

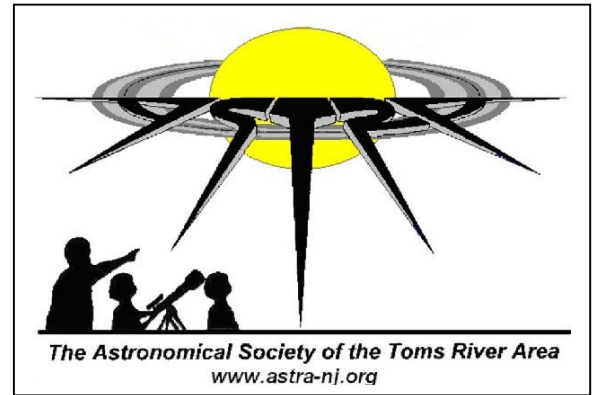
ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

MARCH 2007

www.ASTRA-NJ.org

****** PLEASE NOTE ******

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



NEW FOR 2007 As a paid-up member for 2007, when you attend a monthly meeting, you can enter into a free drawing for a door prize to be given away during the meeting.

Meeting Schedule for 2007

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

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

Mar. 9, 2007 – 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. – Officer Nominations; 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.

Our Next Meeting – March 9, 2007

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**.

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

Pay your dues – Get in on the Free Drawing

Highlights of the Last Meeting

Contributed by Sarah Waters

The February meeting began with a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. Zimmermann.

We then had a long discussion about the fraudulent donation to the Planetarium. Though everyone wanted to know how to help, we needed to let the dust settle in order to regroup. By the next meeting we hoped to have more possibilities to the way members can help.

We welcomed a few newcomers returning from the January Workshop. A few people signed up for membership.

Ro presented Pins and Certificates to A.S.T.R.A. members for their help at Star Parties in 2006. The awards were sent from Night Sky Network in their appreciation to Amateur Astronomers helping to bring Astronomy to the public. It is nice to see such a large group receiving the awards and the reminder of the wonderful things A.S.T.R.A. has been able to do. Thank you, Ro, for all the organizing of the Star Parties and posting to N.S.N. each event. Keep up the good work A.S.T.R.A. members.

The kick off of our Prize of the Month drawing began with the donated Astronomy Almanac. Thank you, Gloria, for the donation and congratulations to our first winner.

Sign up sheets were put out for members to volunteer during the break to help with Astronomy Day and the Club Picnic. Please sign up in March if you haven't yet. We need everyone's help!

During the break a few members went outside to give a laser light tour of the current stars. Yes we actually had some clear skies. This is another feature we have started during the break, so bring your laser lights and join the fun.

After the break we watched a 45 minute Video Lecture by Professor Alex Filippenko, a professor of Astronomy at the University of California at Berkeley. The Lecture was about Exploring the Night Sky and there was a wonderful variety of knowledge presented in the show. Everyone seemed to enjoy the Visuals during the show. I enjoyed the pictures of the Northern Lights, something I hope to see one day. There was nice feedback from many A.S.T.R.A. members as to the level of information provided. Thanks, Mom, who provided me with the Video set to share with "The Gang" as she says. We have a few other Video Lectures planned during the year. Come and enjoy them with us.

Coming – Apr. 13, 2007

Night Sky Network Update – The NSN Administrators will be showing some of the kits we can use for Astronomy Day on April 21st. We will be looking for volunteers to learn how to use the kits for Astronomy Day. We also have a special surprise. Gloria will be showing off her new toy – a Starlab portable planetarium, come see if you have what it takes to operate it.

Save the Planetarium Fund, Inc.



Dr. Jon Larson, President, OCC

Here it is! What you have been waiting for!
This is your chance to pitch in and help the Planetarium.
Members of ASTRA have established a new non-profit charity.

We need volunteers!

Check out our website www.SavethePlanetarium.org
for all the latest information on the Fund Drive

**Be one of the first people to get the
“I’m Helping to Save the Planetarium!” t-shirt.**

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

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 Spedalieri.

Celestial Events

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

Day	Date	Time (LMT)	Event
Thu	1	15:42	Moon Rise
		20:00	Moon 0.7 Deg. N of Saturn
Sat	3	17:44	Total lunar eclipse begins
		17:48	Moon Rise
		17:54	Sunset
		18:17	Full Moon
		18:55	59 Leonis Occultation by Moon ends
		18:57	Total lunar eclipse ends
Tue	6	17:57	Sunset
		19:25	Zodiacal Light in W after evening twilight for two weeks
Sat	10	01:20	Jupiter Rises
		04:40	Mars Rises
		05:14	Mercury Rises
		05:15	Saturn Sets
		06:20	Sunrise
		09:07	Moon Set
		18:01	Sunset
		20:40	Venus Sets
Sun	11	02:00	Daylight Saving Time begins
		10:48	Moon Set
		23:54	Last Quarter Moon
Sat	17	01:50	Jupiter Rises
		05:30	Mars Rises
		05:50	Saturn Sets
		07:09	Sunrise
		17:37	Moon Set
		19:09	Sunset
		21:55	Venus Sets
Sun	18	18:55	Moon Set
		22:43	New Moon
Tue	20	20:07	Spring Equinox
Sat	24	01:25	Jupiter Rises
		05:15	Mars Rises
		05:20	Saturn Sets
		06:00	Mercury Rises
		06:57	Sunrise
		10:17	Moon Rise
		19:16	Sunset
		22:10	Venus Sets
Sun	25	11:16	Moon Rise
		14:16	First Quarter Moon
Sat	31	01:00	Jupiter Rises
		04:53	Saturn Sets
		05:05	Mars Rises
		05:55	Mercury Rises
		06:46	Sunrise
		17:41	Moon Rise
		19:23	Sunset
		22:25	Venus Sets

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

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 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 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; **Vice President-Secretary** Rich Gamba, VP@astra-nj.org; **Treasurer** Ro Spedaliere, Treasurer@astra-nj.org; **Newsletter Editor** J. Randolph Walton, Phone Number 732-458-3465, Newsletter@astra-nj.org; **Webmaster** Paul Gitto, 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+
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

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