

May 2004

April Meeting Review: Mauro Bacolo did a nice presentation with the NSN materials. Everyone got a hand's on look at the materials. For some reason the your DVD player would not read the NSN DVD, it would read others. Fortunately Jim Saverese saved the day with a portable DVD player, and everyone got to see the Training Video with the demos. Around 9 PM we brought out the telescopes, as the sky was clear and the night was cool. People were observing until 10:30PM. Overall the meeting was a success.

Astronomy/Space Day occurs on May 8th, prior to our next meeting. The NSN materials are ideal as demos for that.

May Meeting: The May 2004 meeting will be Friday, April 14th, at 8:00 PM. It will be an observing meeting. If the weather is poor, we will see a video.

Astronomy/Space Day: Events to be held Sat May 8th at the Planetarium. We need support from our club members to make this a success.

Here is a Tentative Schedule:

9AM – 11AM	Set Up
All Day	Videos & Displays
11:30AM – 12:30 PM	Show: Wonderful Sky
1 PM – 2PM	Show: Exploring the Spring Sky
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Show: Cosmic Frontiers
5 PM - ?	Talk: Saturn Cassini Mission(Note: Time Change)
6:30 PM - ?	Telescope Workshop
7:30 PM - ?	Observing Session (weather permitting)
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Show: Cosmic Frontiers

All Planetarium shows will include a "behind-the-scenes" opportunity for the audience. Learn what goes in to a planetarium show, what kinds of equipment are used, find out answers to your questions.

Ongoing displays/activities include:

- Coloring sheets for kids
- Info sheets
- Scale Solar System walk (outdoors, weather permitting)
- Light Pollution
- NASA Deep Space Network display
- Drawing/Doorprize for kids
- Working in Space activity (assembly with gloves)

Timed Activities include (staff permitting):

General Telescope Information	Noon, 1, 2, 3
Lunar Phases	12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30
Crater Demo (outdoors, weather permitting)	11AM, 11:30, 12, 12:30, 1PM, 1:30, 2, 2:30, 3, 3:30
Comet-Making	11AM, 12PM, 2PM, 3PM

Star Party Dates: Potential star party dates are listed below. Activities will begin around sunset (see times listed). All sessions are at Coyle Field except as noted. Coyle Field is not an "Official" club sponsored site, as the insurance provided by the College does not cover Coyle Field; come at your own risk. These parties are arranged privately. See our message board.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Moon Phase</u>	<u>Sunset</u>	<u>Special Event</u>
May Sat	4 day before NM	8:05 PM EST	
May 22 Sat	3 day after NM	8:11 PM EST	

STAR ATM's are looking for people interested in grinding mirrors. They meet every other Monday.

<http://www.starastronomy.org/cgi-bin/wwwthreads/postlist.pl?Cat=&Board=atm>

For Sale: 102-mm f/5.5 "semi-apo" short focus refractor tube assembly. Comes with removable dew cap, Crayford focuser, and 2" draw tube for large eyepieces or camera. Excellent traveling scope. \$250. Contact Phil Zollner at 732-905-0889.

For Sale: New as shown at the Sept. meeting, eyepieces that I already have or eye relief shorter than I want with my eyeglasses. Meade Series 4000 Eyepieces: 4-element Super Plössls; 52 deg. apparent field; parafoical; at 50% off the Meade price: 6.4 mm, 9.7 mm, 12.4 mm, each \$40. Contact Randy Walton at the meeting or at (732) 458-3465.

May Celestial Events: supplied by Randy Walton

Day	Date	Time (LMT)	Event
Sat.	1	16:22	Moon Rise
		19:55	Sunset
Sun.	2	04:00	Venus at greatest brilliancy
Tue.	4	17:00	Eta Aquarids meteors peak
		16:33	Full Moon
		19:58	Sun Set
		20:06	Moon Rise
Wed.	5	06:17	Moon Set
Fri.	7	23:00	Comet NEAT sets
Mon.	10	00:00	Comet NEAT sets
Tue.	11	07:04	Last Quarter Moon
		12:29	Moon Set
Fri.	14	01:00	Comet NEAT sets
Sat.	15	20:09	Sun Set
Wed.	19	00:52	New Moon
		02:00	Comet NEAT sets
Sun.	23	23:00	Saturn 1.6 deg. S of Mars
Mon.	24	23:00	Saturn 1.6 deg. S of Mars
Tue.	25	03:00	Comet NEAT sets
Thu.	27	03:57	First Quarter Moon
		12:56	Moon Rise
Sat.	29	21:30	Comet LINEAR sets
Mon.	31	17:37	Moon Rise
		20:23	Sun Set

Astronomy Courses: Planetarium staff offers a number of mini-courses on astronomy. Call the OCC Department of Continuing and Professional Education, 732/255-0404, for information or to register.

Newsletter Deadline: Material for *ASTRAL Projections* must be received 21 days before the next meeting. E-mail to newsletter@astra-nj.org or mail to: Paul Gitto 1200 Coolidge Ave. Whiting NJ 08759.

Planetarium office: 732/255-0343 weekdays 9 AM - 4 PM. Hot line: 732/255-0342. Touch 5 for ASTRA.

Visit our Web page at <http://astra-nj.org> Visit the Planetarium page at <http://ocean.edu/planet.htm>

Executive Board: President - John Endreson; Vice President-Secretary - Paul Gitto; Treasurer - Ro Spedaliere; Webmaster - Paul Gitto; Newsletter Editor – Bob Salvatore