

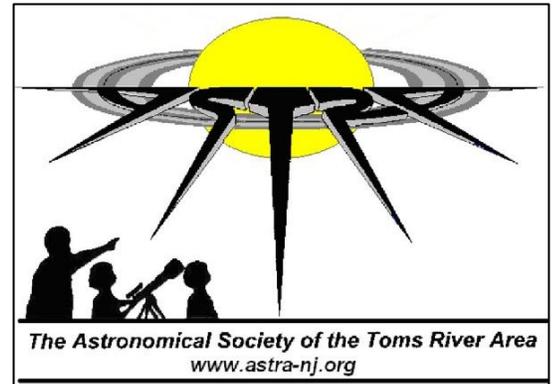
ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

November 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 – Nov 13, 2009

Eclipse Expedition: Phil Zollner will tell us about the trials and tribulations that he encountered on his latest eclipse expedition to China.

2009 Meeting Schedule

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

November 13th – Presentation by Phil Zollner on the Eclipse

December 11th – Annual Awards Meeting and Star Party Roundup

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.

November 14th: Jakes Branch Park, open to the public

See the ASTRA website for the latest times, dates, and directions.

2010 Election Ballot

You can E-mail your election picks to (elections@astra-nj.org) Members, you must use the e-mail account you gave to ASTRA to e-mail your election picks in so we can verify membership. Thank you

The Election Ballot for the officers for 2010 is found on the last page of this newsletter. Please take time to cast your vote for the persons you would like to have as your club officers for 2010. Election of officers will take place at the December meeting. Fill out the ballot and mail it to: Robert J. Novins Planetarium, ATTN: ASTRA, Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001 or you can bring it to the next meeting.

Highlights of the Last Meeting

October 9, 2009

Gene Russo gave a fine presentation on grinding a telescope mirror. Grinding a mirror is mostly “Cave-man” work but it can be done by anyone. Gene talked about the type of glass to use (which can be almost any type including scrap porthole glass from a boat.) The grinding setup is placed on a stand (such as a 55 gallon drum). Gene talked about the different grades of grit to be used. The “tool” is placed in the setup on a stand and secured. A sprinkling of grit and some water is placed on the tool. The mirror is placed on top of that and ground against the tool. Gene described the grinding process to randomize the effects of grinding (walking around the barrel in one direction while rotating the mirror and taking a number of short strokes.) The mirror blank needs to be ground to whatever radius of curvature that would yield the desired focal length. Once that has been reached, the polishing begins. Gene described setting up the pitch lap and the polishing required to “smooth” out the mirror. Gene also described the focult tester need to determine if the mirror has the desired shape to be used as a telescope mirror. You can control the quality of the mirror you make. And once you have completed the mirror, you can be proud that you actually did the work at much less of a cost than to buy a commercial mirror. Thanks Gene for a great presentation.

[Note: see Gene for further details – some may be missing from these highlights]

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.

Items for Sale

Telescope for sale: Meade 8” Schmidt-Cassegrain LX200 (f/6.3)with Autostar and hand controller, AC and 18V DC power supply. Accessories include: 9.7mm Super Plössl, 12.4mm Super Plössl, 26mm Super Plössl, Eyepiece holder, T-Adapter, Diagonal Prism, 8x50 mm Viewfinder, AC adapter, eyepiece filter set (x4), Handheld Keypad/Controller, Canon EOS camera adapter.

Purchased in 2000. Used exactly twice. All original packaging and documentation. \$1500.00

You pick up from Delran, NJ 08075.

If you are interested, send a note to President@astra-nj.org for the e-mail contact information. The person selling the equipment can answer any questions or accept an offer.

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.

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

Day	Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Sun	1	02:00	Daylight Saving Time ends
Mon	2	14:14	Full Moon
		16:32	Moon Rise
Thu	5	05:00	S. Taurid meteors (ZHR=15)
Sat	7	02:45	Saturn Rises
		05:15	Venus Rises
		06:36	Sunrise
		16:51	Sunset
		21:25	Moon Rise
		22:30	Mars Rises
		23:20	Jupiter Sets
Mon	9	10:56	Last Quarter Moon
		12:50	Moon Set
Thu	12	05:00	N. Taurid meteors (ZHR=15)
Sat	14	02:25	Saturn Rises
		04:29	Moon Rise
		05:30	Venus Rises
		06:44	Sunrise
		16:44	Sunset
		22:15	Mars Rises
		22:55	Jupiter Sets
Mon	16	14:14	New Moon
		16:19	Moon Set
Tue	17	11:00	Leonid meteors (ZHR=15)
Sat	21	02:05	Saturn Rises
		05:50	Venus Rises
		06:52	Sunrise
		16:39	Sunset
		17:05	Mercury Sets
		20:50	Moon Set
		22:00	Mars Rises
		22:35	Jupiter Sets
Tue	24	16:39	First Quarter Moon
		23:50	Moon Set
Sat	28	01:40	Saturn Rises
		06:05	Venus Rises
		07:00	Sunrise
		13:55	Moon Rise
		16:36	Sunset
		17:15	Mercury Sets
		21:40	Mars Rises
		22:10	Jupiter Sets
Wed	Dec 2	02:30	Full Moon
		07:34	Moon Set

The Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area A.S.T.R.A. 2010 Election Ballot

All ballots need to be returned so the election of officers can take place at the December meeting.

The officers of the organization shall be the President, the Vice President-Secretary, and the Treasurer, and no person may hold more than one elected office concurrently. Circle the name of the nominee for each office you wish to vote for or you can self-nominate.

The President shall be the primary point of contact for the organization, speak for the organization in all official matters, and preside over all meetings.

Presidential Nominees':

Mauro Bacolo

Bob Salvatore

Self-Nominate_____

The Vice President-Secretary shall assume the responsibilities of the President in the President's absence 2) make a record of any formal actions taken by the organization 3) coordinate with the Newsletter Editor in mailing appropriate club business 4) perform as the ALCor (Astronomical League Correspondent). The ALCor communicates with the Astronomical League (AL) and periodically furnishes the AL with copies of our membership list. 5) Keep track of telescope equipment loans 6) Keep the official version of the Bylaws and Policy documents.

Vice President-Secretary Nominees':

John Endreson

Self-Nominate_____

The Treasurer shall be the club membership chairperson, shall maintain the club treasury, shall collect club dues, and shall expend funds as directed. Recurring expenditures normal to the operation of the organization are authorized. The Treasurer shall provide a written report of the year's expenditures, which shall be included in the Newsletter, published within the first calendar quarter. Separate accounting will be maintained for the Telescope Fund and it will not be used for general club operations without a vote at a regular meeting.

Treasurer:

Rosemarie Spedaliere

Self-Nominate_____

You can E-mail your election picks to (elections@astra-nj.org) Members, you must use the e-mail account you gave to ASTRA to e-mail your election picks in so we can verify membership.

Thank you

Please take time to cast your vote for the persons you would like to have as your club officers for 2010. Election of officers will take place at the December meeting. Fill out the ballot and mail it to: Robert J. Novins Planetarium, ATTN: ASTRA, Ocean County College, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001 or you can bring it to the next meeting.