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# United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey - Newsletter

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## UACNJ Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the UACNJ will be held on Saturday, February 19, 1994 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Sperry Observatory, Union County College, Cranford. AAI are the hosts. Please try to have a representative from your club attend. Elections, Jenny Jump, and other items of importance are to be discussed.



## UACNJ 1994 Slate of Officers

Due to the non-quorum at the October 1993 meeting the nominating committee will present the following 1994 slate of officers at the February 1994 meeting. Due to the incorporation of the UACNJ as a nonprofit corporation, besides the four usual officers, three trustees (each normally for a three-year term) will also be voted on. However, this year staggered terms will be set so in the future only one trustee will come up for vote each subsequent year.

President:	Larry Smith (AAAP)
Vice-President:	Andy Monka (SHAA)
Secretary:	Bruce Rights (MTC, HAAA, AAI)
Treasurer:	Wayne Zuhl (AAI)

Trustee (1994 term):	Barry Malpas (AAI, HAAA)
Trustee (1994-5 term):	Ron Russo (MMAS)
Trustee (1994-6 term):	Ralph Marantino (AAAP)

## Building an Observatory

Since April 1993 amateurs from many of the UACNJ clubs have been trekking up to Jenny Jump State Forest on Saturdays to work on the state observatory project. The work consists of refurbishing a home into lecture and meeting rooms, office and computer room, etc., and building the first shed observatory. Much has been accomplished (electrical and phone lines repaired, plumbing and bathroom fixed, new chimney and roof, puttying and painting, heating repaired, insulation installed, new doors mounted, etc. Many thanks must go to Larry Smith, Ron Russo, Al Tencza, Barry, Ken and Dave Malpas, Don and Linda Greenwood, Jonas Inante, Vic Belanger, Dave Henderson, Wayne Zuhl, Dave and Gloria Kuchinsky, Al and Bonnie Witzgall, Allen Rodriguez, Brian Lemley, Ralph Marantino, Morris Dumont, Kevin Walsh, Ken Frankel, Bruce Rights, Pete Serrada, Jim Chenard, Dick Sivel, John Malley, Mike Luciuk, Bob Papp, Herb Johnson, Lonny Buinis, Karen Roundy, Aaron

Krahmert, Wayne Hallard, and any others that I may have inadvertently left out.

With the new year, we are continuing to work every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weather permitting, in January through Astronomy Day (April 16) to prepare the facility for the public opening on Astronomy Day. There are few dark sky locations left in New Jersey where amateurs can go to observe, do astrophotography or research, and this one will have sleeping accommodations. If you know a little carpentry, or can use a paint brush, we need your help on this worth-while project because time is growing short. If you have any questions, or need directions, call Barry at (908) 755-6932.

We are also looking for an architect that can help us with design plans for future small observatories at Jenny Jump.

## Those 1993 Public Nights

The three Saturday evenings, October 16, November 13, and December 11, were set up as the only public programs for the 1993 season to get a feel for the local interest, let people know about what is happening, and to get our feet wet with running programs. The sessions were set outside because the facility does not currently have a certificate of occupancy that will allow us to have the public in the building.

The speaker for October was Lonny Buinis of Raritan Valley College who gave an excellent slide presentation of the Fall sky to over 30 public and another dozen Jenny Jump workers. November, unfortunately, was rained out, however, the speaker, Al Witzgall, showed up and presented a very interesting hands-on program on meteorites to the 16 amateur astronomers there. In December, about a dozen public braved the cold weather to hear Eric Jacoves's interesting presentation on stellar evolution. After the first and third lectures the public was invited to observe some of the more interesting objects available in the evening sky through telescopes provided by Ralph Marantino, Pete Serrada, and Kevin Conod, in October, and Barry Malpas and Ron Russo, in December. Many thanks to the speakers, Helen Maurella and her Jenny Jump Park personnel, and all other helpers.

## Research At the State Observatory

Although regular research projects are sometime away at Jenny Jump, there have been a few beginnings. The research committee from AAI has been working on a project to measure height and velocities of meteors during showers. Several AAI members, and a few individuals from other clubs split up into two groups, one at Vorhees, and the other at Jenny Jump for the December meteor shower. Some of those involved were Mike Luciuk, Pete Serrada, Rick Kurczewski, and Kevin Conod. I am told that there were some positive data gathered and that triangulation for meteor altitudes between the two locations might be possible.

During the October 16 public session, Al Tencza, amateur astronomer and ham radio enthusiast, successfully transmitted a signal from his mobile radio station that was bounced off the Moon and successfully received by a radio telescope in Canada.

The Observatory Chairman, Barry Malpas, is planning to hold meetings in the spring to organize the various areas of amateur research. Each area will be headed by two chairpersons, each from a different club. Currently three people have volunteered for the following two areas of study: Amateur Radio Astronomy: Al Tencza (NJAG), and Herb Johnson (AAAP); and CCD Imaging: Hank Adams (AAI). Other areas of interest that have been suggested are photometry, meteor observing, and spectroscopy. If you are interested in any of these areas of study, or any others, please call Barry Malpas (908) 755-6932.

### Light Pollution Update

With the change in New Jersey state administration, appointments to the Light Pollution Study Commission are up in the air. We expect to have more, and detailed information in the next UACNJ Newsletter.

### Special Club Events

International Astronomy Day will be held on April 16, 1994. Unlike in past years the UACNJ will not be sponsoring a central New Jersey symposium. At the June 1993 meeting it was decided that the event will be run as local club events, being merged with Astronomy Awareness Day (that has been previously held in the fall). The UACNJ Jenny Jump facility will hold an open house and evening star party for the public.

### UACNJ and Jenny Jump 1994 Calendar

Beginning this year the UACNJ meeting schedule will be upped from four to five meetings annually to better suit the needs of the organization (Publication of the newsletter will be increased as well). All meetings will be held Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOST AND LOCATION</u>
February 19	AAI, Sperry Observatory, Cranford
April 23	NJAA, Observatory at Vorhees State Park, High Bridge
June 11	Jersey StarQuest, Bemerville
September 10	UACNJ, Jenny Jump State Park, Hope (Preceding symposium)
November 12	AAAP, Trenton Museum, Trenton

(UACNJ Newsletter publication dates will be March 19, May 7, August 6, October 8, and December 17.)

### UACNJ Observatory at Jenny Jump Public Evenings and Special Events

- April 16 (Astronomy Awareness Day) Open House, Presentations, and Evening Star Party
  - May 10 Annular Solar Eclipse Observed (a Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
  - Sept. 10 New Jersey Astronomy Symposium. (12:00 noon to late evening, lectures, UACNJ clubs' displays, flea market and swap tables, evening star party)
- Saturday Night Presentation Observing 8:00-10:00 p.m.**

April	16*, 30 (Topic Solar Eclipses)
May	14, 21, 28
June	4, 11, 18, 25
July	2, 9, 16, 23, 30
August	6, 13, 20, 27
September	3, 10*, 17, 24
October	1, 8
November	5
December	3 * See above

### UACNJ Bulletin Board - For Sale

The UACNJ Bulletin Board, a new UACNJ service, is open for business. Through it, astronomical items you wish to sell may be advertised throughout the New Jersey area clubs. There is no cost to list items. However, should you sell an item, we request a 10% donation be sent to the UACNJ to help fund UACNJ projects. (Mail to Wayne Zuhl, UACNJ Treasurer, 717 Brookside Place, Cranford, NJ 07016.) This will be an on-your-honor service.

**10" Meade Starfinder** - comes with equatorial mount, w/motor drive, includes telrad, finder scope, scope cover, accessory box, tools, and 25mm eyepiece. \$700.00. Write: Bruce Rights, P.O.Box 2682, Branchville, NJ 07826.

**Fugica SLR camera** - comes with 45-75mm zoom lens, autoexposure metered, and manual settings, autowinder, royal blue camera case, and user manual. Camera body accepts Pentax threaded lenses. \$175.00. Call: Al Witzgall, (908) 866-3931 after 6 p.m. weekday evenings.

### NOTICES:

The UACNJ Messier Certificate program is designed to encourage amateurs to get involved in observing deep sky objects. For information contact Duane Degutis, P.O.Box 373, Hopatcong, NJ, 07843, (201) 398-1039.

**Newsletter Changing Hands** - With this issue I turn over editorship to Bruce Rights. All further notices to the UACNJ Newsletter should be mailed c/o Bruce Rights, P.O.Box 2682, Branchville, NJ 07826.