

# ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

**FEBRUARY 2007**

[www.ASTRA-NJ.org](http://www.ASTRA-NJ.org)

**This issue of Astral Projections is dedicated  
to the memory of Dr. Erik Zimmermann, PhD**



**Dr. Rolf Erik Zimmermann, Ph. D  
1941-2007**

The members of ASTRA have lost a wonderful friend, teacher and the founder of their club. Dr. Zimmermann passed away on Friday January 26, 2007. He left behind many people touched by his presence in their lives. His knowledge, kindness and encouragement gave people the support to learn, have fun and through his club, bring Astronomy to others.

The club will make a donation to the Susan G. Komen Foundation as requested by the family in lieu of flowers. Dr. Zimmermann will be deeply missed.

By: Sarah Waters, President, A.S.T.R.A.

**\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*\***

**The ASTRA meeting will be at 8 PM  
in the College Center Solar Lounge across from the Planetarium.**

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### **Meeting Schedule for 2007**

**Jan. - Telescope Workshop** to help the public use their telescope - all members. Early start, 7:00 PM.

**Feb. 9, 2007 – Exploring the Night Sky.** Video lecture presented by Professor Alex Filippenko of UC Berkeley.

**Mar. - Astronomy Equipment and/or Book, Show & Tell** - all members.

**Apr. - Night Sky Network Update.** Presented by ASTRA's NSN Administrators.

**May – A Grand Tour of the Cosmos.** Video lecture presented by Professor Alex Filippenko of UC Berkeley.

**Jun. – Famous Astronomers III.** Presented by Bob Salvatore.

**Jul. – Lunar Phases and Glorious Eclipses.** Video lecture presented by Professor Alex Filippenko of UC Berkeley.

**Aug. – Annual Perseid Picnic.**

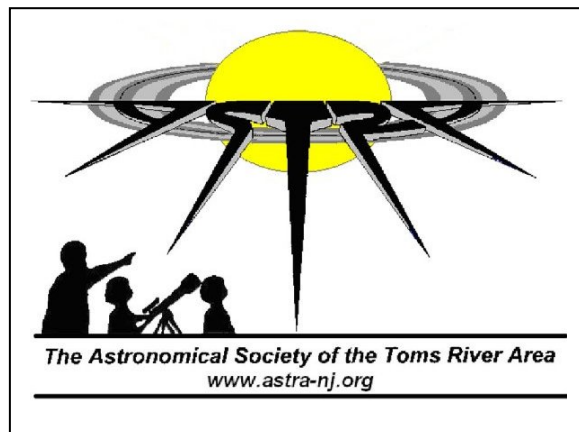
**Sep. – Cinema Scopes II.** Presented by Bob Salvatore.

**Oct. – ASTRA Officer Nominations; Plus - Planetary Behemoths – Jupiter and Saturn.** Video lecture presented by Professor Alex Filippenko of UC Berkeley.

**Nov. – Star Party Round-up.** Hosted by Ro Spedalieri.

**Dec. – Election Results/Awards.** Presented by Sarah Waters.

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### **Our Next Meeting - Feb. 9, 2007**

**Exploring the Night Sky** - Due to the untimely passing of Dr. Zimmermann, Rich Brady will be unable to present "*The Stars of Winter*" as previously scheduled, as he will be assuming Dr. Zimmermann's class schedule. In his stead we will be hosting a video lecture presented by Professor Alex Filippenko, Professor of Astronomy at the University of California at Berkeley. This will be an interesting and fact filled lecture on the evening sky to last approx. 45 minutes.

**NEW FOR 2007** - As a paid-up member for 2007, when you attend a monthly meeting, you will be entered into a free drawing for a door prize to be given away at the end of the meeting. Who will be our first winner!

## Highlights of the Last Meeting

Our January Telescope Workshop went well. We had about 25 ASTRA members come to help the about 60 people that came for help with their telescopes. The meeting started with Sarah Waters welcome to the ASTRA meeting, then she went over the free catalogs and informational literature anyone could take. Next Rich Brady gave an overview of telescope types. At this point we divided the group in three for individual help: refractor telescopes went with Gene Russo; digital control telescopes went with Bob Salvatore; and reflector telescopes stayed with Rich Brady. The other ASTRA members went with the groups they could help. The weather was cloudy so there was no observing, but we stayed until everyone was helped.

By J. Randolph Walton

## Dues are Due for 2007

See Ro Spedaliere at a club meeting, or mail the attached form to the planetarium address listed. E-mail any questions to Ro at [Treasurer@astra-nj.org](mailto:Treasurer@astra-nj.org)

## March Astronomy Equipment and/or Book, Show & Tell

Members are asked to bring astronomy equipment and/or books that you think can help other members. Whatever you like yourself, whatever you think others might benefit from, bring it along and **show your stuff**.

## Star Party Plans

For members who enjoy observing the skies, checkout the following list. ASTRA hosts several *public* and *private* star parties and many members also attend *other* star parties held at other locations such as **The South Jersey Star Party** and **Stellafane**.

Coyle Field ( <i>private</i> )	See Message Board for dates and times
Milford Brook School ( <i>private</i> )	Mar 23 6:45PM
SJAC Spring Party ( <i>other</i> )	Apr 13-15
Astronomy Day ( <i>public</i> )	Apr 21
Spring Star Watch ( <i>public</i> )	May 12
Light House Encampment ( <i>private</i> )	May 18, Jun 9, Jun 22, Jul 6, Jul 20, Aug 3, Aug 17
Mason-Dixon Star Party ( <i>other</i> )	Jul 11-15
Stellafane ( <i>other</i> )	Aug 10-11
Fall Star Watch ( <i>public</i> )	Oct 6
Stella Della ( <i>other</i> )	Oct 12-14

## Astronomical League

[www.AstroLeague.org](http://www.AstroLeague.org)

Reflector magazine, discounts on books, and Observing Awards for any ASTRA member. If you are not getting your Reflector magazine or want to apply for an Observing Award contact the club **ALCOR**: Ro Spedaliere.

# Celestial Events

**2007 February Celestial Events:** supplied by J. Randolph Walton (Randy)

Day	Date	Time (LMT)	Event
Fri	2	00:45	Full Moon
		17:53	Moon Rise
		18:00	Moon 0.8 Deg. E of Saturn
Sat	3	03:15	Jupiter Rises
		05:25	Mars Rises
		07:07	Sunrise
		17:21	Sunset
		17:50	Saturn Rises
		18:50	Mercury Sets
		18:57	Moon Rise
		19:17	Venus Sets
Mon	5	18:55	Zodiacal Light in W after evening twilight for two weeks
Sat	10	01:02	Moon Rise
		02:55	Jupiter Rises
		04:51	Last Quarter Moon
		05:20	Mars Rises
		06:59	Sunrise
		10:34	Moon Set
		17:20	Saturn Rises
		17:30	Sunset
		19:00	Mercury Sets
		19:35	Venus Sets
Sat	17	02:35	Jupiter Rises
		05:10	Mars Rises
		06:51	Sunrise
		11:14	New Moon
		17:38	Sunset
		17:49	Moon Set
		18:35	Mercury Sets
		19:50	Venus Sets
Fri	23	09:48	Moon Rise
		19:00	Moon 0.6 Deg. of the Pleiades
Sat	24	01:27	Moon Set
		02:10	Jupiter Rises
		02:56	First Quarter Moon
		05:01	Mars Rises
		06:14	Saturn Sets
		06:41	Sunrise
		10:31	Moon Rise
		17:46	Sunset
		19:50	Venus Sets
Sat	Mar3	17:44	Total lunar eclipse begins
		17:48	Moon Rise
		18:57	Total lunar eclipse ends

## Items for Sale

<http://www.astra-nj.org/ASTRA-WEAR.pdf>

**ASTRA-WEAR: For Embroidered and/or Printed items with the ASTRA's Logo**  
See some samples at ASTRA meetings and ordering information for all items on our website.

**Canon 50mm f/1.8 Camera Lens with FD mount.** Contact: *Wally Hager III.* at an ASTRA meeting.

**Stellarvue 4" f/6.9 Achromatic Refractor Optical Tube Assembly**, Model # 102D. Focal length 704mm. The objective is partially attenuated, meaning visible color is very minimal. I've seen traces of color only on the Moon and brightest planets and stars. Contrast is unusually high. Includes a nesting dew cap and a fully rotating JMI Crayford 2" type tailpiece. Also with a 1¼" adaptor, Stellarvue tube rings, and a soft padded Stellarvue carry case. Combined original cost over \$1075. ~~Sell for \$850~~, Now reduced to \$650.

Contact: *Phil Zollner* at 732-905-0889 or [pazap@juno.com](mailto:pazap@juno.com)

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***Astronomical Group Purchase, Items for Sale, or Help Wanted Advertisements:*** If you want to handle a Group Purchase, have Sale items, or need Help contact the President [President@astra-nj.org](mailto:President@astra-nj.org) to announce it at a meeting and send the advertisement to the newsletter (See *Newsletter* below).

***Education Article:*** If you have written a general interest astronomy article, please submit it to the newsletter (See *Newsletter* below). Try to keep it less than one page or it may need to be split over several months. It would be helpful if it were sent as an MS Word document attachment to an e-mail.

***Newsletter:*** E-mail material to [Newsletter@astra-nj.org](mailto:Newsletter@astra-nj.org) or mail to: Novins Planetarium, ASTRA Newsletter, Ocean County College, P.O. Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001. If you do send something please call J. Randolph Walton (Randy), phone number 732-458-3465 as I may only check for e-mail at my local library every other week or the Planetarium only on the night of an ASTRA meeting. ***Deadline:*** Material for *ASTRAL PROJECTIONS* must be received 21 days before the next meeting.

***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.

***Planetarium office:*** 732/255-0343 weekdays 9 AM - 4 PM. **Hot line:** 732/255-0342. Select 6 for ASTRA. Visit the Planetarium web page at <http://ocean.edu/planet.htm> or visit our web page at <http://astra-nj.org>

***Executive Board:*** **President** Sarah Waters, [President@astra-nj.org](mailto:President@astra-nj.org); **Vice President-Secretary** Rich Gamba, [VP@astra-nj.org](mailto:VP@astra-nj.org); **Treasurer** Ro Spedaliere, [Treasurer@astra-nj.org](mailto:Treasurer@astra-nj.org); **Newsletter Editor** J. Randolph Walton, Phone Number 732-458-3465, [Newsletter@astra-nj.org](mailto:Newsletter@astra-nj.org); **Webmaster** Paul Gitto, [Webmaster@astra-nj.org](mailto:Webmaster@astra-nj.org).

# A.S.T.R.A. DUES

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

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

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ASTRA.**

You can also pay at a meeting. If you do, please complete this form and bring it with you.

**Annual dues, per family:** \$15.00

**Refreshment fee — \$1.00 for each additional family member who comes to ASTRA meetings:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telescope Fund assessment (Mandatory first year, Optional for continuing members):** 5.00

**TOTAL (minimum \$15.00):** \_\_\_\_\_

Privileges of membership include ASTRA's newsletter (*Astral Projections*), use of a Club telescope (after suitable training), student discount on admission to Planetarium shows, membership in the Astronomical League, the Astronomical League's newsletter (*Reflector*), and use of the Night Sky Network kits (after suitable training). Dues are payable January 1 each year, and past due as of the end of the March meeting.

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  **18+** \_\_\_\_\_  **18+** \_\_\_\_\_  **18+** \_\_\_\_\_  **18+**

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

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

Updated 1/16/07 JRW