



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

June, 2018

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

President : Jack Chastain
Secretary: Jim Rockrohr
Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace
Publicity: Paul Chauvet
Speakers: Paul Granich

Vice President: Paul Granich
Treasurer: Karen Tulchinsky
Membership Coordinator: Caryn Sobel
Webmaster: Paul Chauvet
Outreach: (open)
College Liaison: Dr. Amy Forestell

Board of Directors: Joe Macagne, Karl Loatman, Steve Carey, Willie Yee

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, May 15, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Jack Chastain in the Elting Library, New Paltz, NY. (The meeting was held here at the invitation of the library as part of their science month series.)

The minutes of the April, 2018, meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack has been working on transition documents and will distribute them for comments when ready. There are also some minor By-Law updates coming.

Membership: Caryn Sobel was not present. Dues of \$25 are due for 2018.

Treasurer: Karen Tulchinski was not present.

Publicity/ Webmaster: Paul Chauvet was present. MeetUp and Yahoo have recently eliminated our file storage. Paul is working to retrieve the documents and to set up Google Documents or Dropbox for backups of our documents.

Outreach:

- Joe Macagne was not present.

- **Next Club Star Party:** June 15, 8 PM. Be sure to RSVP with car license plate number, make and model by the Thursday evening before the star party, even if there is only a remote chance that you will attend on Friday evening or Saturday, if postponed due to weather. It's better to have too many people on the list rather than someone who isn't registered.
- **Girl Scout Camp:** May 19, Ulster County Fairgrounds. Several 'scopes needed. Rick coordinating, although rain predicted.
- **High Meadow Moon Viewing:** May 22. Willie coordinating.
- **Girl Scout Camp:** June 8, Monroe, NY.
- **Private Mohonk Event:** Ken Bailey is coordinating. Details TBD.
- **Paterson Library:** requesting 'scopes for sometime in August.
- **Possible Private Event:** at some TBD Lodge, willing to pay. August 13, 14, or 15. Jack coordinating.
- **Olana Events:** TBD
- **Walkway Events:** Eric Myers is our representative. May 12: "Jupiter" (cancelled due to weather), July 15: "Moon meets Venus", August 12: "Meteor Shower", September 7: "Neptune in Opposition". These are SEPARATE from the "Moon Walks".

Upcoming programs: The following information was shared:

- (None reported. See MeetUp for latest information.)

Old Business:

- **NEAF:** April 21-22. Good program. Jack was at antique telescope booth.
- **Dark Skies Talk:** April 25, 6-8 PM at Gino's Pizza in Poughkeepsie. Jack attended. Good talk.
- **Bright Ideas:** April 29, High Meadows School, Stone Ridge: solar viewing, but no sun!
- Club telescopes are available to paid-up members:
 - o If you have one of the club 'scopes, take a picture and send it to Jack so we can display them.
 - o 13" dobsonian, currently with Jack Chastain, is available.
 - o ETX125 maksutov, currently with Joe Macagne.
 - o 4" Tasco refractor on an EQ mount, currently with Paul Chauvet, is available.
 - o A planetary camera and a "deep space" camera are available. See Willie.
- Dues are Due! \$25 for the year by check or cash. PayPal also available for a slightly higher price.

New Business:

- (none)

Observing Reports:

- (none)

Visitors/New Members:

There were about 24 people in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:15 PM. The next meeting is on June 19th, 2018, back at the Coykendall Auditorium at SUNY, New Paltz.

The presentations that followed were "Strange New Worlds; Exoplanet Science Today" and "TESS: Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite" by Dr. Willie Yee, Solar System Ambassador.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, June 16th, 2018

Past and Future Outreach

From the President

Events past

(For this first instance, I am including events in May as well as June)

For the events listed, the [Coordinator] is in brackets, someone who is interested but not confirmed is in (parenthesis) and someone who previously committed but has had to cancel is in [brackets].

Fri 11 May: Star party

Sat 12 May - Walkway Starwalk - CANCELLED - Weather and cold!

Sat 19 May: Girl Scout Camp - Ulster County Fairgrounds - CANCELLED (Weather)

[Ken]

Jack

Rick

Jim R

Willie

Joe

1 Jun: Moonwalk (scopes canceled, model set up but event canceled for lighting)

[Eric] (with model)

Jack

Rick

2 Jun: (NEW) Girl Scouts Kerhonkson - Pine Ridge Dude Ranch

Jack

Ken

Joe

Chris

Rick

-- Although clouds predicted, Joe and I showed up and started a short presentation We noticed that Venus could be seen so the Dob was taken outside and we got good views of Jupiter+moons and Venus. Lots of discussion.

8 June - Girl Scout Camporee (Monroe)

[Jack]

Rick

(Ken canceled)

(Chuck canceled)

(Joe - Canceled)

Three scopes LOTS of interest, a great crowd! We also had a very long, highly visible ISS pass and got to see Jupiter and Venus - Venus was spotted before sundown too! Later, we had a quick view of Saturn, Rick got the Ring Nebula and we even got a quick look at Alberio. Skies better than expected but more limited than desirable.

15 June: Star Party

[Ken]

Future Events:

22 June (Friday) - Brickyards StarWalk event (\$150 donation)

[{Jack}] - Coordinating but can't attend

Joe - Thu/Fri

(Chris - thu?)

Ken - Fri

Rick - Fri

29 Jun: Moonwalk

Willie

13 July: Star party

15 July - Walkway Starwalk

27 Jul: Moonwalk

Willie



**Nothing this Month
Something better next Month**

2018 Star Party Schedule

Date	Time	Sunset	End Civil Twilight	Nearest New Moon
January 19th	7:00 PM	4:55 PM	5:25 PM	January 17th
February 16th	7:00 PM	5:30 PM	5:58 PM	February 15th
March 16th	7:00 PM	7:03 PM	7:31 PM	March 17th
April 13th	8:00 PM	7:34 PM	8:03 PM	April 16th
May 11th	8:00 PM	8:04 PM	8:35 PM	May 15th
June 15th	8:30 PM	8:31 PM	9:06 PM	June 13th
July 13th	8:30 PM	8:29 PM	9:02 PM	July 13th
August 10th	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:31 PM	August 11th
September 7th	7:30 PM	7:18 PM	7:46 PM	September 9th
October 5th	7:00 PM	6:30 PM	6:58 PM	October 9th
November 9th	7:00 PM	4:41 PM	5:10 PM	November 7th
December 7th	7:00 PM	4:25 PM	4:46 PM	December 7th

Directions To The Star Party Site

[Lake Taghkanic State Park](#) is in the town Ancram, NY. The park entrance is on the Taconic Parkway 10 minutes north of the exit used for Wilcox park.

Star Parties at Lake Taghkanic are held in the West Parking lot, next to the beach. The skies are darker than in Wilcox, with less stray light to deal with. The horizon is also much lower, especially to the south and east, making many more targets possible.

IMPORTANT: all events at Lake Taghkanic State Park require an **RSVP** which includes license plate number of the car you are bringing (please do so via [Meetup](#)). The park is patrolled by state police, and all non registered cars will be ticketed and risk our use of the park.

General Information:

- ♦ For the foreseeable future, all indoor meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in Coykendall Science Bldg., SUNY New Paltz (directions above) at 7:30 PM. All indoor events are FREE! All are welcome. The presentations are generally geared towards teenagers and up. For more information, call the Club Hotline.
- ♦ Dates listed for star parties are the primary dates. The rain date is the following night unless otherwise noted. Only one session is held for a given weekend, usually on the primary date, Friday, unless postponed (usually due to inclement weather) to the backup date, Saturday. Exceptions to this are noted in the "Scheduled Events" section above.
- ♦ All outdoor events are FREE! All are welcome. If you bring small children, it is **your** responsibility to keep a close eye on them. Please do not bring white-light flashlights. Instead, bring a red astronomer's flashlight or an ordinary flashlight covered with several layers of red cellophane. If in doubt about the weather, check the status of the event at www.midhudsonastro.org.