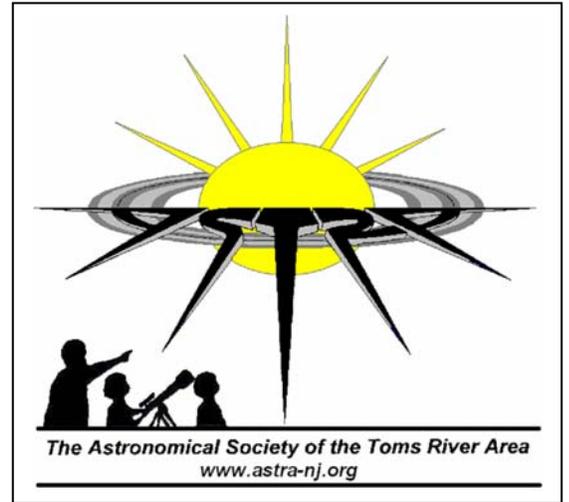


ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

DECEMBER 2005

ASTRA's ELECTIONS- Use this ballot to elect your club officers and administrators. You can bring it with you to our next meeting or fill it out and mail it to: ASTRA c/o Robert J. Novins Planetarium Ocean County College P.O. Box 2001 Toms River, N J 08754-2001

All ballots must be received by the December 9th meeting.



Election Ballot

The President- The President shall be the primary point of contact for the organization, speak for the organization in all official matters, and preside over all meetings.

J. Randolph Walton _____ Self Nominate- Your Name _____

The Vice President-Secretary- Assume the responsibilities of the President in the President's absence. Make a record of any formal actions taken by the organization. Coordinate with the Newsletter Editor in mailing appropriate club business. Keep the official version of the Bylaws and Policy documents.

Rich Gamba _____ Self Nominate- Your Name _____

The Treasurer- The Treasurer shall be the club membership chairperson, shall maintain the club treasury, shall collect club dues, and shall expend funds as directed. Recurring expenditures normal to the operation of the organization are authorized. The Treasurer shall provide a written report of the year's expenditures, which shall be included in the Newsletter, published within the first calendar quarter. Separate accounting will be maintained for the Telescope Fund and it will not be used for general club operations without a vote at a regular meeting.

Ro Spedaliere _____ Self Nomination- Your Name _____

ADMINISTRATORS

The Newsletter Editor shall publish the club newsletter, ASTRAL Projections, once a month and for any special event, and shall coordinate with the Vice President-Secretary to publish appropriate club business in the ASTRAL Projections.

John Endreson _____ Self Nominate- Your Name _____

The Webmaster shall manage the club website and the associated discussion board.

Paul Gitto _____ Self Nomination- Your Name _____

Committee Sign-up Form

Please mark those of interest, and we will contact you.

Astronomy Day _____
Lectures _____
Perseid Picnic _____
Newsletter _____
Star Party _____
Telescope Loan _____
Workshops _____
Setup-Refreshment-Cleanup _____

Thank You. We appreciate your willingness to help.

Name (please print)

Email address

Phone #

Astronomy Day Committee:
Duties: Coordinate the Astronomy Day Program.

Lectures:
Duties: Providing lectures for the club meetings.

Perseid Picnic:
Duties: Hosting the Perseid Picnic.

Newsletter Committee:
Duties: Supporting the Club Newsletter Editor (who will head the committee) help publish, and distribute the newsletter.

Star Party Committee:
Duties: Arrange Star Parties throughout the year, and to make sure that they do not coincide with other scheduled events.

Telescope Loan Committee:
Duties: Oversee, disburse, collect and inspect club telescopes.

Workshop Committee:
Duties: Coordinate any workshops.

Setup, Refreshment, and Cleanup committee:
Duties: Moving tables and chairs as necessary, being sure that the room is left in a clean and reset condition. Purchase, setting up and cleaning up of refreshments. The Treasure will reimburse as appropriate.

ASTRA Meetings and Star Parties Schedule for 2005

Fri. Dec 9th – Awards, Elections- Video

General Meeting Format

1. “Welcome” message
2. Announcements
3. Reminder of what the next meeting will be on.
4. Committee reports
5. Request if anyone needs astronomical help. If easy given now, or will be put off till the end of the meeting or the next meeting.
6. Refreshment break
7. Main program
8. Meeting end
 - a. Refreshments if any remain.
 - b. Astronomical help if still needed.

FOR SALE: Burnham’s Celestial Handbook, 3 volumes, Vol. 1 & 2 original loose-leaf format, Vol. 3 soft back. \$20. Contact Rich Brady at 732-840-0137, or at rbrady47@verizon.net

Celestial Events for December 2005

December 1, 2005 /// New Moon

10:01 A.M. EST

December 3, 2005 /// Mercury stationary

The body appears motionless in the sky due to the turning point between its direct and retrograde motion.

December 4, 2005 /// Venus 2° north of Moon

December 4, 2005 /// Moon at perigee

The point in the Moon's orbit when it is nearest to Earth.

December 5, 2005 /// Neptune 4° north of Moon

December 7, 2005 /// Uranus 2° north of Moon

December 8, 2005 /// First Quarter Moon

4:36 A.M. EST

December 9, 2005 /// Juno at opposition

Opposition occurs when a body farther from the Sun than Earth appears opposite the Sun in the sky. It is the best time to observe a body.

December 9, 2005 /// Venus at greatest brilliancy (magnitude -4.7)

Venus at its brightest.

December 10, 2005 /// Mars stationary

The body appears motionless in the sky due to the turning point between its direct and retrograde motion.

December 11, 2005 /// Mars 1.3° south of Moon, occultation

An occultation occurs when one object passes in front of a smaller one, temporarily obscuring all or part of the background object from view.

December 12, 2005 /// Geminid meteors

December 12, 2005 /// Mercury at greatest western elongation (21°)

Elongation is the apparent angular separation of an object from the Sun.

December 15, 2005 /// Full Moon

11:15 A.M. EST

December 15, 2005 /// Pluto in conjunction with Sun

A conjunction occurs when two or more bodies appear close together in the sky.

December 19, 2005 /// Saturn 4° south of Moon

December 20, 2005 /// Moon at apogee

The point in the Moon's orbit when it is farthest from Earth.

December 20, 2005 /// Mercury 6° north of Antares

Found in the constellation Scorpius, Antares is the 13th brightest in the night sky.

December 21, 2005 /// Winter solstice

1:35 P.M. EST

December 22, 2005 /// Venus stationary

The body appears motionless in the sky due to the turning point between its direct and retrograde motion.

December 23, 2005 /// Last Quarter Moon

2:36 P.M. EST

December 25, 2005 /// Spica 0.9° south of Moon, occultation

An occultation occurs when one object passes in front of a smaller one, temporarily obscuring all or part of the background object from view.

December 26, 2005 /// Jupiter 4° north of Moon

December 28, 2005 /// Antares 0.2° south of Moon, occultation

An occultation occurs when one object passes in front of a smaller one, temporarily obscuring all or part of the background object from view.

December 28, 2005 /// Ceres in conjunction with Sun

A conjunction occurs when two or more bodies appear close together in the sky.

December 29, 2005 /// Mercury 5° north of Moon

December 30, 2005 /// New Moon

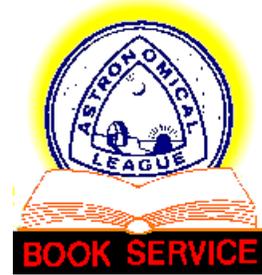
10:12 P.M. EST



ASTRA's ALCor: John Endreson - oldjedi2001@msn.com

The Astronomical League is composed of over two hundred and forty local amateur astronomical societies from all across the United States. These organizations, along with our Members-at-Large, Patrons, and supporting members form one of the largest amateur astronomical organizations in the world.

The mission of the Astronomical League is to promote the science of Astronomy. The benefit of belonging to this organization is receiving the quarterly newsletter, *The Reflector*, which keeps you in touch with amateur activities all over the country also the *AL Observing Clubs* offer encouragement and certificates of accomplishment for demonstrating observing skills. For more information, visit their homepage at: www.astroleague.org



Members of the Astronomical League may order any book on astronomy at a ten per cent discount through the Book Service.

Just send us the following:

The book's title,
The author of the book,
The publisher of the book,
The publisher's address (if known),
The name of the Astronomical League Society you belong to, or indicate your direct membership status in the Astronomical League, and

A check made out to the Astronomical League Book Service for the retail price of the book minus 10%. There is no shipping or handling charge for domestic orders.

Address your request to: Marilyn Unruh 324 W. Gurley St. Prescott, AZ 86301 (928) 778-2130
booknook@northlink.com Also visit their online store at: www.astronomicalleague.com

Newsletter Deadline: Material for *ASTRAL Projections* must be received 21 days before the next meeting. E-mail to Newsletter@astra-nj.org or oldjedi2001@msn.com or mail to: ASTRA Newsletter Editor c/o Robert J. Novins Planetarium Ocean County College P.O. Box 2001 Toms River, New Jersey 08754-2001

Planetarium office: 732/255-0343 weekdays 9 AM - 4 PM. Hot line: 732/255-0342. Touch 5 for ASTRA. Visit the Planetarium page at <http://ocean.edu/planet.htm> or visit our Web page at <http://astra-nj.org>

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.

Astronomy Help Wanted: If you have an "Astronomy Help Wanted" advertisement for the newsletter: E-mail to Newsletter@astra-nj.org or oldjedi2001@msn.com or mail to: ASTRA Newsletter Editor c/o Robert J. Novins Planetarium Ocean County Collage P.O. Box 2001 Toms River, NJ 08754-2001

Group Purchase: If you want to handle a "Group Purchase" for something: contact J. Randolph Walton (Randy) phone # 732-458-3465 to announce it at a meeting or E-mail to Newsletter@astra-nj.org or oldjedi2001@msn.com to place it in the newsletter.

Executive Board: **President** -J. Randolph Walton - Phone # 732-458-3465 **Vice President-Secretary** - Paul Gitto **Treasurer** - Ro Spedaliere **Webmaster** - Paul Gitto **Newsletter Editor** - John Endreson

Dues are Due...

To renew your membership, all you need to do is fill out the form below and send it with your dues to:

Robert J. Novins Planetarium
ATTN: ASTRA
Ocean County College
Toms River NJ 08754-2001

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ASTRA. You can also pay at the next meeting. If you do, please bring this form with you. Hope we'll see you there!

Annual dues, per family:	\$15.00
Refreshments fee — \$1.00 for each <i>additional</i> family member who is active in ASTRA:	_____
Telescope fund assessment (only if you wish - Optional for continuing members):	5.00
TOTAL (minimum \$15.00):	_____

Privileges of membership include 12 issues per year of *Astral Projections*, use of Club telescopes (after suitable training), student discount on admission to Planetarium shows, membership in the Astronomical League, and a subscription to the Astronomical League's quarterly newsletter, *Reflector*. Dues are payable January 1 each year, and past due as of the end of the March business meeting.

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

NAMES OF OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS JOINING ASTRA (Add \$1.00 for Each):
(Please indicate if member is over 18 - for voting purposes)

_____ ¹⁸⁺ _____ ¹⁸⁺ _____ ¹⁸⁺ _____ ¹⁸⁺

E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) _____

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (minimum \$15.00) _____

I grant permission to publish the following to *ASTRA* members only (check any that apply):

phone number mail address put me on the star party phone list