



The Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area
www.astra-nj.org

ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

Volume 21 Issue 6

June 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

June 11th "open General Meeting" & Public Star Party. 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. Also a Public Star Party after the presentation.

August 14th ASTRA's Annual Picnic Location - TBA-

September 10th "Open General Meeting" & Public Star Party. If anybody has a topic that they would like to talk about contact the club officers.

Highlights from the May 14th 2010 meeting.

At our last meeting, Richard Mackiewicz gave a slide show presentation and discussion on Planetary Nebulas. About 25 members and guests enjoyed seeing the many different slide show pictures.



A planetary nebula forms when a star can no longer support itself by fusion reactions in its center. The gravity from the material in the outer part of the star takes its inevitable toll on the structure of the star, and forces the inner parts to condense and heat up. The high

temperature central regions drive the outer half of the star away in a brisk stellar wind, lasting a few thousand years. When the process is complete, the remaining core remnant is now uncovered and heats the distant gases and causes them to glow like in the image above of M-57 the Ring Nebula.

Richard did a nice job "with his good humor and quick wit" to keep everyone's attention as a tremendous lightning & thunderstorm ragged outside.

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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

June 2010 Celestial Events

1st Predawn: Ceres, The biggest asteroid and now Dwarf Planet, is passing through M-8, the Lagoon Nebula.

3rd Evening: Mars is less than 2 Deg. right of Regulus

4th Last Quarter Moon (6:13pm EDT)

6th Dawn: Jupiter and Uranus are 7 Deg. lower right of the Moon.

8th Dawn: Uranus is just above to the left of Jupiter and observable with binoculars.

10th Dawn: Mercury, low in the East ½ hour before sunrise, just left of a thin crescent Moon.

11th Evening: Venus, Pollux, and Castor form a straight line in the West.

12th New Moon (7:15am EDT)

14th Evening: Venus is just 5 Deg. above a thin crescent Moon.

18th Evening: Saturn is about 9 Deg. above the Moon.

19th First Quarter Moon (12:29 am EDT)

19,20th Evening: Venus is 1 Deg. from the center of M-44 (The Beehive Cluster)

21st The Longest Day of the year.

26th Full Moon (7:30 am EDT)

Whats up this month?

ASTRA Public Outreach & Star Parties Schedule

ASTRA Coyle Field "Star Party"

ASTRA Members meet to help newbie's learn the night sky and how to use their telescopes.

Date: Saturday, 6/12/2010

Time: 8:00 PM - 2:00 AM

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

Members only Star Party "Earth-watch/Drexel"

Earth-watch and Drexel students for a night of observing

Date: Friday, 6/18/2010

Time: 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Location: The Lighthouse Center, 7th Street & Navajo Dr, Waretown, NJ 08758

Cattus Island Park Public Star Party/Camp Out

County Park System camp out. We will set up around 6PM. We will have the full Moon, planets, and double stars to show the public.

Date: Saturday, 6/26/2010

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:00 AM "if you camp out".

Location: Cattus Island County Park, Cattus Island Rd, Toms River, NJ 08753

Call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 or check the message board on the date of the star party for up to date information on these events.



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

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

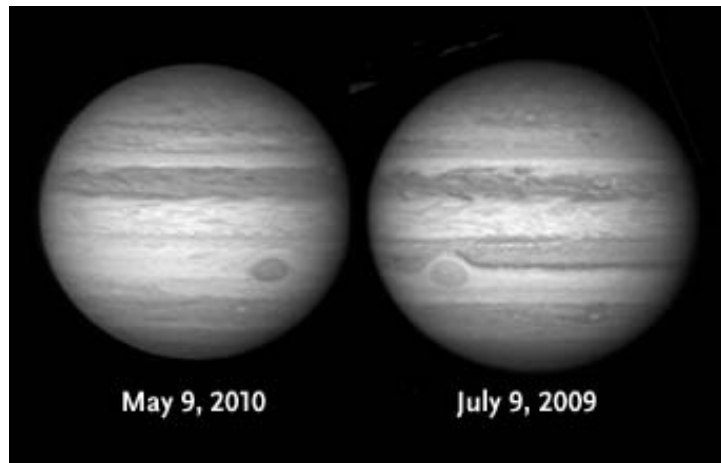


Unfortunately, the storm made us cancel our star party that was scheduled for the evening so members and guests stayed inside and discussed many different topics.

As of the printing of this newsletter, there is not a topic or presentation selected for our next meeting on Friday June 11th, so if anybody has a topic that they would like to talk about contact the club officers.

Disappearing Act on Jupiter

When you look at Jupiter through even a small telescope, it's easy to spot the parallel pair of "racing stripes" that straddle its equator. These dusky brown ribbons are known as the North and South Equatorial Belts (NEB and SEB), while the bright "filling" between them is the broad Equatorial Zone.



By the way, this would be a great time to observe the Great Red Spot, which bobs along at nearly the same latitude as the SEB. With the surrounding clouds temporarily washed out, the spot's dark coloring stands out especially well.



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