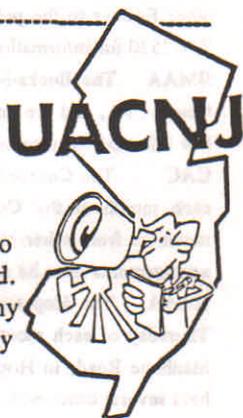

United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey - Newsletter

June 1993 - Vol. 4, No. 2

UACNJ Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the UACNJ will be held on Saturday, June 19, 1993 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at StarQuest, in Bemerville, Sussex County. Please try to have a representative from your club attend. Some topics for discussion will be the Jenny Jump Observatory, the light pollution study commission, and club representation and involvement.



StarQuest - June 18-20, 1993

Once again the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton will be hosting their annual StarQuest weekend astronomy/camping event, this year returning to the Bemerville location. Running from Friday evening to mid-Sunday, there will be the usual events...speakers, vendors, swap tables, antique telescope exhibit, observing in reasonably dark skies, etc. This year, however, in addition to the Telescope Making Contest introduced in 1992, there will be a Messier Marathon competition held Friday evening for which about 1½ dozen have already signed up.

The Speakers at the event will be: Dr. Mary Lou West of Montclair College, speaking on "Violent Binaries"; Dr. Don Monticello who will discuss "Einstein's theories - Looking Back in Time and Space", and Herb Johnson and Gaylord Olsen explaining "CCD Imaging", which will include a discussion on the equipment as well as hands-on observing techniques. We hope to see you there.

Jenny Jump State Observatory Update

The Jenny Jump State Observatory Site is moving along at a steady pace. Beginning on May 15 the work sessions began with more than 20 working on Phase One: getting the house in working condition, and building the first of several observatories. Members from AAAP, AAI, BMAA, HAAA, MMAS, NJAA, and NJAG were present. Work sessions on the three following weekends has progressed to where: all the bad insulation in the basement has been removed; the cold water plumbing and well is working; the meeting room and hall is painted; the kitchen is almost all cleaned, the computer room is secure; most of the trees have been removed; and a variety of smaller projects.

At this writing, about half of the 10-foot by 10-foot roll-off-

roof observatory has been built. Once completed, it will house a 16-inch Newtonian with computer drive.

Because a certificate of occupancy is needed by the park before the general public can be allowed on the property, the public programs will not begin until the work on the house is completed, probably by late summer or early fall. This will allow the UACNJ members to work on the facility, become more familiar with the location, and observe on clear evenings without the public.

We are looking for more UACNJ Jenny Jump Observers to help with this project. The observatory facility is being run as a consortium, with the primary funding for the observatory coming from UACNJ supporting clubs and individual members. Each supporting club will provide one dollar per member in their club, while each member of a UACNJ club may join the observatory for \$20.00 per year (\$25.00 if their club is not a supporting member), and two nights a year of public duty.

The site has a three bedroom house with living/dining room, full bath and kitchen, and sits a-top a mountain, almost 1200 feet above sea level in one of the best dark-sky locations available in New Jersey

Jenny Jump is a one-two hour drive from most of the UACNJ clubs, however, two bedrooms are going to be maintained as bunk rooms for those who wish to observe or do research into the early morning and then get some sleep before returning home. Plans are to convert the above-ground basement into a lecture hall, the living/dining room into a meeting room, and the third bedroom to a computer room.

Each supporting club who wishes will be able to build a permanent telescope at the location with the only restrictions being that there will be a minimum telescope size: 12 inches for reflectors, and 6 inches for refractors. There will be exceptions for special purpose instruments, such as a chronograph, or for installing a temporary instrument while the final telescope is being constructed. There are also plans for a radio-telescope, a down-link satellite dish, and ham radio equipment to be installed eventually.

If you would like to be involved in this venture, contact your club's UACNJ representative, or Larry Smith (908) 359-4322, Wayne Zuhl (908) 276-1212, or Barry Malpas (908) 755-6932.

Jenny Jump Work Calendar

The following Saturdays are planned for major work sessions for the Summer. The work day will begin at about 10:00 a.m. and run to 6:00 p.m. (For those dates designated with an asterisk, there will be a star party held later in the evening.) >>> June 12* and 26, July 10* and 24, August 7* and 21, September 4* and 18. (Special project work

groups may be there on other Saturdays, as well as on week days.) Bring yourself, some tools, a few munchies, and spend some time working on the most important amateur astronomy project in New Jersey.

Donations to UACNJ Jenny Jump

The UACNJ is now a non-profit corporation of the state of New Jersey, and is soon to become tax deductible for any contributions. We are looking for a variety of items to help out with the observatory. If you have a gallon of interior or exterior paint, some 2x3's or 2x4's, some extra sheet-rock, or a roll of insulation lying around the house, we can put it to good use. We are also looking for a Kodak slide projector and related AV equipment, a lockable bookcase, twin beds and frames, gym lockers, doors, tables, folding chairs, etc.

We plan to maintain at the observatory a reference and slide presentation library, and are also looking for astronomy books and slides.

If you think you have something to contribute, either for use at the observatory, or something the UACNJ could sell to raise money, please call Barry Malpas (908) 221-7767 days (908) 755-6932 evenings, or Larry Smith (908) 359-4322.

UACNJ Tent

The UACNJ loaner tent will make its debut at StarQuest. Good luck tent. The 32 by 30 foot tent is available to member clubs for their special events, to help in defraying high costs, and making possible often needed space for such things as swap tables, talks, etc., and making fund raising events more profitable.

Newsletter Editor Needed

The UACNJ is currently looking for a newsletter editor. There are currently four issues per year. If you are interested in getting involved and have a word processor, please contact Barry Malpas at (908) 755-6932.

New Jersey Area Astronomy Clubs

AAAP The Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, Inc. Meet on the second Tuesday for their monthly meetings at Peyton Hall on the

Princeton campus and have their observatory open every Friday evening, weather permitting. Call (609) 737-2575 for information and directions.

AAI Amateur Astronomers, Inc. Monthly Meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the Campus Center Auditorium of Union County College, Cranford, NJ. Sperry Observatory is open most other Fridays to the public from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.. Call evenings (908) 709-7520 for information, or (908) 276-STAR for a sky message.

BMAA The Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association is located in Bucks County, PA, and are known for their annual Fall Stella-Della-Valley event. For information, meeting schedule and times, call (215) 598-7673.

CAC The Concordia Astronomy Club meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Concordia club house, in Jamesburg. CAC invites members from other clubs to attend their presentations. However, special arrangements must be made. Please call for information (609) 655-1422.

HAAA The Hopatcong Area Amateur Astronomers meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at Hudson Guild Farm, on Sparta-Stanhope Road, in Hopatcong. Public events and special presentations are held several times each month at various locations and are scheduled during the week as well as on weekends. For information call (201) 770-1625.

MMAS The Morris Museum Astronomical Society holds their monthly meetings at the museum in Morristown. For further information about their events call (201) 368-1848.

MTC The Montclair Telescope Club is an observing group that meets periodically at a dark-sky location at Kemah Lake in Sussex County. For information about their club and next meeting date call (201) 447-2581.

NJAA The New Jersey Astronomical Association holds its meetings Saturday evenings at their Observatory at Vorhees State Park, High Bridge, NJ. Call (201) 638-8500 for information.

NJAG North Jersey Astronomical Group public nights are held at the Observatory at Rifle Camp Park, Rifle Camp Road, West Patterson, NJ. For information or directions, call the Nature Center at (201) 523-0024. Meetings and program are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

RAC The Rockland Astronomy Club is located in Rockland County, New York, and is known for its spring time Northeast Astronomy Forum. For information, meeting schedule and times, call (201) 768-6575.

SHAA The Sheep Hill Astronomical Association meets the 1st Sunday of the month at the Boonton Town Hall Community Room. Observatory Open House is on the 3rd Friday of the month. Call (201) 335-5990 for information.

SJAC The South Jersey Astronomy Club meets at the Vineland City Hall on the first Thursday of every month. Call (609) 825-2196 for further information.

STAR The STAR Astronomical Society, Inc. hold their monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at the Holmdel Park Activity Center in Holmdel and hold bimonthly observing weekends. For further information call (908) 536-4663 or (908) 264-1723.

Send articles to: UACNJ Newsletter, 20 Helen Street, Warren, NJ 07059