



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 2020

2020 SEASON DELAYED

We have planned a terrific season of free astronomy programs for you. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we probably will not be able to open as planned on April 4.

There is a complete list of our scheduled programs for 2020 on the next page but schedule revisions are likely. Please check our website for updates and follow us on Facebook for observing tips and suggestions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25

Astronomy Day at Jenny Jump

August 15

Annual Free Family Field Day

September 26

Observe the Moon Night

WE'RE COLLECTING BAGS!

United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey, Inc. is participating in the 2020 Trex Recycling Challenge. Trex will award us a six foot bench made out of recycled plastic bags when we reach our goal of 500 pounds of LDPE and HDPE plastic bags. There will be collection bins at our observatory in Jenny Jump State Forest, so please **drop off your bags** when you visit us.

Acceptable bags include grocery, bread, produce, food storage, ice, pellet, salt, and dry cleaning plus case overwrap, newspaper sleeves, air pillows, and bubble wrap. See page 4 for a graphic with more details.

ASTRONOMY FOR KIDS

Check out our Astronomy for Kids page at <http://uacnj.org/kidsastro.php>.

In addition to the Night Sky Network newsletter from NASA, you'll find lists of recommended books, websites, software, and more to help the kids in your life learn more about astronomy.

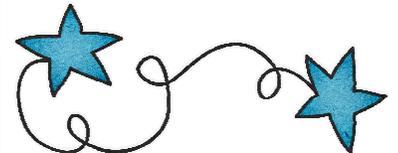
Our Saturday evening programs always welcome children; special programs for Scout, school, and other groups (children and/or adults) can be arranged by writing to info@uacnj.org. Our volunteers enjoy sharing their love of astronomy so don't hesitate to ask them questions when you visit.

MORE 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.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Diane Jeffer (NWJAA)
president@uacnj.org

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Observatory Committee

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observatory@uacnj.org

Planning Committee

Karl Hricko (AAI, NWJAA)
planning@uacnj.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee 2018-2020

Earl Pursell (LVAAS)

Trustee 2019-2021

Gregg Waldron (NWJAA)

Trustee 2020-2022

Ken Taylor (NWJAA)

2020 PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT UACNJ

Date	Topic	Speaker
4/4/20	What's Up in the April Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
4/11/20	Eclipses, Transits, and Occultations	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
4/18/20	The First Three Minutes: The Big Bang's Birth	Jason Kendall, WPU
4/25/20	3:15 PM Unsolved Mysteries of the Universe	Karl Hricko, AAI, NWJAA
4/25/20	4:30 PM Life at LCO: Adaptive Optics w/Magellan Clay 6.5m	Emily Mailhot, NWJAA
4/25/20	6:30 PM Light Pollution	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
4/25/20	8:00 PM Mars Rover 2020	Michael Lewis, NASA Ambassador
5/2/20	What's Up in the May Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
5/9/20	Human Exploration of Space	Gary DeLeo
5/16/20	The Beauty and Power of the Universe	Walt Windish, AAI
5/23/20	Ancient Skywatchers	Karl Hricko, AAI, NWJAA
5/30/20	Night Sky Landscapes	Stan Honda, AAA
6/6/20	What's Up in the June Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
6/13/20	Astronomy for Beginners	Ken Taylor, NWJAA
6/20/20	Explorer's Guide to the Solar System	Earl Pursell, LVAAS
6/27/20	Astronomy: The Gateway Science	Sean Post, NWJAA
7/4/20	What's Up in the July Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
7/11/20	Interstellar Alchemy: The Stardust in Your Toothpaste	Al Witzgall, AAI
7/18/20	TBD	TBD
7/25/20	Stellafane for Beginners	Bill Murray, AAAP
8/1/20	What's Up in the August Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
8/8/20	TBD	Paul Fischer, NWJAA
8/15/20	New Glenn vs. Old Glenn	Dale Skran, NSS
8/22/20	Comets, Meteors, and Dust	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
8/29/20	The Northern Lights	Gregg Waldron, NWJAA
9/5/20	What's Up in the September Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
9/12/20	Voyage to the Red Planet	Kevin Conod, NJAA
9/19/20	Astronomy for Beginners	Ken Taylor, NWJAA
9/26/20	TBD	TBD
10/3/20	What's Up in the October Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
10/10/20	TBD	Bill Murray, AAAP
10/17/20	Tachyons and Tacos: Tales of FTL Travel	Jason Kendall, WPU
10/24/20	Speckle Interferometry of Double Stars	Clif Ashcraft, AAI
10/31/20	The Universe Can Be a Scary Place	Walt Windish, AAI

VOLUNTEERING AT UACNJ

THANKING OUR VOLUNTEERS

The United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey, Inc. Board of Directors is grateful for all of our volunteers. You make it possible for UACNJ to provide regular free public programs on Saturday evenings from April to October. Whether you have been volunteering for one year or twenty-five, served on an Observing Team, Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, or committee; helped with a maintenance project, given a presentation, or participated in an outreach event, your involvement is what makes UACNJ thrive. We're looking forward to another great season in 2020 and hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to network with your fellow volunteers.

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

The following Observers were recently recognized by the UACNJ Board of Directors for their volunteer service through the 2019 observing season.

Five Years

Ellis Essig
Paul Fischer
Matt Heiss
Bill Murray
Dan Silber
Mark Zdziarski

Ten Years

Chris Callie	Matt Reiche
Krishnadas Kootale	Greg Takesh
Eric Leonard	Ken Taylor
John Lowe	Marcus Valdez
CJ Post	Rosemary Valdez
Sean Post	Gregg Waldron
	Walt Windish

Fifteen Years

Bill Eberly
Karl Hricko
Alan Midkiff

Twenty Years

George Bottarini
Diane Jeffer
Gil Jeffer

Twenty-Five Years

Kevin Conod
Walt Rothaug

We had a great turnout of all ages for our annual potluck in February. Gil Jeffer kept everyone engaged after dinner with tales from his latest trip to Antarctica.



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.

OTHER NEWS FROM UACNJ

MIDKIFF OBSERVATORY

Plans have been approved and a contractor has been hired to build the 16' x 16' observatory which will house the 25" telescope that was donated to UACNJ by Alan Midkiff. To keep costs down, our volunteers will be assisting the contractor with some of the foundation work and other elements of the construction. If you would like to get involved, please write Gil Jeffer at Observatory@UACNJ.org.

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 the National Geographic *Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Program* website. The NatGeo website is your gateway for finding all the things there are to do nearby. delawariver.natgeotourism.com

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
- 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

WE'RE COLLECTING BAGS!

Help us earn a recycled bench! See page 1 for information about our bag recycling program. All plastic must be clean, dry, and free of food residue. Here are some of the HDPE and LDPE items that can be recycled:



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

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<https://twitter.com/uacnj>