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# United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey Newsletter

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## ASTRONOMY DAY IN NEW JERSEY

This year the International Astronomy day event held at Sperry Observatory, and hosted by Amateur Astronomers, Inc., will be sponsored by the UACNJ. Amateur astronomers from all over New Jersey, and beyond, are invited to partake in this mini-symposium. Admission is free.

The two Sperry Observatory telescopes, a 24-inch Cassegrain Reflector, and a 10-inch Refractor, will be open for viewing all day and evening. The Refractor will be fitted with a Hydrogen-alpha filter for solar flare observations during the day. There will be a flea-market conducted by the Sheep Hill Astronomical Association, as well as other items for sale. There will be various displays from AAI committees, as well as from other New Jersey astronomy clubs, the Dark Sky Association, and the UACNJ. There will also be a workshop for kids and a raffle. Refreshments and directions to several close-by eateries will be available.

The event will take place at the Union County College auditorium and at the observatory, both on the Cranford campus, at 12:00 Noon. The speakers program will begin at 1:00 P.M. and run through 9:00 P.M., with a 6:00 P.M. dinner break. The following are some of those scheduled to give presentations: Dr. Mary Lou West from Montclair College, department of Astronomy, and member of Sheep Hill Astronomy Association, will speak on "Evidence for a Black Hole in the Milky Way"; Jordi Miralda of Princeton University will show us "How many Galaxies we see from naked eye to large telescopes"; Roger Tuthill will talk about the aspects of the up-coming July 11, 1991 Solar Eclipse viewed from Baja, Mexico; Joe Mina of the Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers' talk is entitled "Where Have All the Stars Gone?", a presentation on the current status of light pollution; Ben Cavotta of the New Jersey Astronomical Association will present his topic entitled "New Jersey and J.P.L., Perfect Together", discussing aspects on down-linking space data via communications satellites; Al Witzgall of AAI and NJAA will present ideas on optics in photography; and astrophotographer Al Ernst of Amateur Astronomers, Inc., will be discussing "Deep Sky Photographic Techniques".

There will be a "Star Party" held in the evening, the sky of which promises to be interesting with respect to the Solar System. At sunset, Venus, Mars and Jupiter will stretch from the western sky to the meridian, so bring your scopes.

## SPRING UACNJ MEETING NOTICE

The next UACNJ Meeting is to be held at Sperry Observatory, Union County College, Cranford, NJ, at 10:00 A.M., April 20, 1991 (just prior to Astronomy Day events).

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## SAVE THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 14-16

That is save it on your calendar for the 2nd Annual New Jersey StarQuest, hosted by the the Amateur Astronomers

Association of Princeton. This is the third annual state wide astronomical event that the UACNJ is helping to promote. But, before you say, "Who wants to spend a weekend observing down in Princeton?", just be aware that it's not held in Princeton, but rather at the 4-H camp in Beemerville, Sussex County (up in the northern, and darkest, part of the state).

The event will begin on Friday, June 14th, at 5 P.M., and run through Sunday the 16th. Where do you stay? The camp has barracks style bunking, camping and RV accommodations.

Key features will include: Stargazing at one of New Jersey's darkest sky locations; an organized Star Hop; an astronomical swap table, flea market style; slide presentations; a Saturday lecture; demonstrations; and a raffle. More Earthly daytime activities are also available: bird-watching; fossil hunting, Appalachian Trail hiking; and sports such as: fishing, volleyball, basketball, and ping-pong.

For the g-astronomers among you there will be six catered hot meals: Friday night brunch; hot breakfast and lunch, and a pig roast/beef barbecue dinner on Saturday; and a hot breakfast and pick-up lunch on Sunday.

Registration is \$20 per person with food costing \$26 per adult and \$18 per child 8 and under. But space is limited and the registration deadline is June 4, so register early. Call Greg Mauro for information and registration form at (609) 490-3560 (daytime). Or write at: P.O. Box 2017, Princeton, NJ 08543

## SHORT NOTES:

The Montclair Telescope Club has recently completed a 20-inch f 6.5 Newtonian Reflector and are also helping to refurbish a 24" instrument in Rockland County, NY.

Amateur Astronomers, Inc. will be sending two expeditions to the July 11, 1991 Solar Eclipse. They have rented the Hayden Planetarium in NYC on Thursday, June 6, at 7:00 P.M. for a

special presentation to show the eclipse as viewed from Mexico and Hawaii. Extra seats are available at \$4.00 per person. For tickets, contact Craig Small, 504 Maple Hill Drive, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

## SPRING 1991 CALENDAR

### APRIL

- 3 STAR Monthly Meeting. Presentation to be announced.
- 5 AAAP Star Hop. At Observatory.  
NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Observatory 8-10 P.M.
- 7 SHAA Phil Harrington, "Touring the Universe thru Binocs".
- 9 AAAP Scott Davis of GE, Atmospheric Phenomena.  
MMAS Monthly Meeting. Dr. Hall of Kean College is speaker.
- 10 NJAG Monthly Meeting. Presentation to be announced.
- 18 CAC Dr. John Bally, Bell Labs. "Star Formation"  
HAAA Monthly Meeting. 7:30 Hudson Guild Farm.
- 19 SHAA Observatory Open House.  
AAI Wulff Heintz, Swathmore Col. "Binary & Dwarf Stars"  
NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Observatory 8-10 P.M.
- 20 AAI/ Astronomy Day State Event (see article).  
UACNJ  
HAAA Astro-Day workshops, observing, Hudson Guild Farm.  
STAR Observing Night. Colts Neck Rec. Center. 8 P.M.
- 27 NJAA Monthly Meeting. Presentation to be announced.

### MAY

- 1 STAR Jay Respler on and Observing Earth Satellites.
- 5 SHAA Jim Burnell speaks on "Computers in Astronomy".
- 8 NJAG Monthly Meeting. Presentation to be announced.
- 10 AAAP Star Hop. At Observatory.  
NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Observatory 8-10 P.M.
- 14 AAAP Members Night. Presentations by AAAP members.  
MMAS Pat Boeshar of Drew University is speaker.
- 16 CAC Dr. Ted Williams, Rutgers U. on "Black Holes"  
HAAA Monthly Meeting. 7:30 Hudson Guild Farm.
- 17 AAI Members Night. Presentations by AAI members.  
SHAA Observatory Open House.  
WAS Star Party at Edmund Scientific. 7-10 P.M.
- 24 NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Observatory 8-10 P.M.
- 25 NJAA Monthly Meeting. Presentation to be announced.

### JUNE

- 2 SHAA Monthly Meeting. Speaker to be announced.
- 5 STAR Annual members meeting.
- 11 AAAP Planetarium Show. Trenton Museum. 8:00 P.M.  
MMAS Monthly Meeting. Presentation to be announced.
- 12 NJAG Monthly Meeting. Presentation to be announced.
- 14 NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Observatory 8-10 P.M.
- 14-16 AAAP/ New Jersey Star Quest. (see article)  
UACNJ
- 20 CAC Dr. R. Jenkins, Princeton U. on "Sounding Rockets"  
HAAA Monthly Meeting. 7:30 Hudson Guild Farm.
- 21 SHAA Observatory Open House.
- 22 NJAA Monthly Meeting. Presentation to be announced.
- 28 NJAG Public Night. Rifle Camp Park Observatory 8-10 P.M.

**AAAP** The Amateur Astronomers 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 observatory directions.

**AAI** Monthly Meetings are held at the Campus Center Auditorium, and Public Star Parties at Sperry Observatory. Both are on the campus of Union County College, Cranford, NJ. The Observatory is open every Friday to the public. Call evenings (908) 709-7520.

**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.

**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 nights are on selected Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year. For further information call (201) 398-1198 or (201) 770-1625.

**MMAS** The Morris Museum Astronomical Society holds their monthly meetings at the museum in Morristown on the second Tuesday evening of the month. 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 club information and next meeting date call (201) 447-2581.

**NJAA** The New Jersey Astronomical Association of High Bridge holds its monthly meetings at their Observatory at Vorhees State Park on the fourth Saturday of the month. Call (908) 638-8500 for information.

**NJAG** 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. Business meetings and program are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

**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.

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

**WAS** The Willingboro Astronomical Society is a group devoted primarily to observation and astrophotography. They hold their meetings at the Willingboro Municipal Building on the first and second Friday of each month. Call (609) 627-3043 or (609) 829-4345 for information.

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