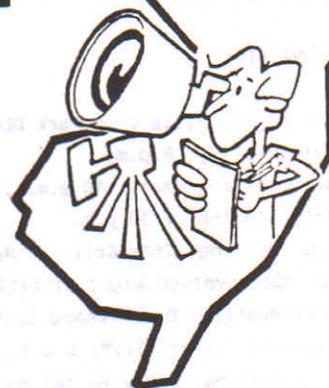

United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey Newsletter

UACNJ



Fall 1990

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Come to the Mars Astro-Vaganza

Hosted by the New Jersey Astronomical Association of High Bridge, the last major Mars opposition of this century will be the first event sponsored by the newly formed United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey, the state-wide support group for all New Jersey astronomy clubs. The Mars party will be held on Friday, November 23rd (rain dates the 24th and 25th). It is open to members of all UACNJ astronomy clubs and their invited guests.

There will be several speakers such as Dr. Carlos Hernandez, ALPO Mars Recorder, discussing his ALPO connections, and Eric Jacoves of the Sheep Hill Astronomical Association speaking about the inner planets, emphasizing Mars. Large screen video programs will also be available for viewing between presentations. Many telescopes will be trained outside the observatory on the red planet including some older instruments ... Bruce Wingate's six-inch 'Clark' refractor, for instance. Telescope events: Deep sky observing 7 p.m.; Mars viewing around 8:30; and lunar madness at 11. Mark your calendar.

Spot-Light on Light Pollution

Dr. David Crawford of Kitt Peak Observatory, co-founder and executive director of the International Dark-sky Association, will be speaking on Light Pollution and New Generation Telescopes at Union County College on Sunday, November 18, 1990, at 2 p.m. The talk will be held in the auditorium of the college's Cranford campus, with a reception hosted by AAI at Sperry Observatory after the presentation. Clubs will be notified with further details.

Clyde is in Town

Dr. Clyde Tombaugh is making a trek east for appearances at several New Jersey area planetariums. He will be at the Newark Museum Planetarium on Oct. 16, at 6 p.m. (Call (201)596-6550 for reservations.) On Oct. 17, at 6:30, he will be at the Franklin Institute, in Philadelphia. (Call (215)448-1293 for information.) Then he will be the annual Robert J. Novins Lecturer at the Novins Planetarium, Ocean County College, on Oct. 19, at 8 p.m. (Call (908)255-0500 for details.)

UACNJ Meeting of September 8

The fourth meeting of the United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey was held on Saturday, Sept. 8, 1990 at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. 16 people from six clubs attended. The major topic of discussion was the upcoming Mars Opposition Astro-vaganza on Friday, November 23 to be held at the Observatory of New Jersey Astronomical Association in High Bridge.

In addition to telescopic viewing, planned activities include: large screen live televised mars observation; guest speakers; video presentations; rare and unusual telescopes; a 50/50 or other type raffle. Rain dates are on Sat./Sun., Nov. 24/ 25.

The creation of a master list of speakers for use by all member clubs was next discussed. A master list of Dark Sky Observing sites was also mentioned.

The Astronomy Day Open House and symposium, April 20, 1991 at Amateur Astronomers, Inc. and "Star Quest", the telescope weekend convention run by the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, held in June of 1991, were the next two events discussed for UACNJ sponsorship. It was also suggested that some of the smaller clubs might get involved in some of these events. Andy Monka (SHAA) expressed interest in his club running the used telescope and optics table at the Astronomy Day event.

Light Pollution in New Jersey

Fred Schaff, of the South Jersey Astronomy Club, has just made available his "Light Pollution Update", a set of extensive notes on developments during the first eight months of 1990 about light pollution events which impact New Jersey astronomers.

The primary topics discussed are: The New Jersey Light Pollution Study Commission Bill S-2608, The Public Interest Research Group, and Amending the Municipal Land Use Law; Discussions with the ANJEC - the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions; Fred's presentation to AAI and conversations with Dark-sky activists; The Sands Casino laser sky-illumination problem; and "Night Out", an anti-crime program where everyone is to shine lights in the sky for an evening. A copy has been sent to each UACNJ representative to be posted.

Stella-Della

The Bucks-Mont Astronomical Association, just over the NJ border, in PA, will be running its annual Stella-Della-Valley IV festival on October 19, 20, and 21. Activities include presentations, telescope check-ups, swap/flea market, demonstrations, etc., all in a dark-sky camping environment (Ottsville, PA). For information, contact Greg Mauro (609) 585-9465.

UACNJ looking for New Jersey area speakers

One of the advantages of the UACNJ will be its state-wide speaker's bureau. The major benefit to small clubs will be an inexpensive pool of presenters upon which to draw. The bureau

will be a plus to the larger clubs as well, offering a wider selection of speakers at special events. So, if you give presentations on astronomically related topics, or know someone who does, send a letter to: Barry Malpas, 20 Helen Street, Warren, NJ 07059-5817. Please include: speaker's name, affiliation, presentation topic(s), and a contact phone number. The list will be distributed to the UACNJ club representatives.

Fall 1990 Calendar

OCTOBER

- 5 NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Obs. 8-10 p.m.
WAS Monthly Meeting. 8 p.m.
- 6 MMAS Solar Observing Party. 10 a.m. - Noon.
SHAA Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m.
- 9 MMAS General Meeting. Cnty Coll. of Morris. Tom Torson on "Observation Night at Kitt Peak". 8 p.m.
AAAP Monthly Meeting. Dr. Richard Gott of Princeton on "General Relativity". 8 p.m. at Peyton Hall.
- 10 NJAG Monthly Meeting. Barry Malpas on "Spectroscopy".
- 12 ASTRA Monthly Meeting. "Computer Astronomy Workshop". 8 p.m. at Novins Planetarium.
WAS Educational Program. Deep Sky Objects. 8:30 p.m.
- 18 CAC Monthly Meeting. Dr. Dave Merritt of Rutgers on "Structure and Dynamics of Galaxies". 8 p.m.
- 19 NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Obs. 8-10 p.m.
AAI Jeromy Lerner on "Spectroscopic Instrumentation - A Primer". 8 p.m.
AAAP Star-Hop. Observatory at Washington Crossing Park. 8:30 p.m.
SHAA Observatory Open House.
- 26 AAI Public Star Party. Sperry Observatory. 8 p.m.
- 27 NJAA Monthly Meeting. Bruce Wingate on "Solar Flare Research". 8:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER

- 2 NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Obs. 8-10 p.m.
WAS Monthly Meeting. 8:30 p.m.
- 3 NJAA 25th Anniversary Dinner. 6 p.m. Speaker is Harold Hoff. Call for ticket information.
SHAA Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m.
- 9 ASTRA Monthly Meeting. "Mars Opposition". 8 p.m. at Novins Planetarium
WAS Educational Program. 8:30 p.m.
AAAP Star-Party, Astrophotography and Star-Hop. Obs. at Washington Crossing Park. 8:30 p.m.
- 13 MMAS General Meeting. John Bally of AT&T Bell Labs on topics in Radio Astronomy.
AAAP Monthly Meeting. Speaker to be announced. 8 p.m.
- 14 NJAG Monthly Meeting. Astrophotography Workshop on films, exposures, and techniques. 8:30 p.m.
- 15 CAC Monthly Meeting. Prof. Bahdam Paczynski of Princeton on "Cosmic Gamma-Ray Bursts". 8 p.m.
- 16 NJAG Special Public Night featuring Deep Sky. Rifle Camp Park Observatory. 8-10 p.m.
AAI Dan Britt of Brown University on "A Quick Trip to the Asteroids". 8 p.m.
SHAA SHAA Observatory Open House.
WAS Camping Trip to Delaware. (16th to 18th)
- 17 NJAA Monthly Meeting. Speaker is Dr. Carlos Hernandez on "Mars Observing".

- 18 AAI/ Dr. David Crawford of Kitt Peak speaking on Light SHAA Pollution and New Generation Scopes. 2 p.m.
- 23 NJAA/Mars Opposition Astrovananza - UACNJ sponsored, UACNJ NJAA hosted. Mars observing, speakers. 7 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 1 SHAA Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m.
- 7 MMAS Solar Observing Party. 10 a.m. - Noon.
WAS Monthly Meeting. 8:30 p.m.
AAAP Star-Hop. Obs. at Washington Crossing Park. 8:30
- 8 AAI Special All-Day Star Party, 12-10 p.m. Speakers.
- 11 MMAS General Meeting and Annual Social Get-together.
AAAP Monthly Meeting. Presentations by members. 8 p.m.
- 12 NJAG Monthly Meeting. Topic to be announced.
- 14 AAI Monthly Meeting. Jane Aubele, on "Venus and Mars: Past and Future Missions". 8 p.m.
- 15 NJAA Monthly Meeting. Speaker to be announced.
- 20 CAC Monthly Meeting. Dr. Ted Williams of Rutgers on "Black Holes".
- 21 AAI Member Star Party. 8 p.m. Call for location
SHAA Observatory Open House.

NJAG - North Jersey Astronomy Group. Public nights: at the Observatory at Rifle Camp Park, Rifle Camp Road, West Patterson. Information/directions, call (201)523-0024. Business meetings/program 2nd Wednesday of each month.

AAI - Amateur Astronomers, Inc. Monthly Meetings: Campus Center Auditorium; Public Star Parties: at Sperry Observatory. Both are at Union County College, Cranford. Observatory is open every Friday. Call evenings (908)709-7520 for information.

WAS - The Willingsboro Astronomical Society is devoted primarily to observation and astrophotography. Meetings at Willingboro Municipal Building on the 1st and 2nd Friday of each month. Call (609)627-3043 or (609)829-4345 for information.

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 security arrangements must be made. Please call for information first (609)655-1422.

MMAS - The Morris Museum Astronomical Society. Meetings at the museum in Morristown. Solar observing session at 6 DeForest Ave. E. Hanover. For information call (201)368-1848.

NJAA - The New Jersey Astronomical Association of High Bridge monthly meetings at their Observatory at Vorhees State Park. Call (201)638-8500 for information.

ASTRA - The Astronomical Society of Toms River Area is at the Novins Planetarium, Ocean County College. For star party and other events at Novins call (201)255-0343. For Miller Air Park star party information call (201)370-1685.

AAAP - The Amateur Astronomers of Princeton, Inc. Meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Peyton Hall on the Princeton campus. Observatory is open every Friday evening, weather permitting. Call (609)737-2575 for information and directions.

SHAA - The Sheep Hill Astronomy 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.

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