
United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey - Newsletter

March 1994 - Vol. 5, No. 1

UACNJ Meeting Notice

The next meeting of the UACNJ will be held on Saturday, April 23, 1994 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Observatory in Voorhees State Park in High Bridge. NJAA are the hosts. Please try to have the representative from your club attend. Jenny Jump and other items of importance are to be discussed.

UACNJ 1994 Officers

At the February meeting the following slate of officers was approved for 1994.

President:	Larry Smith (AAAP)
Vice-President:	Andy Monka (SHAA)
Treasurer:	Wayne Zuhl (AAI)
Secretary:	Bruce Rights (MTC, HAAA, AAI)
Trustee (1994 term):	Barry Malpas (AAI, HAAA)
Trustee (1994-5 term):	Ron Russo (MMAS)
Trustee (1994-6 term):	Ralph Marantino (AAAP)

Light Pollution Update

Mr. John Batinsky will be speaking on "Light Pollution - The Neglected Problem" on Astronomy Day (April 16) at AAI in Cranford. He will provide the latest update to NJ and national efforts to combat light pollution.

UACNJ Astronomy Day @ Jenny Jump

Astronomy Day at Jenny Jump will be a casual astronomical event, and will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the observatory site. There will be displays by amateurs from around the state, solar observing during the afternoon, and a swap table and flea market. There will be a few historical telescopes (a 6-inch Clark and the Rutgers Schank 6-inch refractor), as well as a display of old astronomy books from the 18th century and earlier. The programs will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a presentation on "Light and Spectroscopy" by Amateur Astronomers, Inc. member Barry Malpas. At 5:00 p.m. Ken Roundy of the Hopatcong Area Amateur Astronomers will discuss modeling, displays, and video-tape in amateur astronomy. In the evening, Lonny Buinis of the Raritan Valley College Planetarium and Henrietta Leavitt Observatory Research Group will present a review of the sky in April. Admission is free.

Building an Observatory

Work sessions at Jenny Jump State Park in Hope, NJ continue to be held on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Anyone willing to help work on the facility is more than welcome. Call Barry 908-755-6932 for more information.

Research At Jenny Jump

There will be a meeting of those interested in being involved in doing **research activities** at the observatory on April 9, 1994. This will be an organizational meeting to discuss subject areas, individuals, and any observers' ideas. Areas of interest already suggested have included: radio astronomy, spectroscopy, CCD imaging, meteor observations, and solar work. If you can make it and need directions, have questions, or can not make it but want to be on the list for future involvement, call Barry (908) 755-6932.

Special UACNJ Star Party

From 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. there will be a **star party** at Jenny Jump on April 9, 1994 for any member of a UACNJ club.

UACNJ Meetings, 1994

UACNJ meetings are held Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

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

UACNJ Newsletter, 1994

UACNJ Newsletter publication dates will be May 7, August 6, October 8, and December 17. Submitted news needs to be to Bruce Rights, P. O. Box 2682, Branchville, NJ 07826 one week prior to the publication date. I.e.: April 30, July 31, October 1, and December 10.

UACNJ Bulletin Board - For Sale

The UACNJ Bulletin Board 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. Please submit your ad to the newsletter editor by the submission date above.

UACNJ Observatory at Jenny Jump Public Evenings and Special Events

April 16	(Astronomy Awareness Day) Open House, Presentations, and Evening Star Party. 3Pm till ?
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 and 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 needs to staff these nights with a public program presenter and people to help the public observe. Remember, Jenny Jump Observers are expected to help staff 2 nights per year. Pick your two, NOW!

MESSIER CERTIFICATE

The UACNJ Messier Certificate program is designed to encourage amateurs to become involved in observing deep sky objects. Several certificates have been issued since January to people in three different clubs. For information contact Duane Degutis, P.O.Box 373, Hopatcong, NJ, 07843, (201) 398-1039.

IN SOME OF THE OTHER CLUBS:

If you would like your club's events listed here, please submit a club calendar or event notice to the newsletter editor before the submission deadline.

AAI is having a Astronomy Day on April 16, 1994 at Sperry Observatory in Cranford, noon to midnight. Public lectures include: "The Hubble Space Telescope Repair Mission", "Using the Space Telescope by Amateur Astronomers", "Light Pollution - the Neglected Problem". There will be activities and observing for all ages. Call 908-276-STAR for more information.

RAC is sponsoring the North East Astronomy Forum on April 16, 1994 at the Holiday Inn in Suffern, NY. 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM with evening observing. Lectures include: "Violent Binaries - Cannibal Stars", "A Personal View of the Moon", "Solar Eclipses of the Next Twenty Years", "Getting Started in CCD Imaging". Exhibitors, Vendor tables, Star Party and many other events. Admission fee required. Call Don Urban in the evening at 201-768-6575 for more information.

AAAP is sponsoring the Jersey StarQuest on June 10-12, 1994 in Beemerville. A UACNJ meeting will be held there on Saturday morning.

RAC is sponsoring an Astronomy Cruise on August 28 to September 4, 1994. Call Bob Slone in the daytime at 212-741-3300 for more information.

OTHER NEWS:

Franklin Institute's Symposium on "The Physics of Supernova" honoring Stirling A. Colgate on April 7 and 8, 1994. Fee charged for five lectures over two days. Call Ms. Kathleen Fau at 215-448-1329 or fax 215-448-1364

Montclair Public Schools is having an Astronomy Day on April 9, 1994 at the Glenfield School Planetarium in Montclair, NJ. 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM with evening observing. Call 201-509-4174 for more information.

Hayden Planetarium Fund Raiser
At 7:00 p.m., on May 9, 1994, the Hayden Planetarium will hold a black-tie "Eclipse Eve Celebration" affair to benefit planetarium renovations, and create a new research area. The event will include hors-d'ouvers, a buffet dinner, laser show, music and dancing, and a presentation in the planetarium of the annular solar eclipse that will be visible from New York City to about 90% coverage on the 10th. Tickets are \$125.00 per person. Further information is available from the Development Coordinator, Wendy Staniar, at (212) 769-5165.

Light Pollution Commentary by Rick Kurezewski

In the December 1993 issue of the UACNJ newsletter it was stated that with the change in New Jersey state administration, appointments to the Light Pollution Study Commission are up in the air. The latest (mid-February) status on the LPSC as per John Holub in the Governor's Appointments Office, is that three of the nine appointments to the thirteen member commission have been approved by the N.J. State Senate. The remaining six appointees made by the Florio administration are awaiting confirmation unless Governor Whitman elects to change the list of remaining appointees.

The bill to establish the LPSC was signed into law by Governor Jim Florio on March 17, 1993. It has been one year since the bill was signed and the action needed to confirm the appointees to the commission has been very slow, thus impeding the start of the commission's work to study light pollution as it pertains to energy conservation, roadway glare and skyglow.

You can help in this effort by writing to the Governor and urging her to complete the task of getting confirmation for the remaining appointees of the Light Pollution Study Commission (S-342).

Write to The Honorable Governor Christine Todd Whitman, State House, CN001, Trenton, N.J. 08625 or call the Governor's office at 609-292-6000.

Your letters and phone calls are very important to motivate action on the LPSC once more. While on the subject of light pollution, please consider the following: the late Walter Scott Houston, the dean of amateur deep sky observers, and Dr. Donald Parker, CCD imaging expert, both agreed that CCD imaging is not an antidote for light pollution, though CCD imaging is an important tool for professional and amateur astronomy. The awesome view of a dark, star-studded night sky cannot be compared to stellar pixel images, no more than pixel images can replace the natural beauty of this planet's flora and fauna, or other natural wonders like the Grand Canyon or Yosemite. CCD imaging can never provide the panoramic view required for such astronomical wonders as a conjunction, an aurora display, a meteor shower, the Milky Way or the long ghostly tail of a comet. These sights are best reserved and savored by the unaided eye! Do we want only a digital view of the universe, only to forget about preserving the natural splendor of the dark night sky for our children and for future generations to enjoy? I think not.

Our best bet for solving the progress in solving the problems of light pollution is the International Dark Sky Association. Presently the organization is still a fledgling organization of 1,400 members. Consider that it reported that there are approximately 250,000 individual, who regularly read monthly astronomical periodicals that report on the light pollution dilemma. This means that only one quarter of one percent who are aware of the problem through monthly periodicals actually choose to act. This is a sickening statistic when you consider that only recently that it was reported in these publications that private interest groups sprang into action and raised 4.3 million dollars within three months when the Congress voted to kill spending on the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project. This represented enough funds to cover expenses for the project through 1994!!

The point is that there are only 50 IDA members from New Jersey, and an individual membership is the first and foremost step to take to become part of the solution to light pollution. Your membership is crucial and is greatly needed. Individual membership is \$20.00 a year. Write to the International Dark Sky Association, 3545 North Stewart, Tucson, Arizona, 85716. Every one of us yearns for dark skies; this is a way to help put them back where they belong!