Aug. – ASTRA Picnic; No meeting.

Our Next Meeting – 8 PM – April 11, 2008

Astronomy Day Preparation; We will have a review of the Night Sky Network topics to get members that will present them on Astronomy Day. We will also be looking for astronomy topic ideas that can be presented on Astronomy Day.

Dues are Due for 2008

To renew or join complete a membership form. For a form, see Ro Spedalieri Treasurer@astra-nj.org at a club meeting or get it from our club website. Turn it in at a club meeting or mail to the address listed on the form.

If you are not paid by the March meeting you will be dropped from membership, and will need to join as a new member.

Highlights of the Last Meeting

Contributed by Randy Walton

Randy Walton ran our March meeting as Sarah Waters could not be present. He gave the “Welcome” message followed by some announcements of upcoming events. Ro Spedalieri gave a report on the ASTRA star parties she has planned for the coming months.

Next we moved onto our Astronomy Equipment and Book, Show & Tell: Gene Russo showed some computer programs he uses (*Starry Night Pro*); we had a microscope shown, with the suggestion to look at microscopic life that may have come from space; John Endreson showed a telescope he was upgrading, his Meade series 5000 eyepieces, and some books; other members showed some their items; we ended with Randy Walton showing his Celestron SkyScout, Meade MySky, and two books, one of which was given away as the door prize for members that came to the meeting and entered in the drawing.

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 Spedalieri. Many members also attend star parties put on by *other* groups held at other locations.

Coyle Field (*private*) **See website Message Board for dates and times;**

April 25 - Cub Scout Pack 21, 7:30 PM (*private*) St. Catharine's School, Spring Lake NJ
(*St. Catharine's School is located at Second Avenue, between Salem and Atlantic Avenues*)

May 10 - Astronomy Day (all day and night viewing) (*Public*) Ocean County College Center

Maryland road trip - TBA

The **Lighthouse Environmental Center** (*private*)

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| June 20 Fri. kick off | Waretown |
| July 5 Sat. | Waretown |
| July 18 Fri. | Waretown |
| August 1 Fri. | Waretown |
| August 15 Fri. | Waretown |
| August 29 Fri. finale | Waretown |

June 21 - Wells Mills County Park Star Party (*public*) Mills County Park, Waretown

June 21 - Island Heights Town Campout/Sleepover Star party (*private*) Island Heights Sleep Over

August 2 - (*public*) Cloverdale County Park, Barnegat

August 23 - Air Cadets (*private*) Wall Township

September – TBA (*public*) Berkeley Pride Day, Bayville

Save the Planetarium Fund, Inc.

www.SavethePlanetarium.org

A non-profit charity has been established to help save the Novins Planetarium at Ocean County College. The only planetarium that was open to the public in central New Jersey. This is your chance to pitch in. There will be signs to take to libraries or businesses, and business cards to give to anyone that may help at the meeting.

2008 Apr. Celestial Events: supplied by J. Randolph Walton (Randy)

| Day | Date | Time (EST) | Event |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Sat | 5 | 02:35 | Mars Sets |
| | | 02:50 | Jupiter Rises |
| | | 02:58 | Double shadow transit on Jupiter |
| | | 05:10 | Saturn Sets |
| | | 06:05 | Venus Rises |
| | | 06:23 | Mercury Rises |
| | | 06:37 | Sunrise |
| | | 19:16 | Moon Set |
| | | 19:29 | Sunset |
| | | 23:55 | New Moon |
| Tue | 8 | 22:00 | Moon 1.0 deg. N of Pleiades (M45) |
| | | 23:13 | Moon Set |
| Sat | 12 | 02:20 | Mars Sets |
| | | 02:25 | Jupiter Rises |
| | | 04:40 | Saturn Sets |
| | | 05:58 | Venus Rises |
| | | 06:26 | Sunrise |
| | | 11:41 | Moon Rise |
| | | 14:32 | First Quarter Moon |
| | | 19:36 | Sunset |
| Sat | 19 | 02:00 | Jupiter Rises |
| | | 02:10 | Mars Sets |
| | | 04:15 | Saturn Sets |
| | | 05:50 | Venus Rises |
| | | 06:16 | Sunrise |
| | | 19:21 | Moon Rise |
| | | 19:43 | Sunset |
| | | 20:00 | Mercury Sets |
| Sun | 20 | 05:55 | Moon Set |
| | | 06:25 | Full Moon |
| Tue | 22 | 00:00 | LyrId meteors peak (ZHR 20) |
| | | 06:54 | Moon Set |
| Sat | 26 | 01:05 | Moon Rise |
| | | 01:30 | Jupiter Rises |
| | | 01:50 | Mars Sets |
| | | 03:50 | Saturn Sets |
| | | 05:45 | Venus Rises |
| | | 06:06 | Sunrise |
| | | 19:50 | Sunset |
| | | 20:55 | Mercury Sets |
| Mon | 28 | 02:18 | Moon Rise |
| | | 10:12 | Last Quarter Moon |

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 Spedaliere.

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>.

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.

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

Latest Items; see the club website.

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 Spedaliere, 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.