

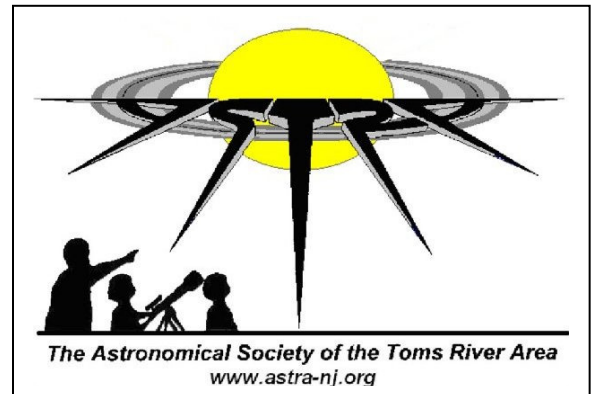
# ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

September/October 2008

[www.ASTRA-NJ.org](http://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](http://www.ASTRA-NJ.org) for latest update

**October 10<sup>th</sup> – Astrology, a Pseudoscience;** Presentation by George Hamilton

**Nominations for all offices;**

**Finish collecting for a group purchase of Observer's Handbook and Observer's Calendar**

**November 14<sup>th</sup> - Comets through History;** Presentation by Teresa St. Angelo.

**December 12<sup>th</sup> - Election Results, and Awards;** Presented by Sarah Waters.

**So You Think You're An Astronomer:** Presentation by Rich Brady

**January 2009 -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.

## Our Next Meeting – Friday – 8 PM – Oct. 10, 2008

**Astrology, a Pseudoscience;** Speaker George Hamilton. George Hamilton taught Physics and Astronomy for 34 years. He worked with a number of Planetariums for 22 years; he was the Vice President of the Franklin Institute Science Museum for 9 years. He has been listed in Who's Who in the World, America and the East. Having been involved in the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society, (MAPS) a few of you may already know him. Due to travel arrangements, he will start his presentation at the beginning of our meeting, 8PM.

**Nominations for all offices;** Sarah has notified the Executive Board she will not be seeking another term.

**Group Purchase** – ASTRA is taking orders to try to make a bulk purchase of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Observer's books and calendars at a discount. We will collect \$16 for the Calendar, \$21 for the Handbook and \$25.95 for the Beginner's Observing Guide. See the order form at the end of the newsletter. The plan is to collect for the items at this meeting, and place the order to get the items to give out at the November meeting. If we do not meet the listed minimum discount, the money collected will be refunded.

# Highlights of the Last Meeting

Contributed by Allen Malsbury

**July Meeting:** Sarah was unable to attend the July meeting so the VP, Rich Gamba, ran the meeting. Our special speaker for the evening, Mr. George Hamilton, took ill at the very last moment so he was unable to come to the meeting. In his place, his friend, Rich Mackiewicz, filled in with a very nice slide presentation, thank you Rich.

**No August Meeting:** In lieu of the August meeting we have the Perseid Picnic. See write-up that follows.

**September Meeting:** Sarah opened the meeting at 8 pm. Sarah explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss several important issues. She asked that the members stay on subject, provide positive feedback as each subject was presented by the board.

Randy announced that he was starting to collect for the annual order of the Observers Handbook which would be \$21, the Beginners Guide for \$25.95 and the Calendar which would be \$16 this year. He said he would collect the money next meeting and would place the order after that.

Rich Brady provided free past issues of Sky and Telescope for anyone wanting them. Also, Ro brought copies of both Orion and Celestron catalogs for the taking.

Subjects Covered included:

1. Club Bylaws. Copies of the Club Bylaws will be made available to new members and are posted on the clubs website.
2. Lighthouse Star Party.
  - a. The State required that the ASTRA members attending have insurance or each member attending needed to join the Lighthouse.
  - b. Drexel agreed to pay for only five members.
  - c. Since Sarah was already a member and Drexel was willing to pay for five, six were invited.
  - d. Even though others offered to pay the Lighthouse limited the number to six.
  - e. It was a Drexel event only.

All club members were satisfied with the complete and logical explanation Sarah provided and this issue was closed.

3. Club Insurance
  - a. Club insurance for Star Parties was explained.
  - b. It will cost \$323/year and will cover up to \$1,000,000 per event and \$2,000,000 per year.
  - c. A vote of the members present confirmed the club should purchase the insurance.
4. Club Meeting Subject Selection
  - a. Meeting subjects are chosen by member suggestions.
  - b. These have been limited to talks provide by ASTRA members recently.
  - c. There is no money available for outside speakers.
  - d. Planning for subjects and speakers will be done by the planning board at 7pm before the December meeting.
  - e. Allen volunteered to see if some outside speakers could be found.
  - f. Anyone who wants to suggest subjects should contact Allen and/or one of the board members.
5. Fund Raising
  - a. Not allowed because of the club's casual status and not being registered with the state.
  - b. It is okay to fund raise within the membership.

6. Star Parties
  - a. Ro books star parties via her own networking and repeat requests.
  - b. Anybody can host a star party.
  - c. You can help even if you don't bring a scope by:
    - i. Directing people
    - ii. Taking pictures
    - iii. Other PR functions like giving hand outs
  - d. There is no list of members who will be invited to the size limited parties. Ro invites on a first come first serve basis. She also enlists members who consistently attend and can be counted on to show up.
  - e. The Purpose of the Star Parties is to increase public awareness of astronomy.
  - f. ASTRA does not charge for parties.
  - g. Star Party site are generally car accessible to minimize the need to carry heavy scopes long distances.
  - h. Please realize that conditions for observing are not always ideal.
  - i. If you say you are going to attend please show up or call ahead of time so that others can be called to fill in.
7. Night Sky Network
  - a. All ASTRA members are now members of the Night Sky Network.
  - b. They have provided ASTRA with many instruction kits.
  - c. We earn kits via the star parties we report to NSN.
  - d. If you have a small star party with neighbors or friends, that counts and can be recorded.
  - e. Visit the Night Sky website if you can.
8. Financial Information
  - a. Will be included in the next newsletter.
  - b. Currently we have 65 paying members.
  - c. We collect about \$1026/year.
9. The Club has 3 loaner scopes.
  - a. A 6" Dob.
  - b. A 8" Dob.
  - c. A 120mm refractor.
10. The Club Website was discussed.

It was decided that options for improving the message board should be developed. Anyone with suggestions should email them to the webmaster.
11. The Club will remain a member of the Astronomical League.

If you don't want the Reflector, the quarterly magazine, please let the club board know because ASTRA can save the club money by not having it sent to you.
12. Club Message Board
  - a. Please remember it is a public board.
  - b. Stay on topic.
  - c. Use appropriate language and attitude.
  - d. The webmaster will remove any inappropriate content.
13. Change of Meeting Time
  - a. There was enough interesting in moving the meeting time up to warrant a vote to do so.
  - b. Gloria pointed out that moving the time up may affect the room the College will allow us to use. Gloria was asked to investigate this issue.

## 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 website Message Board for dates and times;](#)

October 3rd - OCC NASA's 50th Anniversary ( <i>public</i> )	Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ
October 4th - Cloverdale Star Party (limit 6 people sleepover)	Cloverdale County Park Barnegat, NJ.
October 18th - Wells Mills Star Party (limit 6 people sleepover)	Wells Mills County Park Waretown, NJ.

## ASTRA Perseid Picnic and Star Party

Contributed by Randy Walton

Once again the annual ASTRA Perseid Picnic was held at the home of Rich & Peggi Gamba. The weather did not cooperate this year. Clouds and rain were off and on all day, with no observing at night. There was a good turnout of club members, plenty of great food, lots of astronomy talk, and other good conversation. A highlight of the day was observing a rainbow, as seen in the photo by Ro Spedaliere. Also, a big thank you to all the club members who provided a dish (or two).



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

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (EDT)</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sat	4	04:45	Saturn Rises
		07:00	Sunrise
		18:37	Sunset
		19:20	Mars Sets
		19:52	Venus Sets
		21:22	Moon Set
		23:37	Jupiter Sets
Tue	7	05:04	<b>First Quarter Moon</b>
		14:48	Moon Rise
Sat	11	04:25	Saturn Rises
		06:25	Mercury Rises
		07:07	Sunrise
		16:42	Moon Rise
		18:26	Sunset
		19:05	Mars Sets
		19:50	Venus Sets
		23:15	Jupiter Sets
Tue	14	16:02	<b>Full Moon</b>
		17:58	Moon Rise
Fri	17	07:00	Moon 0.8 deg. N of the Pleiades (M45)
		07:13	Sunrise
Sat	18	04:05	Saturn Rises
		05:45	Mercury Rises
		18:15	Sunset
		18:50	Mars Sets
		19:45	Venus Sets
		20:58	Moon Rise
		22:53	Jupiter Sets
Tue	21	00:00	Orionid meteors peak (ZHR=20)
		07:55	<b>Last Quarter Moon</b>
		14:30	Moon Set
Sat	25	03:35	Saturn Rises
		05:50	Mercury Rises
		07:22	Sunrise
		16:17	Moon Set
		18:06	Sunset
		18:35	Mars Sets
		19:47	Venus Sets
		22:30	Jupiter Sets
Mon	27	Before 05:45	Zodiacal Light visible in E before morning twilight for next two weeks
Tue	28	17:30	Moon Set
		19:14	<b>New Moon</b>
Sat	Nov 1	03:10	Saturn Rises
		06:20	Mercury Rises
		17:57	Sunset
		18:25	Mars Sets
		19:51	Venus Sets
		20:06	Moon Set
		22:05	Jupiter Sets

# Astronomical League

[www.AstroLeague.org](http://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](mailto:pazap@juno.com)

**For Latest Items;** see the club website.

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***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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:President@astra-nj.org); **Vice President-Secretary** - Rich Gamba, [VP@astra-nj.org](mailto:VP@astra-nj.org); **Treasurer** - Ro Spedaliere, [Treasurer@astra-nj.org](mailto:Treasurer@astra-nj.org); **Newsletter Editor** - Randy Walton, phone 732-458-3465, [Newsletter@astra-nj.org](mailto:Newsletter@astra-nj.org), checked weekly; **Webmaster** - John Endreson, [Webmaster@astra-nj.org](mailto:Webmaster@astra-nj.org).

# Group Purchase of Royal Astronomical Society Items

The ASTRA astronomy club is taking orders to try to make a bulk purchase of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) Observer's books and calendars at a discount. The RASC has increased the US prices because of the fall in the value of the US dollar. We are collecting the discount prices listed below, which includes shipping and handling to ASTRA. If we do not meet the listed minimum discount, the money collected will be refunded.

The *Observer's Handbook* is a 320+ page guide published annually. The sections in the *Observer's Handbook* are of two kinds: Sections dealing with **astronomical events** that occur during the year, e.g. times of sunrise, sunset, moonrise, moonset, eclipses, meteor showers, star occultations by the Moon and by asteroids and a section called "The Sky Month By Month"; Sections dealing with **astronomical data** and information that does not change from year to year

The *Observer's Calendar* has an astronomical photo for each month, times of sunrise, sunset, moonrise, moonset and important astronomical events that occur during the year.

The *Beginner's Observing Guide* is an introduction to the night sky for the novice stargazer. It provides information that does not change from year to year, e.g. motion of the heavens, position and brightness of heavenly objects, names of brightest stars, naming systems for stars, how to read star maps, star maps, information about telescopes and binoculars, developing observing skills, a glossary, questions asked by beginners, and an appendix of several lists.

Item	Reg. Price & Shipping	Disc. Price & Shipping
Observer's Handbook 2009	\$32.45	\$21.00
Observer's Calendar 2009	\$23.45	\$16.00
Beginner's Observing Guide, 5 <sup>th</sup> Ed.	\$25.95	\$25.95 no Disc.

Name:
Phone: (      )
Member of this club:

Qty.	Item	Price each	Total
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$</b>

Please use the form to list what you want, make a check out to ASTRA, and give them to Randy Walton at the Oct. meeting, or mail it to ASTRA, Robert J. Novins Planetarium, Ocean County College, P.O. Box 2001, Toms River NJ 08754-2001 by Oct. 10. Items will need to be picked up from Randy Walton at a club meeting.