



ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

APRIL 2015
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Upcoming Events

Monthly Meeting on Friday, April 10th

The next meeting will be held at the [Robert J. Novins Planetarium](#) located on the Ocean County College campus (Bldg. 13 next to parking lot 2) from 7pm to 10pm.

Ro Spedaliere will host Astronomy Games

Astronomy Day on Saturday, April 25th

Join us as we celebrate Astronomy Day at [Jakes Branch County Park, 1054 Sunset Road, Beachwood NJ](#)

Daytime Event (3pm to 5pm) There will be solar observing, a comet making demonstration and displays.

Night Event (7:30pm to 11pm) Members will set up telescopes and observe the universe.

A.S.T.R.A.
Robert J. Novins Planetarium
Ocean County College
P.O. Box 2001
Toms River NJ 08754-2001

EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Two hours before the event start time please check out the ASTRA Message Board at <http://forum.astra-nj.org/viewforum.php?f=4> or call the ASTRA Hotline: 609-971-3331

Recap



ASTRA WELCOMES AL NAGLER

On March 13th the members of ASTRA received an excellent presentation by Al Nagler titled "I Thank My Lucky Stars!"

"How a kid from the Bronx, with a love for astronomy, went on to create optical systems that bridged astronaut training with products to enhance the visual impact of our wondrous universe."

After the presentation Al spoke with members and demonstrated some of his eyepieces.



Al Nagler poses for a picture with the team that made this event possible.

Left to Right: Treasurer Ro Spedaliere, President Matthew McCue, Al Nagler, Carol Czitrom, Ex- President Richard Brady and Vice President Sarah Waters.

NASA Highlight

Information from www.nasa.gov/

A Year in Space

On March 27, 2015, NASA astronaut Scott Kelly and Russian Cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko launched on a Soyuz TMA-16M rocket to the International Space Station, beginning a one year mission in space, testing the limits of human research, space exploration and the human spirit.

Researchers hope to better understand how the human body reacts and adapts to long-duration spaceflight. This knowledge is critical as NASA looks toward human journeys deeper into the solar system, including to and from Mars, which could last 500 days or longer.



The Soyuz TMA-16M rocket launches on time from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan to the International Space Station



NASA astronaut Scott Kelly (left), Expedition 43/44 flight engineer and Expedition 45/46 commander; and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko, Expedition 43-46 flight engineer, take a break from training at NASA's Johnson Space Center to pose for a portrait.

Image Credit: NASA / Bill Stafford

2015 CALENDAR

Apr 10 ASTRA Meeting (7pm – 10pm)
Ro Spedaliere will host Astronomy Games

Apr 25 Astronomy Day at Jakes Branch
Daytime Event (3pm to 5pm)
Night Time Observing (7:30pm to 11pm)

May 8 ASTRA Meeting (7pm – 10pm)
Presentation by Sam Micovic titled
"18 Months on Mars"

May 16 Star Party (7:30pm – 10pm)
Public star party at Jakes Branch

Jun 12 ASTRA Meeting (7pm – 10pm)

Jun 13 Star Party (8pm – 11pm)
Public star party at Jakes Branch

Jun 20 Summer Star Party (8:30pm to 11pm)
Public Star Party at OCC Planetarium

Jul 10 ASTRA Meeting (7pm – 10pm)

Aug *No Meeting*

Sep 11 ASTRA Meeting (7pm – 10pm)

Sep 19 Fall Star Party (7:30pm to 10:30pm)
Public Star Party at OCC Planetarium

Oct 9 ASTRA Meeting (7pm – 10pm)
Planetarium Show

Nov 13 ASTRA Meeting (7pm – 10pm)

Dec 11 ASTRA Meeting (7pm – 10pm)
Awards, Election

Dec 19 Winter Star Party (7pm to 10pm)
Public Star Party at OCC Planetarium



John Endreson sets up his telescope for ASTRA's Star Party on March 21st.
Image from ASTRA's Facebook page.

CELESTIAL EVENTS FOR APRIL 2015

Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)

April 4 - Full Moon. This phase occurs at 12:05 UTC.

April 4 - Total Lunar Eclipse. The eclipse will be visible throughout most of North America, South America, eastern Asia, and Australia.

April 18 - New Moon. This phase occurs at 18:57 UTC..

April 22, 23 - Lyrids Meteor Shower.

Source: <http://www.seasky.org/>

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE MEMBER SOCIETY

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@astran-j.org)

ASTRONOMICAL HELP OR ITEMS FOR SALE

If you have an astronomical item to sell, or need help with an astronomical problem (a question, or telescope setup) contact the President President@astran-j.org to have it announced at a meeting. To advertise in the our monthly newsletter please send all information to astran.newsletter@gmail.com



ASTRA-WEAR – 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 astran-wear@estitches.com. Order form is on the ASTRA website.

**APRIL NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
APRIL 24, 2015**

ASTRA LIBRARY OF BOOKS AND DVDS:

Many books and DVDs are available for loan from the ASTRA Library for a one month period. A list of these items is available on the ASTRA website. Request for these items must be made prior to our regular meeting and returned by the following meeting. Please e-mail your request for these items to our Librarian John Endreson at Library-Loan@astran-j.org or call him at 609-971-3331.



CLUB TELESCOPES

After suitable training, club members may borrow these instruments for a month at a time. Please contact John Endreson at Telescope-Loan@astran-j.org to make arrangements.

Available Equipment

- Dobsonian 8 inch, f/4 telescope with a 1.25 Helical Focuser
- Celestron SP-C80 Japanese-made 80mm, f/11 achromatic refractor
- Orion 'AstroView' 120mm, f/8.3 refractor telescope
- Celestron 8-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope with Nexstar
- Lunt 35mm Hydrogen Alpha Solar Scope
- Celestron SkyMaster 15x70 binocular