



# FOCUS

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

Editor: Diane Jeffer info@uacnj.org www.uacnj.org www.facebook.com/UACNJ August 2017

## DON'T MISS THE GREAT 2017 SOLAR ECLIPSE!

Join us at our facility in Jenny Jump State Forest from 12:30 to 4:00 PM on August 21 to observe the total solar eclipse. We will have solar telescopes and solar binoculars available for you to safely view the sun. Solar glasses can be purchased at our sales desk for \$2 and we will stream coverage of the path of totality in our lecture hall regardless of the weather.

A total eclipse hasn't occurred in the continental U.S. in nearly 40 years and we haven't seen a coast-to-coast event like this since 1918. Totality will be visible from Oregon to South Carolina. In New Jersey we are too far north to see the total eclipse. However the Garden State will see a partial solar eclipse with about 75% of the Sun covered by the Moon. If you watch the eclipse from High Point, you will see a slightly shorter 71% partial eclipse, while down at the tip of Cape May you will see a bit longer 78% partial eclipse.

### Solar Eclipse Timings at UACNJ

Partial solar eclipse starts: 1:22 p.m.  
 Maximum eclipse: 2:45 p.m.  
 Partial eclipse ends: 4:00 p.m.

Eclipses occur when either the new moon passes between the Earth and the Sun (solar eclipse) or when the full moon passes through the Earth's shadow (lunar eclipse). Eclipses occur fairly frequently, but you have to be in the right place at the right time to view them. Total solar eclipses are a bit more rare, occurring on average every 18 months somewhere in the world; the next one in the US will cross from Texas to Maine on April 8, 2024.

For more information about this eclipse, including maps and safety tips, visit the NASA Eclipse 2017 website at <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov>.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS

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 when the weather cooperates.

Date	Topic	Speaker
8/5	What's up in the August Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
8/12	Living on Mars	Karl Hricko, AAI, NWJAA
8/19	Citizen Science for the Solar Eclipse	Joshua Katz, NJIT
8/26	Astronomy, the Gateway Science	Sean Post, NWJAA
9/2	What's up in the September Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
9/9	South Pole Telescope	Gil Jeffer, NWJAA, NJIT
9/16	Galilean Moons	Emily Mailhot, NWJAA
9/23	Lunar Observation: Fact, Fiction, Falsehood	Gary DeLeo, Lehigh U
9/30	Astronomy for Beginners	Ken Taylor, NWJAA
10/7	What's up in the October Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
10/14	History of the Galaxy	Jason Kendall, WPU
10/21	Northern Lights	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
10/28	What's Up in the Winter Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC

## 2017 SPECIAL EVENTS

**August 21**

Great American Eclipse

**September 16**

Astronomy Field Day

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President**

Matthew Heiss (NWJAA)  
 president@uacnj.org

**Vice President**

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## Observatory Committee

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## Planning Committee

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 planning@uacnj.org

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Trustee 2015-2017**

Stan Honda (AAA)

**Trustee 2016-2018**

Bill Eberly (MMAS)

**Trustee 2017-2019**

Marcus Valdez (AAI)

## THANK YOU

Donations to UACNJ are tax deductible! You may donate when you visit or on our website at any time.

## SAVE THE DATE!

Our annual Astronomy Field Day will begin at 1 PM on **Saturday, September 16, 2017**. There will be a full day of free events for the entire family. Activities include solar observing, games and prizes for kids, fantastic presentations on astronomy-related topics, Member Club exhibits, a photography workshop, and so much more.

Watch for details on our website soon!

## TELESCOPE UPDATE

Our 16" CAVE telescope and Greenwood Observatory are undergoing a long-awaited refurbishment. Work should be completed in plenty of time for you to get a peak through the refurbished CAVE in 2018.

In the meantime, a 13.1" Dobsonian telescope is in the Greenwood Observatory which is open on public nights during renovations.

Visitors at our Saturday night public programs can also look through the Celestron 8" telescope that is operated by UACNJ volunteers in the former AAAP Observatory.

## THANK YOU!

Matt Heiss, President

Many thanks to our Member Clubs and all the volunteer Observers, speakers, and others who help out in a variety of ways to ensure that UACNJ facilities are continually improved and maintained.

Thanks, too, to each and every donor! Whether you drop a dollar in one of our donation jars when you visit, donate items for sale in our gift shop, write a check when your group attends one of our programs, or donate cash to one of our fundraisers, your support is essential to allow us to continue to provide quality public programs.

## OBSERVER NOTES

Contact Chris at [membership@uacnj.org](mailto:membership@uacnj.org) if you have not completed Observer Training for 2017 or to arrange to qualify on one of our telescopes. ❖ Be sure to sign in upstairs whenever you visit the observatory. ❖ Check out the Observer Library next time you visit.

## CLUB NOTES

Please provide copies of club brochures for the racks in our lecture hall so our public visitors can learn about clubs near them. ❖ Please ensure that your club is represented at each meeting of the UACNJ Board of Directors.



## AVAILABLE FOR SALE

The 2018 edition of our popular calendar can be purchased at our sales desk for \$10. In addition to great photographs, the calendar includes notations about astronomical events and information about UACNJ. Observers and Member Clubs interested in purchasing multiple copies for resale, and those wishing to have calendars mailed to them should write to [info@uacnj.org](mailto:info@uacnj.org).

## OUR MEMBER CLUBS

- Amateur Astronomers Association of New York (AAA)**  
aaa.org, Brooklyn, NY
- Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton (AAAP)**  
princetonastronomy.org, Princeton, NJ
- Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (AAI)**  
asterism.org, Cranford, NJ
- Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomical Society (LVAAS)**  
lvaas.org, Allentown, PA
- Morris Museum Astronomical Society (MMAS)**  
mmastrosociety.org, Morristown, NJ
- New Jersey Institute of Technology Club (NJIT)**  
astronomy.njit.edu, Newark, NJ
- North Jersey Astronomical Group (NJAG)**  
njastro.org, Montclair, NJ
- North West Jersey Amateur Astronomers (NWJAA)**  
nwjaa.org, Blairstown, NJ
- Rockland Astronomy Club (RAC)**  
rocklandastronomy.com, Suffern, NY
- Sheep Hill Astronomical Association (SHAA)**  
sheephillastro.org, Boonton, NJ
- Skyland Stargazers (SSG)**  
skylandstargazers.tripod.com, Morris County, NJ

## NATGEO TOURISM

Check out [our own page](#) on National Geographic's *Scenic, Wild Delaware River Geotourism Program* website. The NatGeo website is your gateway for finding all the things there are to do nearby.  
[delawareriver.natgeotourism.com](http://delawareriver.natgeotourism.com)

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