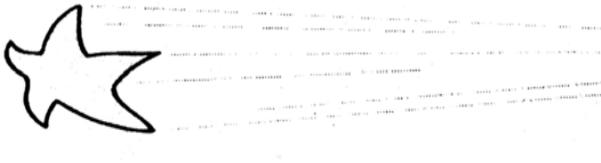


The Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area

We are a local astronomy club open to anyone interested in astronomy and space sciences. The objective of A.S.T.R.A. is to provide an open forum for those interested in astronomy to explore all aspects of this fascinating science.



Monthly Meetings

A.S.T.R.A. usually meets once a month (except for August). Check our website www.astra-nj.org for meeting times and locations. Programs cover a wide variety of topics (observational, theoretical, and amateur activities). Meetings may offer guest speakers, presentations by members or by Planetarium staff, workshops on some aspect of astronomy.

Star Parties

For those members who enjoy observing the skies, A.S.T.R.A. holds "star parties" several times a month (weather permitting).

Star parties are designed to give club members and guests the opportunity to get together and observe many sky objects and to compare telescopes and accessories. Check our message board and Events Schedule for dates and times.



Club Telescopes/Books

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

Lunt 35mm H-Alpha solar scope

8-inch Dobsonian

80mm Celestron Refractor

120 EQ AstroView Refractor.

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

ASTRA is part of the Night Sky Network

The Night Sky Network is a partnership of amateur astronomy clubs, NASA, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and the Astronomical League. Amateur astronomers regularly share their knowledge, time, and telescopes to bring amazing aspects of astronomy to the public.

Amateur astronomers have an interest in providing the public with entertaining, engaging ways to learn basic astronomy concepts. It is one of NASA's education

goals as well to improve the American public's understanding of astronomy. The Night Sky Network was developed with the dedicated assistance of an advisory team of amateur astronomy clubs.



Be a part of the Astronomical League

The Astronomical League is composed of over two hundred and forty local amateur astronomical societies from all across the United States. These organizations form one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world. Their basic goal is to encourage an interest in astronomy (and especially amateur astronomy) throughout America. Many people have seen pictures of the other planets in our Solar System from spacecraft, but have no idea that they too can see these objects with a telescope. We want people to get access to telescopes, and use them to view the beauty in the heavens. The mission of the Astronomical League is to promote the science of Astronomy. The major benefit of belonging to this organization is receiving the Reflector quarterly newsletter mailed directly to your home. Liability insurance to protect ASTRA and its officers. Observing awards for you to work toward and a Book Service through which you can buy astronomy-related books at a 10% discount. Astronomical League membership is optional and is \$7.50 in addition to your ASTRA membership.

Astronomy Day

Astronomy Day is a day set aside each year "to promote the forerunner of all scientific endeavors and to provide information, resources, and encouragement in all facets of astronomy." This worldwide event is designed to foster, encourage, and promote public awareness and interest in astronomy and space sciences. The theme of Astronomy Day is "Taking Astronomy to the People."

Astronomy Day is normally held between mid-April and mid-May, on the Saturday closest to the first quarter Moon. The date can be changed if necessary because of major astronomical events or local club requirements.



How to join

Fill out the ASTRA Membership Application Form. Dues are \$30.00 for the first year and \$25.00 per year thereafter. The extra \$5.00 for new members is a one-time assessment for the telescope fund. This fund is used to maintain and upgrade the club telescopes. Visitors are always welcome at meetings. It is not necessary to pay dues immediately; many people attend several meetings before deciding whether to join. If you would like to join A.S.T.R.A. ask one of our club officers for the Membership Application Form or you can download it from our website, fill out your information and

"Please make your checks payable to A.S.T.R.A." and mail it to the address given below.

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



For More Information

Contact club officials:

President@astra-nj.org

VP@astra-nj.org

Treasurer@astra-nj.org

If you have, any questions regarding our club or astronomy in general go to the ASTRA Message Board and leave us a post. Our message board is located on our website at:

www.astra-nj.org

