



# FOCUS

Editor, Diane Jeffer, [astrodiane@gmail.com](mailto:astrodiane@gmail.com)

January 2011

## RECENT BOARD ACTIONS

Dale Gary, UACNJ President, AAI

Revisions to the UACNJ Constitution and Bylaws were accepted at the November Board meeting. Copies of these documents and minutes from the recent Board meeting are available in the files section of the UACNJ Yahoo email list.

Also at the November meeting, new officers and trustees were elected and new committee chairs were appointed. See the shaded box at right for complete list of officers.

Club memberships are now being accepted for 2011. The Observer Form for individuals will be available on the UACNJ website and via the Yahoo list on February 1.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 31**

*Club membership deadline*

**March 5, 12, 19, 26**

*Training, orientation, and work sessions*

**April 2**

*First public night*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

Dale Gary (AAI)  
[dgary50@yahoo.com](mailto:dgary50@yahoo.com)

### Vice President

Bill Eberly (MMAS)  
[rweberly@aol.com](mailto:rweberly@aol.com)

### Secretary

Krishnadas Kootale (MMAS)  
[ckkrish@gmail.com](mailto:ckkrish@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Diane Jeffer (NWJAA)  
[astrodiane@gmail.com](mailto:astrodiane@gmail.com)

### Communications Committee

Sherwood Waggy (MMAS)  
[sherwoodwaggy@optonline.net](mailto:sherwoodwaggy@optonline.net)

### Credentials Committee

Toby Terranova (AAI)  
[tobyterranova@yahoo.com](mailto:tobyterranova@yahoo.com)

### Development Committee

Karl Hricko (AAI)  
[hrickokj@embarqmail.com](mailto:hrickokj@embarqmail.com)

### Membership Committee

Chris Callie (NWJAA)  
[UACNJmembership@gmail.com](mailto:UACNJmembership@gmail.com)

### Observatory and Planning Committee

Gil Jeffer (NWJAA)  
[gil.jeffer@gmail.com](mailto:gil.jeffer@gmail.com)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Trustee 2009-2011

Kyle Gary (AAI)  
[kgary50@yahoo.com](mailto:kgary50@yahoo.com)

### Trustee 2010-2012

Jim Norton (NWJAA)  
[norton@optonline.net](mailto:norton@optonline.net)

### Trustee 2011-2013

Marcus Valdez (AAI)  
[mlv101@yahoo.com](mailto:mlv101@yahoo.com)

## WINTER ACTIVITIES AT UACNJ: ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

Matt Reiche, NWJAA

The fall and winter months have been busy at Jenny Jump due to the growing interest in astrophotography among UACNJ Observers. While not a new hobby, astrophotography has become much more popular due to advances in imaging technology over the past ten years. These advances make astrophotography easier and more accessible to amateurs.

For some, it has become an obsession that brings them to Jenny Jump three or more times a week. Setting up telescopes and cameras on snowy ground in windy, single-digit conditions, they capture stunning images of the Universe whenever the sky is clear.

Amateurs who have enjoyed astronomy through an eyepiece for years may find that astrophotography will expand their appreciation of what's out there. The enjoyment gained by capturing detailed nebulosity that cannot be viewed visually is an exhilarating feeling that is without compare.

Anyone who is interested in imaging or wants to learn about astrophotography is encouraged to join us at Jenny Jump. Observing plans are usually shared via the UACNJ email list or contact me at [uacnjmembership@gmail.com](mailto:uacnjmembership@gmail.com) for more information.

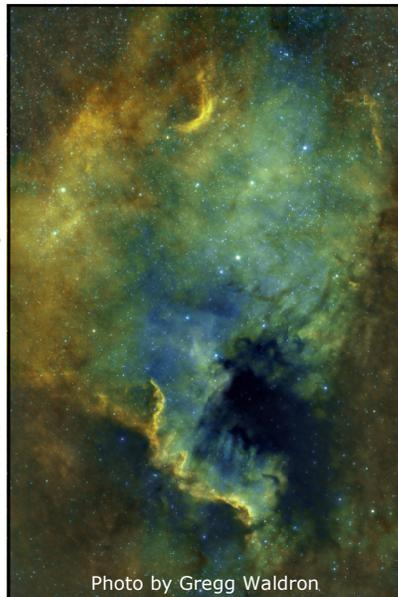


Photo by Gregg Waldron

North America Nebula - over 12 hours of data taken at Jenny Jump, summer 2010.

## **OBSERVER ORIENTATION, TEAM LEADER TRAINING, AND WORK SESSIONS**

Gil Jeffer, Observatory Chair, NWJAA

It is important for Observers and Team Leaders to attend training sessions before each observing season to review procedures and renew their qualification status. In 2011, training sessions will be held every Saturday in March. Teams are encouraged to attend together if possible.

Dates and times for orientation and training are as follows:

March 5 - 2 PM  
March 12 - 1 PM  
March 19 - 12 noon  
March 26 - 11 AM

There will also be work sessions on these dates so please plan to come early and stay late to help get our facilities ready for the 2011 public season.

Contact me at 908-637-9994, 973-229-9464 (cell) or gil.jeffer@gmail.com to reserve your choice of date and time.

## **2010 STATISTICS**

Public Visitors: 1150+      Cash Donations: \$1957  
Paid Observers: 54      Volunteer Visits: 750+

## **LIBRARY UPDATE**

Marcus Valdez, Jr, Trustee, AAI

Diane Jeffer, Library subcommittee chair, NWJAA  
UACNJ has an extensive collection of astronomy and science books and periodicals that have been donated by Observers and friends over the years. Until now, no one was sure exactly what was on the library shelves. That is about to change!

In 2010, Sherwood Waggy rearranged the shelves, sorting the books into categories. The next step is to inventory and catalogue all materials in the collection.

This being done by Marcus Valdez III, a Life Scout member of Troop 33 in Fanwood NJ and his parents, Rosemary and Marcus Jr. Marcus III is applying the time spent on this effort to fulfilling requirements for the Family Life Merit badge.

## **SEEKING DONORS**

Diane Jeffer, UACNJ Treasurer, NWJAA

All Observers and friends of UACNJ are encouraged to consider making a donation to UACNJ. Please remember to request matching funds if they are available from your employer.

All donations to UACNJ are tax deductible; a receipt is provided upon request.

## **CLUB MEMBERSHIPS**

Toby Terranova, Credentials Chair, AAI

The 2010 Club Membership Form and fee is due January 31, 2011. This deadline allows us to include your club on the 2011 Observer Form which will be distributed February 1. The club form, which includes a list of the benefits of membership, is available at [www.uacnj.org](http://www.uacnj.org) or by contacting me at [tobyterranova@yahoo.com](mailto:tobyterranova@yahoo.com).

## **SPEAKERS BUREAU**

UACNJ maintains a list of speakers for public programs and club events. If you would like to be added to the list, if your club is seeking a speaker for an upcoming meeting, or if you are interested in presenting a program for one of the 2011 public sessions, please contact Karl at [hrickokj@embarqmail.com](mailto:hrickokj@embarqmail.com).



Photo by Gil Jeffer

## **FLYOVER**

New aerial photos were taken in December thanks to NWJAA member Alan Midkiff who circled the mountain in his plane while Gil Jeffer snapped photos. The radio telescope, new Brady Observatory, and foundation for the ITEK are all visible in the new photos which will be used in UACNJ publicity materials.