
United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey Newsletter



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Spring Meeting Announcement

The March 28th meeting of the U.A.C.N.J. will take place at 10:00 A.M. The gathering will be held at the William Miller Sperry Observatory, on the campus of Union County College in Cranford N.J. The observatory is located 3-5 minutes from the Garden State Parkway and Route 22.

From GSP North: Exit at 137, make right at end of ramp onto North Ave. Turn right at the second traffic light onto Springfield Ave., (Matt's Amoco is at the corner.) Go through three traffic lights, keep going straight, on the left you will see Dryer's Farm, 1 block after the farm is the entrance to the college.

From GSP South: Exit at 137, make right at end of ramp onto North Ave. Turn right at the third traffic light onto Springfield Ave., (Matt's Amoco is at the corner.) Go through two traffic lights, keep going straight, on the left you will see Dryer's Farm, 1 block after the farm is the entrance to the college.

From Route 22: Exit at the Springfield Ave. exit, follow signs to Westfield and Cranford. Go through 2 traffic lights. Just before the 3rd light take the exit ramp (you will see a sign for union college.) 1/4 mile on the right is the entrance to the college.

Once inside the college go past the science building and follow the signs for lot 5. There is parking across from the observatory and in lot 5.

This should be a very busy meeting due to the fact that attendance was so poor for the January 25th meeting, in Trenton.

If we want the U.A.C.N.J. is to survive, we need you input at the meetings. Attendance from club representatives is essential, although any club members may attend.

See you on the 28th.

Light Pollution Bill Update

Unfortunately the bill to establish a Light Pollution Study Commission, has been vetoed by Governor Jim Florio. The early January decision for a "pocket veto", puts the light pollution bill out of commission for now. It is now up to the Amateur Astronomy community to revive this bill or at least something similar, ASAP. Another effort, such as the last may be enough to get the bill passed on a second endeavor.

Astronomy Day - May 9, 1992

From noon 'til midnight on May 9, AAI will be hosting International Astronomy Day, at the William Miller Sperry Observatory in Cranford. There will be a UACNJ sponsored symposium consisting of eight or nine speakers. Talks will be held on a variety of subjects. There will be a number of interesting displays as well as refreshments and a swap table. If the weather cooperates, we will also have a star party from nightfall 'til whenever, so bring your scopes. If you or your organization would like to erect a display please contact Pete Serrada at (908)925-0373. All are invited to attend.

UACNJ Meeting of January 25

The last meeting of the United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey was held on Saturday, January 25, 1992 at the Trenton Museum. Six representatives from three clubs were present. Since a quorum was not present, no official business was discussed. Unofficial discussions dealt with Astronomy Awareness Day, Astronomy Day, New Jersey Starquest, the State Observatory and the possibility of UACNJ sponsored awards for Messier and Herschel certificate holders.

Mystery Object in the Helix

Take out your copy of volume 1 of Burnham's and turn to page 195. There you will find a photo of the Helix nebula in Aquarius. Now look in the upper left of the photo for a bright star, the brightest on the photo. Now look a little to the right of this star. You will see what would appear to be a tiny edge-on galaxy. Or is it?

David Hasenauer of Monrovia, California spotted this odd little object on that Palomar photo and now a group of observers from the National Deep Sky Observers Society is out to find the answer: is this a galaxy or not? There would seem to be no recent mention of it in any catalog or visual observation, yet it has been found on almost every photo of the Helix around (not a photo flaw). A search through the databases by Robert Bunge of Maryland (NDSOS Data Coordinators) turned up two infrared candidates from the IRAS survey. There is some question about the orientation, so it is unclear at this time if it even is the mystery object.

Bill Clark of San Diego, California plans to use a 40 inch telescope with a CCD and filters to see how the mystery object responds. We would like to be able to augment his data with some solid numbers. We are particularly interested in obtaining photometric data to determine magnitude and line strengths.

If anyone is interested in helping out in this project, write to me, Gordon Bond, NDSOS Projects Coordinator, 313 Raphael Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846-1224. Please list your equipment and how you would be able to help out. We would also like to know if anyone has observed this object visually.

Jersey Starquest

The third annual Jersey Starquest, hosted by the Amateur Astronomers Association of Princeton, will be held at the United Methodist Camp and Conference Center, in Browns Mills, NJ. The festivities will run from 5 P.M. on May 29 through 12 P.M. May 31st, regardless of the weather.

Features Include:

- Observing from a dark location
- An organized telescope making competition
- Lecture program on Saturday
- Swap table
- Registration includes Camping space
- Indoor accommodations are available
- Hot showers
- Five catered hot meals
- Door prizes
- And much, much more

The cost of registration is \$25 per person. Food is \$20 per adult. Indoor bunking \$14.50 per person. Limited space available indoors, you must register prior to March 31st to guarantee a spot. Final registration deadline is May 15th. For more information call Greg Mauro at (609)490-3560.

New Jersey 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 observatory directions.

AAI Monthly meetings are held on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 p.m. at the Campus Center Auditorium on the campus of Union County College, Cranford, NJ. Sperry observatory is open every Friday evening 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.

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 (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. Their solar observing sessions will be at 6 DeForest Ave, E. Hanover, NJ. For further information 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 call (201)447-2581

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

NJAG The North Jersey Astronomical Group public nights are held in the observatory at Rifle Camp Park, Rifle Camp Road, West Patterson, NJ. For further information or directions call the Nature Center at (201)523-0024. Business meetings and programs 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.

SJAC The South Jersey Astronomical Club meets at Vineland City Hall on the first Thursday of every month. Call (609)825-2196 for 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 (201)536-4663 or (201)264-1723.

WAS The Willingsboro Astronomical Society is a group devoted primarily to observing and astrophotography. They hold their meetings at the Willingsboro Municipal Building on the first and second Friday of each month. Call (609)627-3403 or (609)829-4345 for information.