

ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

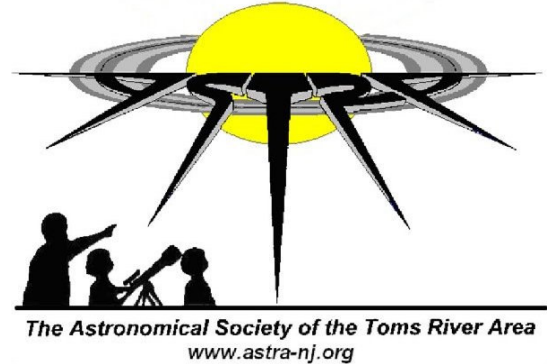
February 2009

www.ASTRA-NJ.org

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

Meeting 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.



Please pay your dues for 2009. They are now \$25/year/family. New members will pay \$30 for the first year they join, of which \$5 will go towards the telescope fund. All donations above and beyond the minimums of \$25 (\$30 for new members) will be put to good use.

Our Next Meeting – Friday – 7 PM – February 13, 2009

The Near Side Mega-basin of the Moon: presented by Charlie Byrne a member of STAR. Charlie will talk about meteoroid impacts on the Moon and how they have shape our Moon. He has a book “The Far Side of the Moon”, Springer, 2008.

Also John Endreson will give a brief presentation and handout information about the NASA’s Kepler mission. Kepler is a space borne telescope designed to survey distant stars to determine the prevalence of Earthlike planets.

2009 Meeting Schedule

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

PLEASE NOTE: MEETING WILL BE AT 7:00 PM STARTING JANUARY 2009.

February 13th – Starts at 7:00PM. **The Near Side Megabasin of the Moon**; Presentation by Charlie Byrne, a STAR member.

March 13th – Starts at 7:00PM. **Our Changing Sun**; Presentation by Ken Legal, a STAR member.

April 10th – Starts at 7:00PM. **Preparations and Ideas for Astronomy Day. Review of the Night Sky Network.**

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. Simulation of Visual Telescope Observation;** presented by Roger Blake.

August – No Meeting (Picnic Date To Be Determined)

Highlights of the Last Meeting

Rich opened the meeting around 7 pm. Rich explained to all our visitors that ASTRA has been helping people with the new telescopes for many years now and has set aside the January meeting for this purpose.

Rich invited those at the meeting to come to any club meeting if they have more question or need additional help beyond the Telescope Workshop session.

Rich mentioned that ASTRA is open to the public and anyone can join. (You don't have to be a student of OCC.)

Rich explained his approach to Astronomy as a hobby. He recommended that:

- You should take your time.
- You can't learn or see it all in one night.
- Be Patient
- Have fun

Rich suggested getting more information. Begin learning the night sky. Good sources are:

- Star maps and Planisphere's (Gloria had some available for-sale.)
- Sky & Telescope and/or Astronomy Magazine
- The Internet
- The Club and its members

Rich spoke about night vision and the use of red filtered flashlights. Randy had red plastic for anyone who wanted it.

Rich warned everyone: NOT TO LOOK AT THE SUN with a telescope. You will be permanently blinded if you do. Rich mentioned that there are safe methods for looking at the sun, but it requires the use of special filters specifically made for that purpose.

Gene spoke about his 40 years as an amateur astronomer. How you never stop learning. Gene also reinforced what Rich said. Astronomy is fun. It is not a competition. You don't have to be the fastest, the tallest or the strongest. It is a relaxing hobby and has many different levels and directions you can explore. It will keep you interested.

Before we broke in to small groups, Mike talked about the upcoming bus trip to the Museum of Natural History. Mike stated that his needs to know how many people are interested soon. The trip will be March 28th. We need a total of 49 people counting both STAR and ASTRA member, friends and family that might go. So far Mike has not received many emails and/or requests for a seat on the bus. The cost will be approximately \$25 for the bus and another \$22 to get into the museum. If you are interest, please contact Mike right away.

2009 Feb. Celestial Events: by Randy

Day	Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Mon	2	10:21	Moon Rise
		18:13	First Quarter Moon
Tue	3	10:59	Moon Rise
		22:00	Moon 0.9 Deg. N of Pleiades (M45)
Sat	7	05:40	Mercury Rises
		06:20	Mars Rises
		06:35	Jupiter Rises
		07:02	Sunrise
		15:15	Moon Rise
		17:27	Sunset
		19:50	Saturn Rises
		21:13	Venus Sets
Mon	9	06:55	Moon Sets
		9:00 to 10:20	Penumbra lunar eclipse (not in NJ)
		9:49	Full Moon
Thu	12	18:20	Zodiacal light in W for two weeks
Sat	14	05:37	Mercury Rises
		06:10	Mars Rises
		06:12	Jupiter Rises
		06:54	Sunrise
		17:35	Sunset
		19:20	Saturn Rises
		21:12	Venus Sets
		23:39	Moon Rise
Mon	16	10:11	Moon Sets
		16:37	Last Quarter Moon
Tue	17	06:05	Mars 0.6 Deg. S of Jupiter
Sat	21	04:55	Moon Rise
		05:40	Mercury Rises
		05:45	Jupiter Rises
		05:55	Mars Rises
		06:45	Sunrise
		17:43	Sunset
		18:55	Saturn Rises
		21:05	Venus Sets
Sun	22	About 06:00	Cr. Moon, Mercury, Jupiter, and Mars in a group
Mon	23	05:43	Mercury 0.7 Deg. to right of Jupiter
Tue	24	05:38	Jupiter Rises
		05:42	Mercury Rises 0.7 Deg. below Jupiter
		17:38	Moon Sets
		20:35	New Moon
Sat	28	05:25	Jupiter Rises
		05:44	Mercury Rises
		05:46	Mars Rises
		06:35	Sunrise
		17:51	Sunset
		18:22	Saturn Rises
		20:50	Venus Sets
		22:02	Moon 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.

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>.

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

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

Telescope Workshop 2009

