



The Newsletter of United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey

# FOCUS

Editor, Diane Jeffer, astrodiane@gmail.com

July 2011

## WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Kyle Gary, UACNJ Trustee, AAI

Several UACNJ Observers traveled to Governors Island recently to take part in *The Delicate Art of Sungazing* in collaboration with NASA Solar Dynamics Observatory. This event was part of the World Science Festival Science on Site program.



Photo by Kyle Gary

UACNJ volunteers were joined by members of Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI) and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) Astronomy Club. The volunteers helped the public make electromagnets, explore magnetic fields, compare images of the sun in various wavelengths, compare image resolution using LEGO® bricks, use UV beads and sunscreen to demonstrate that sunlight includes ultraviolet light, and many other activities. More than 700 children participated—and many adults as well. It was an enjoyable day for all involved.

<< Sherwood Waggy at the World Science Festival.

## SAVE THE DATES!

September 23 & 24

Symposium

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## 2012 UACNJ CALENDAR

Diane Jeffer, UACNJ Treasurer, NWJAA

UACNJ has developed a calendar for 2012 that is illustrated with astro-photos taken at the Jenny Jump Observatory. Everyone at the March meeting of the Board of Directors helped choose the final photos from dozens of submissions.

The calendar includes notations about astronomical events and information about UACNJ. It is intended to be a fundraiser and public relations tool.

Calendars can be purchased for \$10 at the sales desk during public programs. Individuals and member clubs who would like calendars to resell can write to [info@uacnj.org](mailto:info@uacnj.org) for details.



Jenny Jump guys and the Milky Way at Cherry Springs; photo by Matthew Reiche

## 2011 SYMPOSIUM: SEPTEMBER 23 & 24

Diane Jeffer, NWJAA

Information about preregistration for the annual UACNJ Symposium will be available soon. Planned activities include Friday evening lectures and star party at the observatory, and a full day of lectures, food, observing, and activities on Saturday. There are Symposium events to interest all ages and knowledge levels. A group campsite has been reserved just down the road in Jenny Jump State Forest.

Please check the UACNJ yahoo email list for details or write to the event co-chairs at [info@uacnj.org](mailto:info@uacnj.org) for more information.

## JENNY JUMP GUYS GO TO CHERRY SPRINGS

Matthew Reiche, NWJAA

This spring a group of Observers from UACNJ were lucky enough to visit Cherry Springs for some observing and imaging. Cherry Springs is a state park in Potter County, Pennsylvania known for its great dark skies. The park caters to amateur astronomers and provides a great location, along with power, and bathrooms. The Milky Way can be seen from horizon to horizon and many faint objects can be seen naked eye.

Our party consisted of Greg Takesh, Ken Taylor, Chris Callie, and myself. We were surprised at how busy it was with about 30 scopes there on our first night, a Thursday! Telescopes we saw ranged everywhere from a 25-inch DOB to a \$50 store scope. There were astronomers doing everything from observing to imaging to research. While nothing can replace our loved Jenny Jump, it was a great trip that we all hope to make again soon.

## UACNJ JOINS FACEBOOK

Kevin Conod, NJAG, maintains the UACNJ page on Facebook where weekly public programs and astronomical events are announced. Be sure to visit our page and "like" UACNJ! [www.facebook.com/UACNJ](https://www.facebook.com/UACNJ)

## MEDIA CONTACTS

If you know of a local newspaper or magazine that publishes event announcements from non-profit organizations, please send details to Ken Taylor, UACNJ public relations sub-chair at [ktaylor807@aol.com](mailto:ktaylor807@aol.com).



Photo by Matthew Reich

Observers set up an assortment of telescopes at Jenny Jump during a recent public program.

## ITEK PROGRESS

Gil Jeffer, UACNJ Facilities Chair, NWJAA

NJIT's Andrew Gerrard and Anthony Teti were joined by UACNJ's Chris Callie and Gil Jeffer for a day-long project to move parts of the ITEK telescope to a storage facility located at the Jenny Jump park office. An experienced forklift operator at the Bridgewater warehouse where the telescope has been stored loaded up a U-Haul truck and Chris Callie's 18-foot trailer with pieces including three legs that weigh 1500 pounds each. Thankfully, the trip to the park was without incident, and we arrived with everything still on board. Stan of the JJ maintenance staff operated the park forklift to gently and precisely place the equipment into the temporary storage area. Remaining in the climate-controlled warehouse are the base, optical tube, and mirror. The base and tube will require specialized equipment to load and transfer, and the mirror won't be moved until the project is complete and it can be mounted in the telescope.