

June 2004

Reports Needed for the Newsletter: We had some exciting meetings, but no reports from anyone. If anyone is interested in improving the newsletters, let us know!

May Meeting Review: The May meeting was an observing meeting.

June Meeting: Friday June 11 8PM Bob Salvatore will speak about Bad Astronomy. It should be good.

Astronomy/Space Day Review: The day was a success and a lot of fun. Some kids arrived in costume, and the comet cooking was a treat. ASTRA members turned out in force and everyone had a good time. Many thanks to Rich Gamba for providing free ASTRA T-Shirts to the ASTRA members who volunteered.

The Transit of Venus: At Sunrise on Tuesday Morning June 8 we will be able to witness Venus Transiting the Sun. Venus has not crossed the Sun's face in about 112 years, so no one alive has ever witnessed this event. If you would like to view this with other ASTRA members and members of the public, we will be meeting outside Jenkinson's near Purple Heart Blvd (Arnold Ave.) and Ocean Ave. in Point Pleasant Beach. Being that The Sun rises at 5:29 AM, and Venus rises at 5:32 AM, you'll need to get there early. If the weather is poor, we will be attempting a live video feed into the Planetarium.

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>
June 12 Sat	4 day before NM	8:26 PM EST	
June 19 Sat	3 day after NM	8:29 PM EST	

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; parfocal; 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.

June Celestial Events: supplied by Randy Walton

Day	Date	Time (EDT)	Event
Tue.	1	18:56	Moon Rise
		20:23	Sunset
		22:45	Comet LINEAR sets
Wed.	2	04:00	Comet NEAT sets
Thu.	3	00:20	Full Moon (largest of 2004)
		5:34	Moon Set
Mon.	7	02:00	Neptune 5 deg. N of Moon
		04:45	Comet NEAT sets
		22:55	Comet LINEAR sets
Tue.	8	04:19	Mid-transit of Venus across the Sun
		05:32	Sunrise
		07:06	Third contact of Venus
		07:25	Fourth contact of Venus
Wed.	9	12:36	Moon Set
		16:02	Last Quarter Moon
Sun.	13	22:55	Comet LINEAR sets
Thu.	17	16:27	New Moon
		20:52	Moon Set
Sun.	20	20:57	Summer Solstice
		22:40	Comet LINEAR sets
Wed.	23	10:46	Moon Rise
		23:00	Jupiter 2.3 deg. S of Moon
Fri.	25	12:56	Moon Rise
		15:08	First Quarter Moon
Wed	30	3:20	Moon Set
		19:07	Moon Rise
		20:32	Sunset
		22:25	Comet LINEAR sets

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 Spedalieri; Webmaster - Paul Gitto; Newsletter Editor – Bob Salvatore