



# Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

## November, 2017

Website: [www.midhudsonastro.org](http://www.midhudsonastro.org)

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

**President :** Willie Yee  
**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr  
**Newsletter Editor:** Rick Versace  
**Publicity:** Paul Chauvet  
**Speakers:** Paul Granich

**Vice President:** Jack Chastain  
**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

### Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, October 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Willie Yee in the Coykendale Auditorium at SUNY, New Paltz, NY.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the latest newsletter.

#### **Officer's Reports:**

**Membership:** Caryn Sobel was not present.

**Treasurer:** Karen Tulchinski was not present.

**Publicity:** Paul Chauvet was not present. Send him info on public events.

**Webmaster:** Paul Chauvet was not present. No issues known.

#### **Outreach:**

- **SUNY Planetarium show** – October 19. Be sure to get free tickets online.
- **Olana** – October 21. Willie coordinating. Karl presenting.

- **Wachusett Mountain Observing** – October 26, private event. About 45 minutes west of Boston. Contact Willie or Joe for more info.
- **Observe the Moon Night at SUNY New Paltz** – October 28, Willie will be there. Help always appreciated.
- **“Moon walk” on Walkway Over the Hudson** – Nov 4, Jack coordinating.
- **Dudley Observatory STEAM Festival, Schenectady** – November 11. Offering us a table if we want to participate. Jack coordinating.

**Upcoming programs:** The following information was shared:

- (none shared)

**Old Business:**

- Reminder that we have 4 club telescopes to lend to interested members.
- Jack told us that the club’s 13.1” DOB is working great.

**New Business:**

- Nominating committee needed. Willie “volunteered”. Need nominations for President and Vice President. Slate to be presented at the November meeting and voted on at the December meeting.

**Observing Reports:**

- **Sam’s Point** – good turnout.
- **Winnakee Land Trust** –Burger Hill near routes 9 and 9G in Rhinebeck. Full moon night.
- **Moon walk on Walkway Bridge** – Saturday, October 7. Great turnout although in and out of clouds. Mostly Saturn viewing, but moon was visible near the end.
- **Saugerties High School** – Good turnout as usual.

**Visitors/New Members:**

There were about 17 people in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8 PM. The next meeting is on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

The presentation that followed at 8:00 PM was “Illuminating Dark Energy with Precise Distances to 35 Million Galaxies” by Prof. John Moustakas, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Siena College.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

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**Couldn’t get to the download site**  
By Maybe next month



## 2017 Star Party Schedule

| <i>Date</i>    | <i>Time</i> | <i>Sunset</i> | <i>End Civil Twilight</i> | <i>Nearest New Moon</i> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| January 27th   | 7:30PM      | 5:05PM        | 5:35PM                    | January 27th            |
| March 3rd      | 7:30PM      | 5:49PM        | 6:17PM                    | February 26th           |
| March 24th     | 7:30PM      | 7:13PM        | 7:40PM                    | March 27th              |
| April 28th     | 8:00PM      | 7:51PM        | 8:21PM                    | April 26th              |
| May 26th       | 8:30PM      | 8:19PM        | 8:52PM                    | May 25th                |
| June 30th      | 8:30PM      | 8:34PM        | 9:09PM                    | June 23rd               |
| July 28th      | 8:30PM      | 8:18PM        | 8:49PM                    | July 23rd               |
| August 18th    | 8:30PM      | 7:51PM        | 8:20PM                    | August 21st             |
| September 22nd | 7:30PM      | 6:52PM        | 7:20PM                    | September 20th          |
| October 20th   | 7:30PM      | 6:06PM        | 6:35PM                    | October 19th            |
| November 17th  | 7:30PM      | 4:33PM        | 5:04PM                    | November 18th           |
| December 15th  | 7:30PM      | 4:26PM        | 4:48PM                    | December 18th           |

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.midhudsonastro.org).