

www.uacnj.org

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Spring 2010

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Observatory Committee

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News from the Executive Committee $\frac{1}{2}$

The Purpose of Club Representatives

UACNJ was established as a consortium of clubs. This means that the member clubs are an integral part of the organization and have a role in the management of our programs and facilities.

The Executive Committee has just finished reviewing the UACNJ Constitution and Bylaws (see article below). During this process we are all reminded that Club Representatives have a large role in UACNJ.

The Board of Directors includes the members of the Executive Committee (four officers plus five standing committee chairs) and a representative from each club. It is expected that Club Reps will bring information from UACNJ back to their clubs as well as bring their club's perspective to UACNJ by attending Board meetings (usually four times each year). This two-way communication is vital to UACNJ, yet some clubs are not represented at Board meetings.

We encourage each member club to send a representative to the next Board of Directors meeting on Saturday, June 5, 2010. Contact any officer listed to the right for more information.

Revisions to Bylaws and Constitution

The Executive Committee met twice this spring to review the Constitution and Bylaws.

Their recommended revisions include correction of punctuation, capitalization, and other typographical errors to provide consistency throughout the two documents, reassignment of certain responsibilities among the five standing committees to reflect current practice, and clarification of the duties of the four officers. These recommendations are being reviewed by the Credentials Committee.

Copies of the revised documents will be posted on the UACNJ email list when they are ready for review by Club Reps, Trustees, Officers, Committee Chairs, and Observers. Changes to both documents will be voted on at a Board meeting later this year.



Photo by Alan Midkiff, May 2010 ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ **Upcoming Events** ☆ \bigstar May 16 - Lunar Occultation June 5 - Board Meeting ☆ \bigstar ☆ July 17 - Annual Picnic ☆ $\frac{1}{2}$ September 24-26 - Symposium ☆

Lunar Occultation on May 16

Krishnadas Kootale, MMAS

There will be a lunar occultation on Sunday, May 16 at about 9:50 PM. What is even better is that this will be a grazing occultation.

A lunar occultation is an eclipse of a star or a planet by the Moon. In a grazing occultation, the star or planet will appear to graze the northern or southern limb of the Moon. Observers close to the graze path have a chance to see the star appear and disappear repeatedly as it passes behind the hills and valleys on the Moon.

On May 16, a 6.2 magnitude star in the constellation Gemini will graze the northern limb of the three-day-old waxing crescent Moon. This will make the constant motion of the Moon across the background stars conspicuous. A grazing occultation is not just appealing from an aesthetic point of view, but also an opportunity to contribute to the body of scientific knowledge. Records of grazing occultations are used for refining the data on the lunar profile and the star coordinate system.

Fortunately for us, the graze path of the occultation passes through New Jersey. UACNJ is organizing an observing event in Hackettstown, at the intersection of N Valley View Road and E Winding Hill Drive just off Route 46 East. Those interested may contact me at ckkrish@gmail.com.



2010 Symposium

Plans are underway for the annual UACNJ symposium which will be held September 24-26. If you would like to help with this event, (planning, speaking, day worker, etc.), please contact Ron Russo at ron@roned.com.

Observatory Committee Update

Gil Jeffer, Committee Chair, NWJAA

Work on the ITEK observatory is progressing steadily. Mandated state inspections at each stage of construction confirm that the mostly-volunteer crew is doing an outstanding job.

We have begun dismantling the observatory donated by Maureen Brady and will be reconstructing it on the pad that has already been poured at the UACNJ facility.

As always, please contact me at gil.jeffer@gmail.com if you can help with either of these important projects.

We are seeking donations of labor and materials to replace the oddsize doors on the ground floor of the UACNJ house. Please contact me if you can shepherd this work.

Many thanks to all who have given their time and talent for these and other projects at Jenny Jump.

Donations Appreciated!

There is a donation jar in the kitchen to help pay for replenishing supplies and one in the bedroom to help pay for heat for those who stay overnight. Your donations are an important part of the UACNJ operating budget.

2010 Stats

During the first team rotation, we hosted an average of 45 guests on public nights. Many thanks to all who participated!

NJAstronomers Email List

Anyone may join our email list to share club news and information about astronomy events around the state.

Just send an email to:

NJAstronomers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com