



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 2019

2019 SEASON BEGINS APRIL 6

Our volunteers are getting ready for our season opener on Saturday April 6. Join us as Lonny Buinis of Raritan Valley Community College presents *What's Up in the April Sky?* After Lonny's presentation, you'll be able to view a variety of astronomical objects through our telescopes (weather permitting).

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. See page 2 for a complete list of our scheduled programs for 2019.

CELEBRATE ASTRONOMY DAY WITH UACNJ ON APRIL 13

Join us as we celebrate Astronomy Day—and the 25th anniversary of the first public program at our Jenny Jump facility—on April 13. There will be activities and lectures beginning at 3 PM in addition to our regular Saturday evening program. Representatives of our Member Clubs will be on hand to tell you about their programs and activities and there will be special activities for children throughout the afternoon. Watch our website for additional details.

NORTH EAST ASTRONOMY FORUM

The annual North East Astronomy Forum (NEAF) will be held in Suffern, NY on April 6 and 7. Be sure to look for our UACNJ booth as well as several of our Member Clubs who will be participating again this year. This event boasts a huge exhibit hall with vendors and clubs from throughout the northeast. There are world-class speakers and presentations at this event that is brought to you by UACNJ member, Rockland Astronomy Club.

To find out more, please visit www.rocklandastronomy.com/neaf.html.

WAYS TO SUPPORT UACNJ

UACNJ is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization. We are always grateful for your donations of time and treasure, but did you know about these other ways to support UACNJ?

- UACNJ participates in the Amazon Smile program. Bookmark the link at the bottom of our homepage to use whenever you shop online at Amazon.
- You can donate your car, boat, trailer, or other vehicle to UACNJ; a link to DonationLine can also be found at the bottom of our home page.
- Don't forget to ask your employer to match your donation too!

You can drop your cash donations in one of our lecture hall jugs when you visit, donate via credit card from our website, or mail a check to UACNJ at P.O. Box 150, Hope, NJ 07844. Donations of any amount are always greatly appreciated and receipts are provided for income-tax purposes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6

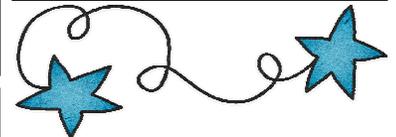
First public event of 2019

April 13

Astronomy Day and 25th anniversary celebration

August 24

Annual Free Family Field Day



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee 2017-2019

Paul Wojcik (NWJAA)

Trustee 2018-2020

Earl Pursell (LVAAS)

Trustee 2019-2021

Gregg Waldron (NWJAA)

2019 PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT UACNJ

Date	Topic	Speaker
4/6/19	What's Up in the April Sky?	Lonny Buinis, Raritan Valley CC
4/13/19	Size Scales of the Solar System and Beyond	Jason Kendall, Wm Paterson University
4/20/19	Journey to the Stars	Karl Hricko, AAI & NWJAA
4/27/19	What Happened to Pluto?	Ron Kunkel, LVAAS
5/4/19	What's Up in the May Sky?	Lonny Buinis, Raritan Valley CC
5/11/19	Making Newton Proud: Modern-day Newtonian Telescopes	Rob Teeter, Teeter's Telescopes
5/18/19	Astronomy for Beginners	Ken Taylor, NWJAA
5/25/19	Night Vision and Astronomy	Earl Pursell, LVAAS
6/1/19	What's Up in the June Sky?	Lonny Buinis, Raritan Valley CC
6/8/19	How the Stars Got Their Names	Bill Murray, AAAP
6/15/19	The Life (and Death) of Stars	Walt Windish, NJAG, RAC
6/22/19	Mars Through the Dust Storm	Clif Ashcraft, AAI
6/29/19	Eclipses, Occultations, and Transits	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
7/6/19	What's Up in the July Sky?	Lonny Buinis, Raritan Valley CC
7/13/19	Fly Me to the Moon	Sean Post, NWJAA
7/20/19	New Rides to the Moon	Dale Skran, National Space Society
7/27/19	Let's Go to the Moon	Karl Hricko, AAI & NWJAA
8/3/19	What's Up in the August Sky?	Lonny Buinis, Raritan Valley CC
8/10/19	Astronomy for Beginners	Ken Taylor, NWJAA
8/17/19	New Horizons Visits Ultima Thule	Michael Dean Lewis, NASA Ambassador
8/24/19	You Bought a Telescope Now What?	Paul Fischer, NWJAA
8/31/19	The Milky Way Galaxy - Structure & Evolution	Ron Kunkel, LVAAS
9/7/19	What's Up in the September Sky?	Lonny Buinis, Raritan Valley CC
9/14/19	Photographing Night Sky Landscapes	Stan Honda, AAA
9/21/19	Traveling in Space and Time	Gary DeLeo, Lehigh University
9/28/19	Northern Lights	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
10/5/19	What's Up in the October Sky?	Lonny Buinis, Raritan Valley CC
10/12/19	Introduction to Video Astronomy	Bill Murray, AAAP
10/19/19	The Cosmic Distance Ladder	Jason Kendall, Wm Paterson University
10/26/19	The Beauty and Power of the Universe	Walt Windish, NJAG, RAC

VOLUNTEERING AT UACNJ

THANKING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all of our volunteer Observers. United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey would not exist without you! You make it possible for UACNJ to provide regular free public programs on Saturday evenings from April to October. Whether you have served on an Observing Team, given a presentation, helped with a maintenance project, served on a committee, or participated in an outreach event, your involvement is what makes UACNJ thrive. We're looking forward to another fun and successful season in 2019 and hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to network with your fellow volunteers.

NOT A VOLUNTEER YET? HERE'S HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Have you joined your local amateur astronomy club? Members of clubs that participate in UACNJ are eligible to become volunteers at UACNJ. Volunteer Observers help with public programs and have access to the UACNJ facilities 24/7 for personal observing and astrophotography. Write to membership@UACNJ.org for more information about joining our community of amateur astronomers.

Please see our website for a [list of our Member Clubs](#) with links to their websites. Also check out these features on our website:

- A [locator map](#) to find where our Member Clubs meet.
- A [list of upcoming events](#) at our Member Clubs.



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 Association (NJAA)**
njaa.org, High Bridge, 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



Photo by Jeff Williams



Photo by Stan Honda

OTHER NEWS FROM UACNJ

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING ALL WINTER

Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, we have been able to complete several projects during the months when the observatory was closed. Among them:

- Emergency lighting has been installed on our observing field
- A public address system which can be used both outside and in our lecture hall has also been installed.
- Materials have been purchased to create new signs to direct people to our location and advertise our special events
- With assistance from New Jersey Institute of Technology, a storage container has been acquired to house telescopes and equipment in an watertight environment.
- Refurbishment of our Greenwood Observatory and its CAVE telescope will be completed in time for our 2019 season.

UACNJ has taken possession of the 25" telescope which was donated by Alan Midkiff. Construction of the new 16' x 16' observatory to house this instrument is moving more slowly than we had hoped. However, we are lucky to have Peter Karcher as our contractor. He is working with our volunteers to reduce the cost of this project by using volunteer labor whenever possible. Let us know if you would like to help!

MEMBER CLUB REMINDERS

- ▶ The next Board meeting will be on May 18 at 2 PM. Please ensure that your club is represented at each meeting of the UACNJ Board of Directors.
- ▶ Club Reps are encouraged to share news about club events via the NJAstronomers and UACNJ (Observers only) email lists.
- ▶ Please link to the UACNJ website from your club's site and like the UACNJ page on Facebook.
- ▶ Send club events to info@uacnj.org for inclusion in the Member Clubs calendar at uacnj.org/clubprogs.php.

ANNUAL POTLUCK

UACNJ Observers and their guests enjoyed another delicious potluck supper on February 9. Gil Jeffer arrived home from his seventh trip to Antarctica just hours before presenting a program about his adventures to the assembled crowd. ▼

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

UACNJ volunteers will be participating in in Maker's Day events at three different branches of the Warren County Library on March 23.

Look for UACNJ at the Green Fair in Hope Township on April 13 and at the Pequest Open House on April 27 & 28.

UACNJ volunteers participated in a space-themed special event at the Liberty Science Center on March 8, with more events at LSC planned in the coming months.

In addition, we have received requests to present outreach programs at several libraries across northern New Jersey.

UACNJ Volunteer Ken Taylor has donated two more retractable banners which we will use at these outreach events.



Photo by Matt Heiss

JOIN THE DISCUSSION

Everyone is welcome to join the NJAstronomers email list that UACNJ established more than a decade ago. Individuals and clubs from throughout the region share information on this list.

Write to NJAstronomers+subscribe@groups.io to join.

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

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<https://twitter.com/uacnj>