



FOCUS

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

Editor: Diane Jeffer info@UACNJ.org www.UACNJ.org www.facebook.com/UACNJ November 2020

2020: AN UNEXPECTED SEASON

Our public programs took on a whole new look in 2020 as we adapted to comply with state mandates during the early days of the pandemic. Our volunteers were determined to keep the door open at our Jenny Jump facility while safeguarding the health of themselves and our public visitors. They worked hard to provide a sense of normalcy during a difficult time for both our old fans and new visitors.

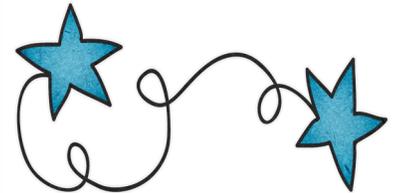
Thank you to the many dedicated volunteers who made the 2020 public season a success:

- To the **speakers** who were flexible and understanding and continued to deliver first-rate programs.
- To **Matt Heiss** who nearly singlehandedly carried our programs from April through July 11 by organizing our speakers on Facebook Live and provided needed continuity as our public "face" by introducing our livestream events throughout the season.
- To the members of the **Board of Directors** and Executive Committee who sat through numerous online emergency meetings as we developed a plan to open our facilities at Jenny Jump.
- To **Stan Honda** who set up our online registration system.
- To our COVID Operations Team, **Chris Callie, Jeff Williams, and Kim Trumpore**, who led the effort and kept things organized during our onsite presentations. Their solutions were innovative and their strategies for recording and streaming our programs and observing sessions are allowing us to provide programs this year during the winter months when the observatory facilities are closed.
- To the volunteers who helped out onsite, especially **Paul Fischer, Earl Pursell, Ken Taylor, and Matt Heiss** who attended nearly every week to assist with our public programs and also Jeff Carlisle, Kevin Conod, Ted Frimet, Diane Heinzemann, Brian Lemley, Eric Leonard, Kah-Wai Lin, Lisa Lohse, John Lowe, Ralph Marantino, Bill Murray, CJ Post, Sean Post, Sebastien Post, Shannon Scheel, Connor Scheel, John Schreiner, Mark Sproul, Dan Sullivan, Gregg Waldron, Walt Windish, and Paul Wojcik who all did their share to make our onsite programs a success.

We'd also like to thank Jenny Jump Park Superintendent **Ernie Kabert** for his unflinching encouragement and support.

WE EARNED A BENCH!

Thank you to everyone who helped us meet our goal of collecting 500 pounds of recyclable bags for the Trex Recycling Challenge. We have earned a six foot bench made out of recycled plastic bags which will be installed at Jenny Jump soon. We have already begun collecting bags to earn a second bench. You can help us reach our new goal by dropping off bags when you visit Jenny Jump or writing to info@UACNJ.org to make other arrangements. See page 4 for a graphic with more details.



2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Paul Fischer (NWJAA)
president@uacnj.org

Vice President

Matt Reiche (NWJAA)
vicepresident@uacnj.org

Secretary

Shannon Scheel (AAA)
secretary@uacnj.org

Treasurer

Diane Jeffer (NWJAA)
treasurer@uacnj.org

Bylaws Committee

Bill Murray (AAP)
bylaws@uacnj.org

Communications Committee

Kevin Conod (NJAG)
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Development Committee

Jeff Carlisle (NJAG)
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Membership Committee

Jeff Williams (AAA)
membership@uacnj.org

Observatory Committee

Chris Callie (NWJAA)
observatory@uacnj.org

Planning Committee

Emily Mailhot (NWJAA)
planning@uacnj.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee 2019-2021

Alan Midkiff (NWJAA)

Trustee 2020-2022

Ken Taylor (NWJAA)

Trustee 2021-2023

Eric Leonard (MMAS)

WINTER SEASON REMOTE PROGRAMS

After the success of our remote programs in April, May, and June, and the successful recording of our programs from July through October, the Board decided to offer programs remotely during the winter months when the observatory is closed to the public. Tune in at 8 PM on the first and third Saturdays of each month by visiting us at our [YouTube channel](#).

Scheduled presentations are listed below. Visit our [online programs page](#) to find links to view past programs. You can also subscribe to the UACNJ YouTube channel to receive notifications when our presentations go live.

11/7/20	What's Up in the November Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
11/21/20	You Can Almost Touch The Stars	Tom Field, Sky & Telescope
12/5/20	What's Up in the December Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
12/19/20	Speckle Interferometry of Double Stars	Clif Ashcraft, AAI
1/2/21	What's Up in the January Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
1/16/21	TDB: Betelgeuse Presentation	Dr. Doug Leonard, San Diego State
2/6/21	What's Up in the February Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC
2/20/21	Perseverance: The Exploration Begins	Michael Lewis, NASA JPL
3/6/21	What's Up in the March Sky?	Lonny Buinis, RVCC

WINTER ASTRONOMY

A few articles on winter observing:

- https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/news-display.cfm?News_ID=671
- <https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/winter-stargazing-tips-from-a-meteorologist-and-an-astrologer/Content?oid=31727607>
- <https://www.sunset.com/travel/outdoor-adventure/why-winter-is-best-for-stargazing>
- <https://www.space.com/24606-winter-stargazing-skywatching-tips.html>

And a few about observing auroras:

- <https://skyandtelescope.org/observing/celestial-objects-to-watch/auroras/>
- <http://astronomyonline.org/Observation/Aurora.asp?Cate=Observation&SubCate=MP08&SubCate2=MP0908>

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 also choose UACNJ as your charity to support in the Amazon app.
- 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 cash donation.
- Help us earn a Trex bench by donating plastic bags (see page 4).

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.

THANKING OUR VOLUNTEERS

WELCOME NEW OBSERVERS

A big welcome to the following who have joined (or rejoined) UACNJ as Observers in 2020:

- Matt Cooper, NWJAA
- Dave Gerard, AAA
- Diane Heinzemann, NWJAA
- Larry Levine, AAA
- Kah-Wai Lin, AAAP & NJAA
- Lisa Lohse, NWJAA
- Isaac Ozores, NWJAA
- John Schreiner, NWJAA
- Robin Schwartz, AAA

In order to provide public programs at Jenny Jump, UACNJ relies on people from our Member Clubs who volunteer their time and talent.

*Thank You!
Thank You!
Thank You!*

2021 VOLUNTEER MILESTONES

The following Observers have reached service milestones in 2020:

Five Years: Paul Wojcik, NWJAA

Ten Years: Ellis Essig, AAI; Bill Murray, AAAP; Alex Varakin, NWJAA

Fifteen Years: Brian Lemley, AAI

We hope to be able to present certificates to these volunteers at our annual pot luck dinner in 2021, but if this event cannot be held, the certificates will be available at the observatory.



TO ALL 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 at our observatory facilities in Jenny Jump State Forest as well as via remote technology that we began using in 2020. Whether you have been volunteering for one year or twenty-five, served on a committee or the Board of Directors, helped with a maintenance project, given a presentation, or participated in an outreach event, your involvement is what makes UACNJ thrive. Thank you for all of your contributions of time and talent. We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities to network with your fellow volunteers and help UACNJ continue to grow in 2021.

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

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.

MIDKIFF OBSERVATORY

Yes, we are still planning to build an observatory to house the Midkiff 25" telescope! The good news is that thanks to our spring fundraiser we now have all the funds on hand to complete this project pending final approval from the Division of Parks and Forestry. We are working with Park Superintendent Kabert and the contractor to get this project started as soon as possible.

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.

<https://scenicwilddelawareriver.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 MORE BAGS!

Help us earn another 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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