



ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

Volume 21 Issue 1

January 2010

**** 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 #15 across from the Planetarium. The relocation of the meeting is due to the renovation of the planetarium building.

Highlights from December 11th 2009 meeting.

Meeting Schedule

January 8th "Telescope Workshop"

Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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

February 12th "NSN Sharing the Universe" – Guest speaker

Time: 7:00PM – 10:00 PM

Location: Technology Bld. # 13 Lecture Hall, use parking lot # 2 on College Dr.

ASTRA Election Results... Congratulation to our New Club president Bob Salvatore, New Club Vice President-Secretary John Endreson and Treasure Ro Spedalieri. I want to thank former President Rich Brady, former Vice-President- Secretary Ed Mullen and former Newsletter Editor Allen Malsbury for their work in supporting our club.

The meeting started with Sarah Waters and Erin Murphey presenting "Kids Zone" and all members participated in a "Name That Christmas Tune" game. A Christmas songs were played and the first member to correctly guess the name of the song won a tree ornament. After about 12 songs Ro Spedalieri, who had the collected the most ornaments won a decorative plate with a celestial design of moons and stars.

Reports were made from a couple committees; John Endreson announced some changes to the ASTRA Website, which included new links for the "Meetings, Events & Star Party Schedule" and "Directions to Meetings & Observing Sites" also "The Night Sky Planner" and "Observing Weather". John also mentioned the new ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 that will be used to keep members and the public who may not have e-mail, informed of ASTRA's plans for the upcoming month. In addition, the Planning board made some schedule updates and plans for the Telescope Workshop next month.

December's door prize of a copy of the Sky & Telescope December 2009 magazine winner was Mike Kozić.

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NEW ASTRA Hotline

If you do not have access to our website message boards, you can call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 for the latest information on star parties and other observing plans. If you have a question about the club or astronomy in general leave a message and we'll get back to you.

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.

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.

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

January 2010 Celestial Events

2-4 Night: The Quadrantid meteor shower should be active late at night.

2 Evening: Mars rises about 7 deg. Left of the Moon.

7 Last Quarter Moon (5:39 a.m. EST).

8 Predawn: Saturn's rings are tilted 4.9 deg. With respect to Earth, the widest they appear from October 2008 through August 2010.

11 Dawn: Antares is very close to the crescent Moon and around sunrise the Moon will occult Antares.

13 Dawn: The very thin crescent Moon is 5 deg. Lower right of Mercury low in the South-East a half hour before sunrise.

15 New Moon (2:11 a.m. EST)

16-29 Dawn: Mercury has a good apparition. It's easiest to see very low in the South-East about 45 minutes before sunrise.

23 First Quarter Moon (5:53 a.m. EST)

27 Evening: Mars is closest to Earth, appearing bigger through a telescope than any other time from 2009 through 2013.

29 Night: Mars is at opposition.

30 Full Moon (1:18 a.m. EST)

Whats up this month?

ASTRA Public Outreach & Star Parties Schedule

January 8th "Telescope Workshop" We help people with telescopes they already own or just got for Christmas. We try to keep them from going in the attic for storage or to the garage sales.

Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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

January 15th and 16th. Coyle Field Dark Sky Observing. Members often observe on weekend nights closest to the New Moon.

Although ASTRA members observe at Coyle Field it is not an official ASTRA observing location; therefore you should observe at your own risk. Members will post online when they are going to observe so check the Message Boards for the latest information also call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 for updated messages.



Astronomical League National Headquarters
9201 Ward Parkway; Suite 100
Kansas City, MO 64114
1-816-333-7759 or www.astroleague.org

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 Spedalieri (Treasurer@astra-nj.org) or the ASTRA Hotline 609-971 8493 and leave a message.



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 contest 2 years ago thanks to the support of our members. For more information go to <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov> or contact Ro Spedalieri (Treasurer@astra-nj.org) or the ASTRA Hotline 609-971 8493 and leave a message.

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,
President@astra-nj.org;

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

Treasurer - Ro Spedalieri,
Treasurer@astra-nj.org;

Newsletter Editor – John Endreson, Newsletter@astra-nj.org;

Webmaster - John Endreson,
Webmaster@astra-nj.org.

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



It was ASTRA's Annual Awards Night.

Rich Brady presented The "Rookie of the year" award to Geoff Redington for outstanding participation as a new member in A.S.T.R.A. including setting up a presentation by Astronaut Robert Cenker.

The "Gracious Hosts of ASTRA's Picnic" award to Rich & Peggi Gamba.

The "Refreshment Committee Retirement" award to Dr. Donald Cooper.

The "Golden Cupcake" award to Emit Vallalobos for support to the refreshment committee especially his cupcakes.

The "Golden Pen" award to Allen Malsbury for editing the clubs newsletter.

The "Coordination" award to Mike Kozic for setting up a trip to New York with STAR.

The "Utility" award to Randy Walton for standing in as the Comet Chef and for providing the Celestial Events for the ASTRAL Projections.

The "Kids at Hart" award to Sarah Waters, Erin Murphey and Teresa St. Angelo for outstanding presentation of "Kids Zone".

The "Eclipse Ambassador" award to Phil Zollner for chasing 14 eclipses and presenting the trips to ASTRA.

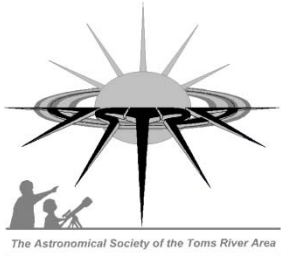
And last but not least, the "Queen of the Night Sky" award to Ro Spedalieri for continued outstanding outreach support to various groups and fostering astronomy.

Ro Spedalieri and John Endreson did a presentation on the New NSN (Night Sky Network) website. The Night Sky Network is a nationwide coalition of amateur astronomy clubs bringing the science, technology, and inspiration of NASA's missions to the general public.

We share our time and telescopes to provide you with unique astronomy experiences at science museums, observatories, classrooms, and under the real night sky.

The newly designed website gives ASTRA star party and public outreach planers great new tools to help club members find out what events are planned, printable maps of all our observing locations and promotes individual members to sign up and log their own outreach participation hours so they can help the club earn new outreach toolkits. The website is also filled with all kinds of links to help individuals plan their own observing sessions.

After the meeting, some of us went down the road to Simkos Grill for a bite to eat, some drink and nice conversation. Thanks to everyone who made 2009 another great year for ASTRA. John Endreson



ASTRA Membership Sign-up

Thank you for your interest in the Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area (ASTRA). In order to join the club all you need to do is fill out the form below and send it with your dues to:

**Robert J. Novins Planetarium
ATTN: ASTRA
Ocean County College
Toms River NJ 08754-2001**

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ASTRA. You can also pay at the next meeting. If you do, please bring this form with you. Hope we will see you there!

Annual dues- \$ 25.00 (January to December): (\$ _____)
\$ 15.00 from (July to December):

New membership-\$ 30.00 (January to December): (\$ _____)
\$ 20.00 from (July to December):

Telescope fund assessment of (\$ 5.00) a *one-time* assessment (\$ 5.00)
required of all new membership optional for continuing members)

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (as determined by the above schedule): (\$ _____)

NAME _____ **PHONE ()** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

Check here if you wish to receive a paper copy of our Newsletter.

Check here if you wish to receive an e-mail copy of our Newsletter.

E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) _____

Thank you!