

ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

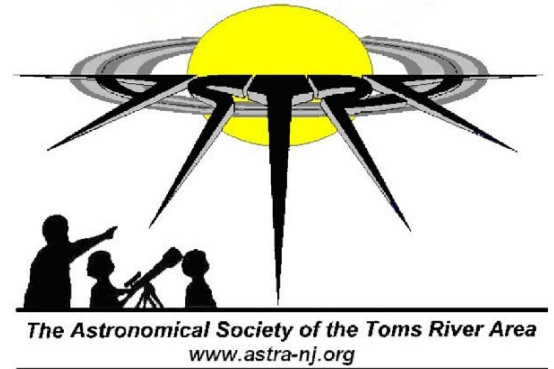
January 2009

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 – JANUARY 9, 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. The Telescope Workshop will be held in the College Center Cafeteria across from the Planetarium with a welcome to ASTRA by Rich Brady. After an introduction on telescope types and other items people should have such as a red light, star maps and the like, we will divide the group for individual help. We can use help from all members, regardless of knowledge. Try to bring some simple tools (*straight and Phillips screwdrivers, pliers, small wrenches or hex keys*) if you can. Randy will have red plastic for making red lights out of regular flash lights.

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.

January 9th - Starts at 7:00PM. **Telescope Workshop;** 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 – 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

Sarah opened the meeting around 8 pm.

New Visitors:

We had two new prospective members at this meeting, Michael and Nancy.

Kid's Zone:

Sarah had glow sticks as a Holiday gift for the children at the Kid's Zone this week. Thanks Sarah for thinking of the children attending our meeting.

2009 Calendar's:

Phil distributed the Calendars members had ordered last month. Thanks Phil for making the effort to put together the group discount order.

Astronomy Day:

Sarah reminded everyone that Astronomy Day next year will be May 2nd. Seems far away now but it'll be here before you know it. Mark you calendar's now to save the date.

Club Election:

Club election of next year's officers was conducted by paper ballot. After the votes were counted the following club officer's were elected:

President : Rich Brady
Vice President/Secretary: Ed Mullen
Treasurer: Ro Spedalieri

Other appointed club administrators included:

Webmaster: John Endreson
Newsletter Editor: Allen Malsbury

Thanks to the outgoing President and Vice President, Sarah and Rich. We appreciate all you good service and for going the extra mile for us. Thank you both.

Dues Vote:

A vote by the show of hands confirmed that the annual club dues should and will be increased to \$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.

Meeting Start Time Vote:

A show of hands confirmed that the majority of those present want the club meeting to begin at 7:00 pm. The new start time will be affective at the next meeting in January, the Telescope Workshop. Gloria confirmed that she had reserved the Lounge for the new time already for 2009.

Club Discounts:

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.

Door Prize:

Thanks Gloria for donating the book door prize that was won by Ken this month.

Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation:

Sarah presented Certificates of Recognition and Appreciation to acknowledge some special efforts made by ASTRA members. Humorous certificates were also given in good fun. Those receiving them were Gloria, Bob, Ro, John, Rich G. and his family, Randy, Dr. Cooper, Ed and Charlotte.

Announcements:

Gene thanked all the members of ASTRA who supported him over the last couple of months via emails, telephone calls and the get well wishes via snail mail.

STAR is planning a bus trip the Museum of Natural History in March to see the astronomy exhibit there. STAR is asking if ASTRA members would like to go? This will help fill the bus, approximately 50 seats total and the cost of the bus. STAR is estimating approximately \$40 per person all in. Interested members should email Mike at MKozicDDS@aol.com. If we can get 10 to 15 people, even more, STAR will go ahead with the bus trip plans. More detail later...

Ro was already booked 10 star parties for next year. More details later...

Speaker of the Month: Rich Brady

So you want to be an Astronomer?

Rich had a tough, I mean tough 20 question quiz. Rich had 20 different slides to the spring/summer sky. Questions tested the club's knowledge of the night sky, star names, star cluster locations, several Messier objects and other items of interest. I found the quiz/sky tour both interesting and fun. Did I mention tough. Lots left to learn, even for the experienced observers. That is the best part of this hobby, there is always something new to learn. Thanks Rich for a good presentation.

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.



2009 Jan. Celestial Events: by Randy

Day	Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Sat	3	06:55	Mars Rises
		07:22	Sunrise
		08:00	Quadrantid meteors peak (ZHR=120)
		10:55	Moon Rise
		16:47	Sunset
		18:03	Jupiter Sets
		18:20	Mercury Sets
		20:37	Venus Sets
		22:20	Saturn Rises
Sun	4	06:56	First Quarter Moon
		11:19	Moon Rise
Sat	10	06:53	Mars Rises
		07:21	Sunrise
		16:26	Moon Rise
		16:54	Sunset
		17:42	Jupiter Sets
		18:20	Mercury Sets
		20:50	Venus Sets
		21:45	Saturn Rises
		22:27	Full Moon
Sat	17	06:50	Mars Rises
		07:19	Sunrise
		10:39	Moon Sets
		17:02	Sunset
		17:22	Jupiter Sets
		17:37	Mercury Sets
		20:58	Venus Sets
		21:20	Saturn Rises
		21:46	Last Quarter Moon
Sat	24	06:30	Mercury Rises
		06:50	Mars Rises
		07:15	Sunrise
		15:35	Moon Sets
		17:02	Jupiter Sets
		17:10	Sunset
		20:53	Saturn Rises
		21:05	Venus Sets
Mon	26	02:55	New Moon
		06:06	Annular Solar Eclipse in South Atlantic
		07:25	Moon Rise
Sat	31	05:50	Mercury Rises
		06:27	Mars Rises
		06:55	Jupiter Rises
		07:09	Sunrise
		17:18	Sunset
		20:20	Saturn Rises
		21:10	Venus Sets
		23:02	Moon Sets
Feb	2	10:21	Moon Rise
		18:13	First 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 Spedalieri.

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 Spedalieri, Treasurer@astra-nj.org; **Newsletter Editor** – Allen Malsbury
Webmaster - John Endreson, Webmaster@astra-nj.org.
