

ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

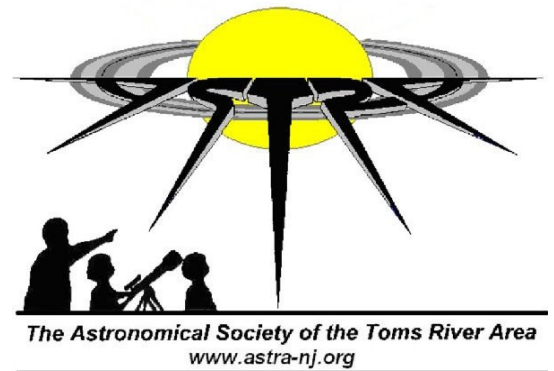
April 2009

www.ASTRA-NJ.org

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

Meetings are in the Solar Lounge beginning at 7:00 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 renovation of the planetarium building.

With a paid-up family membership for 2009, 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.



Our Next Meeting – Friday – 7 PM – April 8, 2009

Prep for Astronomy Day & Review of the Night Sky Network: It is time to start planning and prepping for Astronomy Day at the College. We will have a review of the Night Sky Network topics and kit for presentation on Astronomy Day. We will also be looking for astronomy topic ideas that can be presented on Astronomy Day.

2009 Meeting Schedule

See www.ASTRA-NJ.org for latest update

April 10th – Starts at 7:00PM. **Preparations and Ideas for Astronomy Day.**

May 8th – Starts at 7:00PM. **Astronomy Equipment and/or Book, show and tell.**

June 12th – Starts at 7:00PM. **Celestial Navigation;** Presented by Sarah Waters.

July 10th – Starts at 7:00PM. **Virtual Observer Research Project** presented by Roger Blake.

August – No Meeting (Picnic Date To Be Determined)

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.

April 3rd: OCC Spring star watch (100 hours observing) open to the public.

April 4th: Cub Scouts, Island Heights, ASTRA members only.

May 2nd: OCC Astronomy Day, Solar Viewing, Daytime, Star Party, Evening, Open to the public.

May 30th: Wells Mills Park campout, ASTRA members only.

June 19th: Jake's Branch Park Beachwood, open to the public.

June 27th: St. Stephan's Church, Howell, ASTRA members only.

August 1st: OCC Summer star watch, open to the public.

September 12th: Berkeley Pride Day, open to the public.

See the website [Message Board](#) for the latest updates, times, dates, directions, and who plans to go.

Highlights of the Last Meeting

March 13, 2009

Rich opened the meeting at 7 pm, our new starting time. [Another Friday the 13th meeting, but not bad luck for us who attended. It was a great meeting.]

Kid's Zone:

Sarah hosted the Kid's Zone this month. One of my favorite subjects: the Moon. The Kids were given an observing assignment for the month. They are to observe the Moon through its changing phases. Handouts were given to everyone who wanted them.

Monthly Raffle:

Phil donated a book by Levy which was this month's Raffle price. It was later won by one of ASTRA's new members.

Announcements:

Phil reminded everyone the NEAF is coming up in April, the weekend of the 18th/19th. NEAF is one of the best Astronomy trade and vendor shows in the US and it is less than two hours drive. During the break, several groups starting making plans to carpool up to NEAF. It is going to be a fun day.

John provided information and discount codes to club members. These discounts are valued 3 to 5% at both Oceanside and Highpoint stores. So if you going to buy new equipment you will want to get more information from John so you don't spend more than you should.

Ro gave a nice summary of her trip to San Francisco paid for by the Night Sky Network. She is working with others from the Network to create a nation wide website listing of star parties. ASTRA's star parties will be listed on this new web based system. See ASTRA's website, click on the star party that interests you and the link will take you to the Night Sky page with more info, directions and maps for find it.

Ro presented Night Sky Network award pins and Certificates of Appreciation to individual members of ASTRA. The following members received the award and certificate.

Mauro Bacolo	Rich Brady	Kyle Calderwood	Neil Zimmerman	Pete Cohen
John Endreson	Rich Fink	Marianne Fink	Peg Gamba	Adam Gamba
Hannah Gamba	Vinnie Illuzzi	Mike Kozic	Rich Mackiewicz	Allen Malsbury
Ed Mullen	Erin Murphey	Bill Murphey	Ed Paul	J. Randolph Walton
Joe Rullo	Gene Russo	Bob Salvatore	John Schmelzle	Mariah Schmelzle
John Schubach	Rosemarie Spedalieri	Theresa St. Angelo	Gloria Villalobos	Emmett Villalobos
Sarah Waters	Phil Zollner			

Speaker of the Month:

Ken Legal presenting Our Changing Sun

Ken Legal is a member of the STAR Astronomy Club. Ken's presentation was really well done. He discussed our Sun, its size and structure, how it compares with other stars in our Galaxy, even here our Sun is located in the Milky Way. Ken presented information about the Sun's spots, its magnetic storms, and mass ejections. He showed us that many different space probes that have been launched to study and collect data about our Sun. Ken's presentation was replete with images, video streams and other great graphics. Really cool..I mean HOT!. You know what I mean. Ken showed that our Sun, its 22 year cycle, has a huge impact on our weather. In fact the Sun's spot activity is currently at a low point now and that our planet is actually cooling, not warming. Wow, that is something to think about. It is expected that the next Sunspot cycle is about to begin again soon. If it does, we should start another warming trend soon. In summary, another great presentation by a member of the STAR club. Thanks Ken. We really enjoy it. Well done.

2009 Apr. Celestial Events: supplied by J. Randolph Walton (Randy)

Day	Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Thu	2	10:34	First Quarter Moon
		11:46	Moon Rise
Sat	4	04:30	Jupiter Rises
		05:37	Venus Rises
		05:40	Mars Rises
		05:50	Saturn Sets
		06:39	Sunrise
		14:13	Moon Rise
		19:28	Sunset
		19:55	Mercury Sets
Mon	6	05:59	Jupiters' Io occults half of Ganymede
Thu	9	10:56	Full Moon
		20:01	Moon Rise
Sat	11	04:05	Jupiter Rises
		05:10	Venus Rises
		05:20	Saturn Sets
		05:25	Mars Rises
		19:35	Sunset
		20:40	Mercury Sets
		22:14	Moon Rise
Fri	17	09:36	Last Quarter Moon
		12:05	Moon Set
Sat	18	03:40	Jupiter Rises
		04:50	Venus Rises
		04:55	Saturn Sets
		05:10	Mars Rises
		06:17	Sunrise
		13:07	Moon Set

		19:42	Sunset
		21:20	Mercury Sets
Wed	22	06:00	Lyrid meteors peak (ZHR=20)
Fri	24	19:42	Moon Set
		23:23	New Moon
Sat	25	03:10	Jupiter Rises
		04:25	Saturn Sets
		04:35	Venus Rises
		04:55	Mars Rises
		06:08	Sunrise
		19:49	Sunset
		20:57	Moon Set
		21:37	Mercury Sets
Fri	May 1	12:05	Moon Rise
		16:44	First Quarter Moon
Sat	May 2	02:50	Jupiter Rises
		03:55	Saturn Sets
		04:20	Venus Rises
		04:40	Mars Rises
		05:59	Sunrise
		13:17	Moon Rise
		19:56	Sunset
		21:37	Mercury 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.

OPT Reward Club

ASTRA members should start receiving their OPT Rewards Club membership cards in the mail. You don't have to do anything just use your Rewards number when you purchase your astronomy equipment from Oceanside Photo & Telescope "OPT" and receive exclusive discounts.

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>.

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).

Newsletter: E-mail material to Newsletter@astra-nj.org

Executive Board: **President** – Rich Brady, President@astra-nj.org; **Vice President-Secretary** – Ed Mullen, VP@astra-nj.org; **Treasurer** - Ro Spedalieri, Treasurer@astra-nj.org; **Newsletter Editor** – Allen Malsbury, Newsletter@astra-nj.org; **Webmaster** - John Endreson, Webmaster@astra-nj.org.