

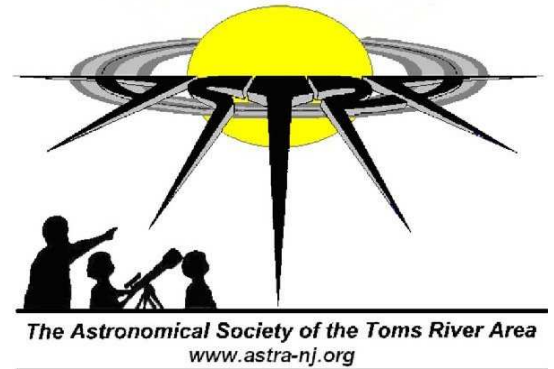
ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

MAY 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 – May 8, 2009

Astronomy Equipment and/or Book, Show and Tell: It is time for our annual Show and Tell Meeting. Bring your favorite new find or even something from your old stuff. Maybe a book you just finished or one you use all the time. Got a new gadget? Bring it in and share it.

2009 Meeting Schedule

See www.ASTRA-NJ.org for latest update
(All meetings start at 7:00 PM unless noted)

May 8th – Astronomy Equipment and/or Book, show and tell.

June 12th – Celestial Navigation presented by Sarah Waters.

July 10th – Virtual Observer Research Project presented by Roger Blake.

August – No Meeting (Picnic Date To Be Determined)

September 11th – Space Shuttle Columbia STS 61-C mission; Guest speaker Robert Cenker astronaut

October 9th – Mirror Grinding presented by Gene Russo

November 13th – Famous Astronomers of the 17th Century presented by Rich Brady
(backup date for Robert Cenker)

December 11th – Annual Awards meeting

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.

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 [ASTRA website](#) for the latest times, dates, and directions.

Highlights of the Last Meeting

April 10, 2009

Kid's Zone:

Sarah hosted the Kid's Zone this meeting. It was an Easter Theme with coloring handouts. Erin supplied the crayons. Another great Kid's Zone to start off a good meeting.

Star Party Update and other Reports:

Ro gave a summary update of upcoming Star Parties. She has not heard back from the Lighthouse yet. All other star party dates are the same as listed above. Rich Brady gave a report on the NYC bus trip and thanked STAR for the invitation to join them. Others who went also commented that it was a good day.

Discussions:

Since there were several members who could not make this meeting because it fell on Good Friday, Rich asked the members present, if future meetings that fall on Good Friday should they be canceled. After some discussion this subject was tabled because it won't happen again for five or six years

There was also some discussion about the layout/consolidation of the message boards. After all the suggestions were discussed the consensus was:

- Keep trying different layouts.
- Reduce the boards from four to two.
- As an alternate, keep the four boards but put links on each board to the other three boards so you don't have to return to the main board to view the other boards.

Since the Webmaster (John) was not present for this discussion, Rich will discuss this with him to see what can be done within the constraints of the message board software ASTRA uses.

Geoff Redington has been in contact with a former Astronaut who might be willing to speak to ASTRA in the fall. Rich Brady suggested the September meeting with the November meeting as his backup date.

The balance of the meeting was used to discuss and plan the Astronomy Day's events.

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

Day	Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Fri	1	12:05	Moon Rise
		16:44	First Quarter Moon
		20:45	Mercury left of Pleiades (M45)
Sat	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
		20:00	Lunar Straight Wall visible
		21:37	Mercury Sets
Tue	5	20:00	Eta-Aquarid meteors (ZHR=60)
Sat	9	00:01	Full Moon
		02:25	Jupiter Rises
		03:30	Saturn Sets
		04:05	Venus Rises
		04:25	Mars Rises
		05:39	Moon Set
		20:03	Sunset
		21:05	Mercury Sets
Fri	15	01:26	Titan's shadow on Saturn
Sat	16	01:22	Moon Rise
		02:00	Jupiter Rises
		03:00	Saturn Sets
		03:50	Venus Rises
		04:10	Mars Rises
		05:44	Sunrise
		20:10	Sunset
		20:20	Mercury Sets
Sun	17	01:47	Moon Rise
		03:26	Last Quarter Moon
		03:56	Double shadow transit on Jupiter
Sat	23	01:35	Jupiter Rises
		02:35	Saturn Sets
		03:40	Venus Rises
		03:55	Mars Rises
		04:30	Moon Rise
		05:38	Sunrise
		20:16	Sunset
Sun	24	05:16	Moon Rise
		08:11	New Moon
Sat	23	01:05	Jupiter Rises
		02:05	Saturn Sets
		03:30	Venus Rises
		03:40	Mars Rises
		05:00	Mercury Rises
		05:34	Sunrise
		12:19	Moon Rise
		20:21	Sunset
		23:22	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.

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