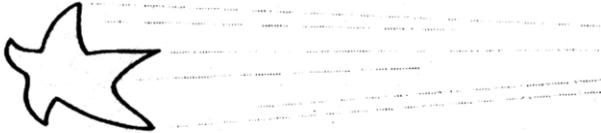


The Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area "ASTRA"

We are a local astronomy club open to anyone interested in astronomy and space sciences. The objective of ASTRA is to provide an open forum for those interested in astronomy to explore all aspects of this fascinating science.



Monthly Meetings

ASTRA usually meets once a month (except for August). Check our website www.astra-nj.org for meeting times and locations. Programs cover a wide variety of topics (observational, theoretical, and amateur activities). Meetings may offer guest speakers, presentations by members or by Planetarium staff, and workshops on different aspects of astronomy.

Star Parties

For those members who enjoy observing the skies, ASTRA holds "star parties" several times a month (weather permitting). Star parties are designed to give club members and guests the opportunity to get together and observe many sky objects and to compare telescopes and accessories.

Check our message board and Events Schedule for dates and times.



Club Loaner Telescopes

ASTRA owns several telescopes that members can borrow!

We have several different size Dobsonian telescopes, equatorial mounted Reflectors, equatorial mounted Refractors, Computer locating assisted telescopes, and Binoculars.

These telescopes and an assortment of books are available for club members to borrow and use for a month or two at a time.

ASTRA is part of the Night Sky Network

The Night Sky Network is a partnership of ASTRA club members, NASA, The Astronomical Society of the Pacific, The Astronomical League, and many other amateur astronomy clubs from across America.

ASTRA has an interest in providing the public with entertaining and engaging ways to learn basic astronomy concepts.

It is one of NASA's education goals as well to improve the American public's understanding of astronomy.

The Night Sky Network was developed with the dedicated assistance from advisory

teams consisting of ASTRA members and other amateur astronomy clubs.



Be a part of the Astronomical League

The Astronomical League is composed of over two hundred and forty local amateur astronomical clubs from all across the United States.

Their goal is to encourage an interest in astronomy (and especially amateur astronomy) throughout America.

We want people to have access to telescopes, and use them to view the beauty in the heavens.

Some benefits of joining this organization are receiving the Reflector quarterly newsletter.

Also the Astronomical League provides many different observing programs. These programs are designed to provide a direction for your observations and to provide a goal.

The programs have awards and pins to recognize the observers' accomplishments and for demonstrating their observing skills with a variety of instruments and objects.

Astronomical League membership is optional and is \$7.50 in addition to your ASTRA membership.

Astronomy Day

Astronomy Day is a day set aside each year “to promote the forerunner of all scientific endeavors and to provide information, resources, and encouragement in all facets of astronomy.”

This worldwide event is designed to foster, encourage, and promote public awareness and interest in astronomy and space sciences.

The theme of Astronomy Day is “Taking Astronomy to the People.”

Astronomy Day is normally held between mid-April and mid-May, on the Saturday closest to the first quarter Moon. The date can be changed if necessary because of major astronomical events or local club requirements.



How to join

Fill out the ASTRA Membership Application Form.

Dues are \$30.00 for the first year and \$25.00 per year thereafter. The extra \$5.00 for new members is a one-time assessment for the telescope fund.

This fund is used to maintain and upgrade the club telescopes.

Visitors are always welcome at meetings. It is not necessary to pay dues immediately; many people attend several meetings before deciding whether to join.

If you would like to join ASTRA ask one of our club officers for the Membership Application Form or you can download it from our website.

Fill out your information and "Please make your checks payable to A.S.T.R.A." and give it to one of the club officers or mail it to the address given below.

A.S.T.R.A. Robert J. Novins Planetarium
Ocean County College P.O. Box 2001
Toms River NJ 08754-2001



For More Information

Contact club officials:

President@astra-nj.org

VP@astra-nj.org

Treasurer@satra-nj.org

If you have any questions regarding our club or astronomy in general you can call the ASTRA Hotline (609)-971-3331 or go to the ASTRA Message Board and leave us a post. Our message board is located on our website at:

www.astra-nj.org

Also check us out on Facebook! Search “ASTRA Astronomy” and look for our logo.

