



ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

March 2012
Volume 23 Issue 3

Meeting Schedule

March 9th Meeting: NASA
Special Event with Mike Menzel,
JWST Mission Systems Engineer

Date: Friday, 3/9/2012

Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: College Technology
Building, College Drive, Ocean
County College, Toms River, NJ
08754

April 10th Meeting: "Famous
Astronomers VII" by Bob
Salvatore

Date: Friday, 4/13/2012

Time: 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: Robert J. Novins
Planetarium, College Drive, Ocean
County College, Toms River, NJ
08754



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Rings and Things

Mare Nectaris is the smallest of the circular maria on the Moon; lavas extend only 350 kilometers from shore to shore, and their estimated maximum thickness is just 1.5 kilometers. Altimetry measurements from the Clementine spacecraft show that Nectaris is quite deep — the bottom of the mare floor is 6.5 km below the average lunar-crust elevation. Despite this depth perhaps the relatively small deposit of lava did not cause the basin to subside enough for bending at the basin margins to form concentric troughs. Maybe that's why Nectaris is one of the few basins not surrounded by arcuate graben.

The Nectaris basin is beautifully defined by the spectacular Altai Scarp, which forms the southwestern rim of the basin. The Scarp is a dramatic 3.5- to 4-km-high cliff that continues as a weaker and more broken scarp eastward under the crater Piccolomini, and on northeastward past the crater Borda for a few tens of kilometers.



Belgian amateur Daniel Dildick used an 11-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and Kodak Technical Pan film for this fine photograph of Mare Nectaris. The large crescent-shaped structure at lower left is the spectacular Altai Scarp. Note the numerous wrinkle ridges visible along the mare's eastern floor.

Continued on Page 3

Whats up this month?

March 2012

Celestial Events

8th: Full Moon (4:39 EDT)

11th: Daylight Saving Time
Begins (2:00 EDT)

14th: Last Quarter Moon
(21:25 EDT)

15th: 50th Double Shadow
Transit on Jupiter (19:26 EDT)

20th: Spring Equinox (1:15
EDT)

22nd: New Moon (10:37 EDT)

30th: First Quarter Moon
(15:41 EDT)

ASTRA Public Outreach & Star Parties Schedule for March

Freedom Fields Star Party

Date: Saturday, 3/10/2011

Time: 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: Freedom Fields County Park, 874
County Route 539, Little Egg Harbor, NJ

Spring Star Watch

Date: Saturday, 3/17/2011

Time: 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Location: Robert J. Novins Planetarium,
Ocean County College, College Drive, Toms
River, NJ 08754

**Check the online message board on the date of the star
party for up to date information on these events.**



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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)

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 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.



Rings (Continued from Page 3)

The northern continuation of the Altai Scarp on the western side of the basin is harder to trace, partly because of the distraction of the magnificent chain of craters: Catharina, Cyrillus, and Theophilus. But the basin rim is marked by large amorphous chunks of land called *massifs*, which show up especially well when the terminator is nearby — the craters Tacitus, Kant, and Hypatia lie right on the rim.

An unnamed promontory near Hypatia that points toward Mare Tranquillitatis is the last well-defined portion of the main ring of the Nectaris basin, but as an imaginary arc the ring continues through a series of rilles that pass north of the crater Capella. With a telescope, try to trace all around this major basin ring — you will encounter some remarkable terrain as you do.



Mare Nectaris area highlighted.

When Ralph B. Baldwin, an early proponent of the impact origin of craters, first recognized the basin structure of Nectaris, he pointed out that there were fragments of inner rings concentric to the 860-km-diameter Altai Scarp rim. He described the "great curved ridge paralleling the lava edge" between Colombo and Santbech and matched it with a similar, "diametrically opposite" short ridge linking Cyrillus and Catharina.

Fifteen years later, lunar scientists William K. Hartmann and Gerard Kuiper found more fragments of this ring and also mapped other rings. The most obvious is the roughly circular outline of the 400-km-diameter mare shore that is bounded by a pronounced ridge (named the Pyrenees Mountains) just east of the crater Bohnenberger, and a subtle ridge on the mare's south shore on either side of the crater Fracastorius. Inside this ring is a delicate example of a wrinkle-ridge ring that extends all along the eastern and southeastern edge of the mare and then again along the western shore. A low-sun angle will make this feature stand out boldly from the mare floor. And finally, some scientists think there is a subtle outer ring passing near the crater Sacrobosco and through the Apollo 16 landing site north of Descartes. I don't see any evidence of it, do you?

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/>

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 at President@astra-nj.org

BOOKS

1) **The National Air and Space Museum** Second Edition by C.D.B. Bryan

2) **Milestones of Aviation** Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum

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

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 e-mail John Endreson at President@astra-nj.org

Club Telescopes



A.S.T.R.A. owns four small telescopes

6-inch Dobsonian

8-inch Dobsonian

80mm Celestron Refractor

120mm EQ AstroView Refractor.

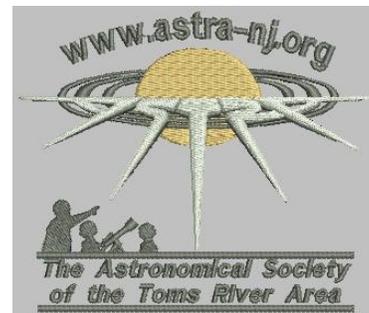
These telescopes are available for club members to borrow and use for a month or two at a time.

Wanted!

No longer used telescopes, Telescope parts, and accessories.

E-mail John Endreson at President@astra-nj.org
We will come and pick-up your used equipment.

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

Coyle Field Update!

Here's what's going on with our efforts to gain access to use Coyle Field for observing.

Representatives of 6 local astronomy clubs had a meeting with Bill Edwards Division Firewarden for Coyle Field to discuss what we would need to do to be able to use Coyle Field again for astronomical observing and these are the conditions that the State of New Jersey now requires.

- 1) Provide documentation showing that we are registered as a non-profit organization
- 2) Provide documentation showing that we have comprehensive general liability insurance.
- 3) Sign a license agreement with the State of New Jersey to use a portion of Coyle Field for astronomical observing.

At the meeting we were informed that the state doesn't want to have to enter into a license agreement with every individual club. They don't want to have to deal with all the paperwork and it would be silly for each individual club to pay insurance and licensing fees for the same part of land that is going to be used, most likely at the same time, for the same activity.

So what we came up with was to create a new club called the "Coyle Field Astronomers" and this club will be registered as a non-profit organization and will carry comprehensive general liability insurance and will have a license agreement with the State of New Jersey to use a portion of Coyle Field for astronomical observing.

Those members that are interested in observing at Coyle Field would have to join the new club and pay separate dues to cover the annual costs of all the state requirements.

This is just like what we do for those ASTRA members that want to join the Astronomical League.

The new club will have its own lock on the gate entering into Coyle Field and members will be required to agree with the conditions of the state license agreement by signing the new club membership form upon joining the new club and have with them a copy of this membership form when observing at Coyle Field.

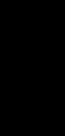
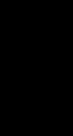
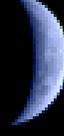
Members would also be issued the lock combination along with the copy of the membership form.

We are moving forward with filing the necessary paperwork with the state so that we can gain access to Coyle Field ASAP!

Setting up this new club is still in the organizing and filing phase and things are sure to go through some changes. I will keep you all informed of our progress.

John Endreson (ASTRA President)

Moon Phases: March 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 	2 	3 	4 
5 	6 	7 	8 Full 	9 	10 	11 
12 	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 
19 	20 	21 	22 New 	23 	24 	25 
26 	27 	28 	29 	30 		