

Our 25th anniversary year!



FOCUS

The Newsletter of United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey, Inc.

Editor: Diane Jeffer info@uacnj.org www.uacnj.org www.facebook.com/UACNJ March 2014

2014 SEASON BEGINS APRIL 5

Diane Jeffer, NWJAA

Spread the word! UACNJ will begin its 21st season of public programs on Saturday April 5. Lonnie Buinis of Raritan Valley Community College will start our season with the April version of his always-popular *What's Up in the Sky?* series.

Our weekly Saturday evening programs begin at 8:00 PM and include a 45-60 minute presentation followed by observing on UACNJ equipment until 10:30 PM if the weather cooperates.

2014 SPECIAL EVENTS

May 3

Astronomy Day

July 5 and August 30

Family Events

October 4

25th Anniversary/Symposium

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Observatory Committee

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Trustee 2013-2015

Alan Midkiff (NWJAA)
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Trustee 2014-2016

Bojidar Marinov (AAI)
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APRIL, MAY, JUNE PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

Date	Topic	Speaker
April 5	What's up in the April Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
April 12	Grand tour of the cosmos	Karl Hricko, AAI
April 19	Astrophotography - Tools of the Trade	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
April 26	Observational Astronomy	Emily Mailhot, NWJAA
May 3	What's up in the May Sky? (Astronomy Day)	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
May 10	Astronomy for Beginners	Ken Taylor, NWJAA
May 17	New Horizons	Helder Jacinto, AAI
May 24	Asteroids and comets	Dale Gary, AAI
May 31	Inflation and the Big Bang	Krishnadas Kootale, MMAS
June 7	What's up in the June Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
June 14	Glass Giants	Kevin Conod, NJAG
June 21	The Habitable Zone	Dr. Steven Silberberg, NWJAA
June 28	Naming Things in the Sky	Sherwood Waggy, MMAS



2013 UACNJ STATISTICS

Public Visitors:
over 1,650

Donations:
\$5,517

Volunteer Visits:
more than 800

Our 25th anniversary year!

WINTER PROJECT

Diane Jeffer, NWJAA

At the November 2013 meeting, the UACNJ Board of Directors voted to remove the temporary wall and expand the capacity of the lecture hall at our facility in Jenny Jump State Forest. Work began soon after and will be completed in time for our 2014 opening night on April 5.

The new arrangement provides expanded seating for our public programs and has allowed us to enlarge the gift shop. The museum area has also received an update. Many thanks to Chris Callie, Matt Heiss, and Gil Jeffer who provided the manpower to see this project through to completion.



▲ The expanded lecture hall is ready for visitors with a new seating arrangement and red perimeter lighting. Public night guests will be guided past the gift shop and out the back door to the Greenwood Observatory. ▼

TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

Kevin Conod, NJAG

New Jersey will be treated to a total lunar eclipse next month, the first in nearly four years.

Ignoring the penumbral phases, the eclipse begins at 1:57 AM on Tuesday, April 15. The Moon is completely immersed in the Earth's shadow and totality begins at 3:06 AM. Totality ends and the Moon starts to emerge at 4:25 AM. The final partial phase will last until 5:30 AM.

There will be another opportunity to view a total lunar eclipse on October 8 but the view from NJ won't be as good.



WINTER PROGRAM

Matthew Reiche, NWJAA

More than 50 people enjoyed great food and fellowship at our second annual Pot Luck on March 8. The after-dinner program about Antarctica, given by Gil Jeffer, was a big hit with all of our guests.

UACNJ OBSERVERS IN PRINT

An article about [Green Astronomy](#) by Emily Mailhot and Alan Midkiff (both NWJAA) was published in the [April 2014 issue](#) of *Astronomy* magazine.

Gil Jeffer (NWJAA), was interviewed for an [article](#) about his trips to Antarctica in the *Easton Express-Times*. Another [article](#) that highlights the science behind his trips is featured on the New Jersey Institute of Technology website.

A weekly astronomy column by Kevin Conod (NJAG) is now available at NJ.com. You can find links to Kevin's recent columns at connect.nj.com/user/kdconod/posts.html.

OBSERVER NOTES

Observers training will be conducted the first six Saturdays of the public season. We have 5000 copies of our publicity brochure; please help distribute them in your communities. Member Clubs, please provide copies of club brochures for distribution on public nights. Please be sure to sign in upstairs whenever you visit the observatory.