



ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

Volume 21 Issue 4

April 2010

**** PLEASE NOTE ****

Due to the renovation of the planetarium, meetings are in the Solar Lounge beginning at 7:00 PM. The Solar Lounge is located in the Ocean County College Center building #15 across from the Planetarium.

Meeting Schedule

April 9th Final preparations for Astronomy Day & Telescope Equipment/Books show and tell. We will do final preparations on all the NSN Toolkits and getting them ready for Astronomy Day activities. We will take volunteers to run the activities and setup a final schedule for the day.

May 14th "Planetary Nebulas" - Richard Mackiewicz

A presentation and discussion on Planetary Nebulas given by Richard Mackiewicz.

June 11th "open Meeting" If anybody has a topic that they would like to talk about contact the club officers.

July 9th "Famous Astronomers #5" – Bob Salvatore

A presentation and discussion on Famous Astronomers.

2010 Dues are due!

ASTRA membership dues are due. If you have not paid for your 2010 membership please use the ASTRA membership Sign-up Form attached to this newsletter, and if you have already paid your dues we thank you for your support.

Highlights from March 12th 2010 meeting.

We started the meeting with coffee and snacks as Ro Spedaliere presented members with participation pins awarded to them from the Night Sky Network for 2009 season. These awards and pins are given each year for those members of ASTRA who participate in our public outreach programs and star parties.

Recipients of 2009 Night Sky Network Pins:

1. Rosemarie Spedaliere	Queen of the Night Sky
2. John Endreson	Mr. Astra
3. Bob Salvatore	"King Astra"
4. Rich Brady	Mr. Professor
5. Sarah Waters	Stellarium Queen
6. Erin Murphey	Youngest Active Participant
7. Bill Murphey	Mr. Scout Expert
8. Ed Mullen	Mr. Reliability
9. Geoff Redington	Mr. Public Relations
10. Vinnie Illuzzi	Mr. Dependable
11. Phil Zollner	Mr. Eclipse
12. Mauro Bacolo	Mr. America
13. Emmett Villalobos	Star Party Baker
14. Gene Russo	Comet Chef
15. Randy Walton	Ass't. Comet Chef
16. Gloria Villalobos	Planetarium Director
17. Mike Kozić	Observatory Builder

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ASTRA Library of Books & DVD's

The following books and DVD's are available to borrow for one month at a time. Request for these items must be made prior to our regular meeting and returned the following meeting. Please e-mail your request for these items to John Endreson webmaster@astra-nj.org or call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493

BOOKS

- 1) **The Far Side of the Moon** by Charles J. Byrne.
- 2) **Night Watch** by Terence Dickinson
- 3) **New Atlas of the Moon** by Serge Brunier (Author), Thierry Legault (Photographer).
- 4) **Encyclopedia of space** by National Geographic
- 5) **The Real Mars** by Michael Hanion
- 6) **Don't Know Much about the Universe** by Kenneth C. Davis's

DVD's

- 1) **Parts 1&2 Understanding the Universe What's New in Astronomy 2003** Taught by: Professor Alex Filippenko. Each part has 8 lectures, 45 minutes per lecture.
- 2) **Parts 1 to 5 Understanding the Universe An Introduction to Astronomy** Taught by: Professor Alex Filippenko each part has 8 lectures, 45 minutes per lecture.
- 3) **COSMOS**
In his "ship of the imagination," Carl Sagan guides us to the farthest reaches of space and takes us back into the history of scientific inquiry in the course of 13 fascinating hours.

For a complete list of books and DVD's, visit our website or Call the ASTRA Hotline at 609-971-8493.

ASTRA Club Telescopes

A.S.T.R.A. owns two Dobsonian type telescopes of 6 inches and 8 inches in aperture and two refractors one 80mm Celestron w/Altaz mount and one 120mm Orion AstroView w/equatorial mount. After suitable training, club members may borrow these telescopes for a month at a time. Contact John Endreson at: Webmaster@astra-nj.org or call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 if you are interested in using one of our scopes.

Wanted!

No longer used telescopes, parts, and accessories.
Call the ASTRA Hotline at 609-971-8493
We will come and pick-up your used equipment.

Items for Sale

Meade Super-wide 13.8mm 1 1/4 in. eyepiece for sale.
This is an original Japanese made series 4000 eyepiece with a 70 degree field. Excellent condition. Originally \$125, sell for \$50.
Contact: Phil Zollner at 732-905-0889 or pazap@juno.com

ASTRA-WEAR: For Embroidered and/or Printed items With the ASTRA Logo



You can see some samples at ASTRA meetings. To order by mail:
Shelter Cove Embroidery Co. 1333 Bay Ave Toms River, NJ
08753 call 732-506-7700 or E-mail astra-wear@estitches.com

April 2010 Celestial Events

1st to 15th Dusk: Mercury is more than 10 deg. above the western horizon a half hour after sunset, to the lower right of a much brighter Venus.

3rd Dawn: Look for Antares just 1 deg. below the Moon an hour before sunrise.

6th Last-Quarter Moon (5:37 am EDT)

11th, 12th Dawn: The waning crescent Moon is about 5 deg. above Jupiter on the 11th and 11 deg. left of Jupiter on the 12th.

13th to 20th Evening: Mars and the Beehive Cluster (M44) fit together within a 2 deg. field of view, a good binocular target.

14th New Moon (8:29 am EDT)

15th Dusk to Evening: Starting a half hour after sunset, look for Mercury and the very thin crescent Moon 7 deg. lower right of Venus.

16th Early Evening: The thin crescent Moon is about 8 deg. above Venus. And the Pleiades will come into view just above the Moon.

21st First-Quarter Moon (2:20 pm EDT)

23rd to 25th Evening: Look for Venus and the Pleiades, and also look for the Moon and Saturn both within a 5 deg. (FOV).

28th Full Moon (8:18 am EDT).

Whats up this month?

ASTRA Public Outreach & Star Parties Schedule

Jake's Branch Star Watch #1

A star party for the Ocean County Parks System open to the public.

Date: Friday, 4/16/2010

Time: 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Location: Jakes Branch County Park, 1100 Double Trouble Road, Beachwood Borough, NJ 08722

THE 19th ANNUAL NORTHEAST ASTRONOMY FORUM & TELESCOPE SHOW

April 17 - April 18, 2010

Time: 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Location: Rockland Community College "Home of NEAF", 145 College Rd, Suffern, NY

ASTRA Coyle Field Star Party

Date: Saturday, 4/17/2010

Time: 7:00 PM - 2:00 AM

Location: Coyle Field, Coyle Field Rt 72 Stevenson Road, Burlington County, NJ 08019

Astronomy Day 2010

Date: Saturday, 4/24/2010

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM

Location: College Center Solar Lounge "Ocean County College", Ocean County College, use parking lot # 2 on College Dr., Toms River, NJ 08754

Call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 on the date of the star party for up to date information.



ASTRA is recognized as having one of the best public outreach programs in the country as recognized by Astronomy magazines "Out of this World" public outreach program. For more information go to <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov> or contact Ro Spedaliere (Treasurer@astra-nj.org) or the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493

Astronomical Items for Sale, or Help Wanted Advertisements:

If you have an item to Sell, or need help with an astronomical problem (a question, or Telescope setup) contact the President President@astra-nj.org or the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 to announce it at a meeting and send the advertisement to the newsletter (See Newsletter below).

Newsletter: E-mail material (Meeting reports, Observing reports) to Newsletter@astra-nj.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President – Bob Salvatore,
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Vice President-Secretary – John Endreson, VP@astra-nj.org;

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Webmaster@astra-nj.org.

Check us out on Facebook, search for (ASTRA New Jersey) and look for our logo.



Then we started our main program with Cláudia Figueiredo and Erin Johnson both research associates from Institute for Learning Innovation (ILI) a nonprofit organization dedicated to understanding, facilitating and communicating about free-choice learning.

A year or so ago some members of ASTRA were asked to do a phone interview for the Institute for Learning Innovation. The information they gathered was used during their presentation. In their analysis, they showed how ASTRA compared to other groups such as museums, libraries, Parks and other learning institutions and how they support their visitors' quests for learning across their lifespan.

It was really neat to hear how we compared to these other organizations and that they found that we were one of only a few from across the nation that were able to handle members from a wide spectrum “young and old, beginner and experienced and families”.

Thank you Cláudia and Erin for sharing your organizations work with us.

For more information on this organization:

<http://www.ilinet.org/display/ILI/Home>
3168 Braverton Street, Suite 280 • Edgewater, MD 21037
phone: 410-956-5144 • fax: 410-956-5148 • info@ilinet.org

We went over some plans for Astronomy Day and reviewed our Night Sky Network tool kits that can be used to do presentations on that day. Gloria Villalobos and Sarah + Rich Waters were able to print and hand out to the Toms River schools over 10,000 Astronomy Day Flyers. Thank you guys for your hard work.



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The *REFLECTOR* is published in March, June, September and December. If you do not receive your copy of the REFLECTOR magazine, contact Astronomical League Coordinator (Alcor) Ro Spedaliere (Treasurer@astra-nj.org) or the ASTRA Hotline 609-971 8493 and leave a message.