

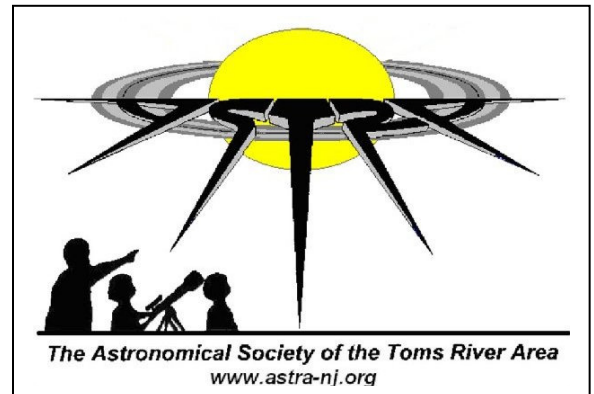
ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

November 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

See www.ASTRA-NJ.org/schedule.html for latest update

November 8th 7 PM - How to buy a telescope; Presentation by Rich Brady; any member can help.

November 14th - Comets Through History; Presentation by Teresa St. Angelo.

Making laminated ornaments by the children. Sarah Waters

Collecting for a group purchase of the Ottwell Astronomical Calendar. Phil Zollner

Distribute group purchase of Royal Astronomical Society items. Randy Walton

Make suggestions of people to get ASTRA awards to club officers. Any member

December 12th - So You Think You're An Astronomer: Presentation by Rich Brady.

Election Results, and Awards; Presented by Sarah Waters.

Vote on meeting time and dues for 2009.

Start collecting dues for 2009.

2009 Meeting Schedule

January 9th - Telescope Workshop- Starts at 7:00PM. Open to anyone who has a telescope and needs help to put it together or how to use it. Bring the family, telescope and all the parts you want help with.

February 13th – The Near Side Megabasin of the Moon; Presentation by Charlie Byrne, a STAR member.

Our Next Meeting – Friday – 8 PM – Nov. 14, 2008

Comets Through History; Presentation by Teresa St. Angelo.

Group Purchase – Phil Zollner will take final orders towards a group purchase of the Ottwell Astronomical Calendar at a discount. See more information later in the newsletter. The plan is also to give out the Royal Astronomical Society items if the order comes in by the November meeting.

Highlights of the Last Meeting

Contributed by Allen Malsbury

Speaker of the Month:

George Hamilton (former director of the Franklin Institute) presented an interesting, informative and logical comparison of the astrology view of the universe with a modern astronomer's observations of the same sky. According to George, astrology was developed approximately 4000 years ago. George pointed out the similarities of today's constellations and astrology's "signs", however, he showed that modern astronomical measurements of our sky often contradict the observations made 4000 years ago and the claims of modern astrologers. George demonstrated how our earth and its axis of rotation process a little each year. Because of this fact, modern astrology, including the dates assigned to each zodiac sign are actually offset by many days, weeks in some cases. We were struck by the fact that 4000 years ago people looked to the heavens for answers. Seems we still are looking for something up there.

Group Purchase:

Phil asked for a show of hands for those who might be interested in a group purchase of Sky and Telescope Ottwell Astronomical Calendar. He needs seven more people to get the group discount. Based on the show of hands and interest, Phil will be collecting next meeting for the calendar order. Calendars won't arrive until early December.

Kid Zone:

Sarah handed out 3x4 white cards for the kids to color and decorate for the next meeting. Decorated cards will be laminated at the next meeting to make Christmas ornaments.

Door Prize:

An older copy of the Beginners Guide was donated by an ASTRA member. It was won by John who in turn donated it back to ASTRA for use by beginners who borrow one of the loaner scopes.

Loaner Scope Donated to ASTRA:

Pete donated one of his two telescopes to ASTRA for use as a loaner scope. It is a nice Celestron refractor with motorized equatorial mount. Thanks a ton Pete!!

Star Parties:

Ro announced that ASTRA had won the Mars Globe from the Night Sky Network. ASTRA has an outstanding community outreach program and provides frequent star parties. Upcoming star parties include:

November 1 Scout Party, Tomsriver Area

November 22 Scout Party, Quail Hill

Observers with Special Needs:

Ro also asked members to brainstorm ideas for making star parties more ADA accessible to party members who may be confined to wheelchairs and/or who may be physically challenged. Something to think about and work on in the future.

Seminar Planned:

The annual "How to buy a telescope" seminar will be present by Rich Brady at 7 pm November 8 at the college. As usual, ASTRA members are asked to attend to help the seminar attendees.

Officer Nominations:

President: Rich Brady and Mauro Bacolo

VP: Ed Mullen

Treasurer: Ro Spedalieri

Changes to Committees for next year:

Newsletter; Allen Malsbury

Meeting Refreshments; Sarah & Dr. Cooper

Kids Zone; Sarah & Teresa

Many thanks to the Sarah and Randy for their past work.

Club Insurance:

The club has acquired the insurance discussed at the last meeting. The new insurance allows club coverage during public events and star parties. It covers injury and property claims by the public, but not members or items like telescope equipment damage.

Change of Meeting Time:

There was enough interest in moving the meeting time up to warrant a vote to do so. The meeting room will be available next year at the early start times, 7 or 7:30 pm. The final decision and vote regarding changing to either 7 or 7:30 pm will be voted on at the December Meeting.

Change of Club Dues:

It was suggested that the club dues should be increased. The suggested dues will be \$25 in 2009 subject to a vote at the December meeting. New member dues will be \$30 with the extra \$5 going towards the telescope fund. ASTRA members were reminded that many existing members donate the extra \$5 a year just to help out. All donations above and beyond the minimum \$25 will be put to good use.

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. **See the website Message Board for the latest updates, times, dates, directions, and who plans to go.**

Coyle Field (*private*)

See the website Message Board.

November 1 - Scout Party (*Private*)

Toms River, NJ.

November 22 - Scout Party (*Private*)

Quail Hill, NJ.

Group Purchase of the Ottwell Astronomical Calendar

We are again offering the Ottwell Astronomical Calendar (2009 edition) to the membership. Sky & Telescope told me the 45% discount price would be \$13.85. That's far less than any previous year. Adding about \$2.10 per copy for shipping means \$16 per copy for us. If you are not familiar with this resource, its large format, dramatic illustrations, and friendly, easy-to-read text make it a desirable resource for all skywatchers. We need a minimum of 10 orders. Please be ready with cash or check on November 14th.

Contact: Phil Zollner at the November meeting or by e-mail at pazap@juno.com

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

Day	Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Sat	1	03:10	Saturn Rises
		06:20	Mercury Rises
		07:30	Sunrise
		17:57	Sunset
		18:25	Mars Sets
		19:51	Venus Sets
		20:06	Moon Set
		22:05	Jupiter Sets
Sun	2	02:00	Daylight Saving Time ends
Tue	4	23:00	S. Taurid meteors peak (ZHR=10)
Wed	5	23:03	First Quarter Moon
		23:05	Moon Set
Sat	8	01:50	Saturn Rises
		05:50	Mercury Rises
		06:38	Sunrise
		14:04	Moon Rise
		16:50	Sunset
		17:10	Mars Sets
		18:55	Venus Sets
		20:45	Jupiter Sets
Tue	11	23:00	N. Taurid meteors peak (ZHR=15)
Thu	13	01:17	Full Moon
		15:00	Moon 0.7 deg. N of Pleiades (M45)
		16:46	Moon Rise
Sat	15	01:25	Saturn Rises
		06:15	Mercury Rises
		06:46	Sunrise
		16:43	Sunset
		17:00	Mars Sets
		18:51	Moon Rise
		19:05	Venus Sets
		20:25	Jupiter Sets
Mon	17	05:00	Leonid meteors peak (ZHR=15)
Wed	19	16:31	Last Quarter Moon
		23:45	Moon Rise
Sat	22	01:00	Saturn Rises
		01:56	Moon Rise
		06:54	Sunrise
		16:39	Sunset
		16:50	Mars Sets
		19:15	Venus Sets
		20:05	Jupiter Sets
Thu	27	11:55	New Moon
		16:15	Moon Set
Sat	29	00:35	Saturn Rises
		07:01	Sunrise
		16:36	Sunset
		17:55	Moon Set
		19:30	Venus Sets
		19:40	Jupiter Sets

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

For 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.

ELECTIONS for 2009

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 meetings.

Rich Brady _____ Mauro Bacolo _____ 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.

Ed Mullen _____ 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 _____