



# Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

## June, 2019

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

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

**President :** Jack Chastain

**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr

**Newsletter Editor:** Rick Versace

**Publicity:** Tim Denman

**Speakers:** Paul Granich

**Vice President:** C. E. Raum

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers

**Membership Coordinator:** C. E. Raum

**Webmaster:** Paul Chauvet

**Outreach:** Joe Macagne

**College Liaison:** Dr. Amy Forestell

**Directors:** Joe Macagne, Steve Carey, Willie Yee, Karl Loatman

### **Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, May 21, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Jack Chastain in the auditorium of the Coykendall Science Building at SUNY, New Paltz, NY.

The minutes of the April meeting were not distributed in time for membership review. However, several of the officers had copies and recommended approval by the membership. A motion was made and seconded to accept the officer's review of the minutes and it passed unanimously. The minutes will be published in a subsequent newsletter.

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

**President:** Jack reported that there have been good inputs to the club history document on Google docs. Keep them coming.

**Vice President:** C. E. Raum was present. See reports below.

**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr was present. No news to report.

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

## MHAA Treasurer's Report for June 2019

As of 16 June 2019 we have \$2669.90 in the bank, we are (still) owed \$24.95 from PayPal for one membership, and we are owed \$194.52 from Member Planet for eight memberships (five since the last report). I am still working on getting the funds collected by Member Planet transferred to our bank, but I think it should be worked out soon, perhaps even by this week's meeting.

I have printed business cards using the design approved at the last meeting, and I will distribute some to anyone who wants them at the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

- There is money coming in through PayPal and Memberplanet.
- The ledger is in Google Docs.
- T-shirts and sweat shirts are now available. (Prices need to be decided.)

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present.

- Press release was sent out last week. Did anyone see it?

**Newsletter:** Rick Versace was not present.

**Webmaster:** Paul Chauvet was not present.

**Outreach:** Joe Macagne was present. Events mentioned include:

- **Walkway Over the Hudson** – May 26 (Sunday). Need 'scopes. See Eric Myers.
- **"The Ranch"**, dates TBD.
- **Menards orchard**, dates TBD
- 2 other possibilities in the works.

**Upcoming programs:** C.E. Raum was present.

- June – Bob Berman
- July – "A teacher to teach us how to teach."
- Possible "Show and Tell" by members during the summer.
- See MeetUp page for the latest information.

**Membership:** C. E. Raum was present.

- You should have received an email inviting you to join Memberplanet. Please join! Questions are optional.
- Everyone that we have an email address for has been invited to join.
- We now have credits for email so that the newsletter can now be distributed.
- To invite others, have them go to "memberplanet.com/MHAA".

**Solar System Ambassador:** Willie Yee was present.

- Talk on 4/26 at Rockland Community College: "NASA 2019-19 Review of Missions". Had over 100 people attend.
- The National Library Association has the theme of "A Universe of Stories" for this year, so many libraries are looking for space-related programs. Willie could use some help. Schedule, so far:
  - July 18 – Newburgh (includes viewing)
  - July 19 – Catskill (day program)
  - July 23 – Gardner at 7:30 PM
  - August 6 – Watervliet at 6 PM
  - Upwards of 20 events over the next few months!
- July 20 – Request from the Walkway Over the Hudson for a program on the Apollo 11 anniversary.
- Willie has lots of "swag" from JPL and NASA: posters, Braille moon map and crater, instructions on teaching, etc.

### Old Business:

- The club MeetUp pages need to be reviewed. The trip to High Point Scientific is still mentioned although it no longer happens. Also there is no mention of the club scopes for loan, etc.
- The May club star party was cancelled due to weather.
- The “Wedding in Palenville” event went OK. (Not a wedding ceremony, just a celebration.) Got to see about 5 minutes of the moon before clouds rolled in. Clouds parted around 10:30 and saw moon and Jupiter. Hosts seemed satisfied. We received a \$110 donation.
- Club telescopes are available to paid-up members:
  1. Criterion RV-6, 6 inch reflector on an equatorial mount is with C. E. Raum. A new motor is on order for the clock drive.
  2. 13” dobsonian, currently with Jack Chastain, is available.
  3. Meade ETX125 maksutov, is currently with Joe Macagne and is available.
  4. Meade 80 mm refractor is currently with Karl Loatman. It has a motorized X-Y mount that does not track.
  5. Orion 8” dobsonian is with Karl Loatman and is available.
  6. A 90 mm camera lens is available, see Willie.
  7. A planetary camera and a “deep space” camera are available. See Jack.
- Jack is soliciting astro photos taken by members to show at our meetings instead of the Hubble images he is currently using.

### New Business:

- **Next Club Star Party:** May 31, 8:30 PM. Be sure to RSVP with car license plate number, make and model of your car 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.
- **We need speakers:** please let C.E. Raum know if you have any leads or ideas.
- **“Business Cards” are underway.** 2” x 3.5”. \$25/1000 in color, single sided. \$5 more for double sided. Membership was shown 3 designs, 1 single sided and 2 double sided. Those present approved a motion to order 1000 single sided cards.
- “Astrospheric App” was recommended for Android and iPhone as an advanced weather application by Jack and others.
- We are getting a lot of requests for talks at libraries and schools this summer. Please volunteer. Contact Jack.

### Observing Reports:

- (None mentioned.)

### Visitors/New Members:

There were about 28 people in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned at about 8:06 PM. **The next meeting is June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in the Coykendall Science Building Auditorium at SUNY, New Paltz.**

The presentation that followed was “Sensing Gravity: The Recent Renaissance in Black Hole Observations” by Dr. Hal Haggard, Professor of Physics at Bard College .

Submitted by James Rockrohr, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## **Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, April 16, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Jack Chastain in the auditorium of the Coykendall Science Building at SUNY, New Paltz, NY.

The minutes of the March meeting as published in the newsletter were approved with one correction: Typically the gate guard at Lake Taghkanic State Park leaves about 4 PM, not 8 PM as stated in the minutes.

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

**President:** Jack published some Policies and Procedures that are still under construction in Google Documents. Please review them and comment. There is also a club history document. Please add to it if you have any information.

**Vice President:** C. E. Raum was present. He is making progress on scheduling speakers for our meetings:

- May – Antonio Contos (Bard) on LIGO
- June – Bob Berman

**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr was present. No news to report.

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was not present.

- Jack reported that he knew of 1 membership check coming and some expenses for the Science Fair.

#### **Treasure's Report**

As of 18 May 2019 we have \$2476.19 in the bank. We also have \$24.95 on PayPal (from one membership), and \$70.45 on MemberPlanet for three memberships (one new, two renewals). I am working with the Vice President to understand how the funds get transferred from Member Planet to our bank account.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was not present.

**Newsletter:** Rick Versace was not present.

**Webmaster:** Paul Chauvet was not present.

**Outreach:** Joe Macagne was not present. Events mentioned include:

- **Walkway Over the Hudson:** April 19 (will probably be rained out with a possible rain date of April 26.) See Eric Myers.
- **Walkway Over the Hudson:** May 26. See Eric Myers.
- **Club Star Party:** May 3. Be sure to RSVP.
- **Club Star Party:** May 31. Be sure to RSVP.

**Upcoming programs:** C.E. Raum was present.

- (see the Vice President report above.)
- Possible "Show and Tell" by members during the summer.
- See MeetUp page for the latest information.

**Membership:** C. E. Raum was present.

- No new progress. Still trying to get "Member Planet" membership software configured. Look for an email invitation to join. (Questions are optional.)

**Solar System Ambassador:** Willie Yee was present.

- They had a good booth at NEAF; probably saw 1000 people.
- Talk on 4/26 at Rockland Community College: "NASA 2019-19 Review of Missions".
- The National Library Association has the theme of "A Universe of Stories" for this year, so many libraries are looking for space-related programs. Willie could use some help. Schedule, so far:
  - July 18 – Newburgh (includes viewing )
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- July 23 – Gardner at 7:30 PM
- August 6 – Watervliet at 6 PM

#### Old Business:

- The club MeetUp pages need to be reviewed. The trip to High Point Scientific is still mentioned although it no longer happens. Also there is no mention of the club scopes for loan, etc.
- The Star Party Event Schedule program now has the event start time hard coded.
- The April Club Star Party on April 5 was reasonably comfortable although clouds came and went. About 5 people attended with 5 telescopes. CE got some good pictures.
- Dutchess County Science Fair: The club gave out 4 awards.
- Club telescopes are available to paid-up members:
  1. Criterion RV-6, 6 inch reflector on an equatorial mount is with C. E. Raum. A new motor is on order for the clock drive.
  2. 13" dobsonian, currently with Jack Chastain, is available.
  3. Meade ETX125 maksutov, is currently with Joe Macagne and is available.
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  5. Orion 8" dobsonian is with Karl Loatman and is available.
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  7. A planetary camera and a "deep space" camera are available. See Jack.
- Jack is soliciting astro photos taken by members to show at our meetings instead of the Hubble images he is currently using.

#### New Business:

- **Next Club Star Party:** May 3, 7 PM. Be sure to RSVP with car license plate number, make and model of your car 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.
- **We need speakers:** please let C.E. Raum know if you have any leads or ideas.
- **"Business Cards" are underway.**
- Need a leader for a **private wedding event** in Palenville on May 18: C.E. Raum volunteered to coordinate. Willie and Rick will assist.
- We are getting a lot of requests for talks at libraries and schools this summer. Please volunteer. Contact Jack.

#### Observing Reports:

- Falcon Heavy launch on TV was spectacular.
- Jupiter and Saturn are good in the morning.

#### Visitors/New Members:

There were about 21 people in attendance at the end of the business meeting including 4 new visitors that heard about us through MeetUp.

The business meeting was adjourned at about 8:04 PM. **The next meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, in the Coykendall Science Building Auditorium at SUNY, New Paltz.**

The presentation that followed was "New Horizons – the Ultima Thule Encounter" by Steve Conrad, lead engineer for the Long Range Reconnaissance Imager (LORRI) on the New Horizons mission at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



## Jupiter Shines in June

By David Prosper

This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit [nightsky.jpl.nasa.org](https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.org) to find local clubs, events, and more!

**Jupiter** stakes its claim as the king of the planets in June, shining bright all night. **Saturn** trails behind Jupiter, and the **Moon** passes by both planets mid-month. **Mercury** puts on its best evening appearance in 2019 late in the month, outshining nearby **Mars** at sunset.

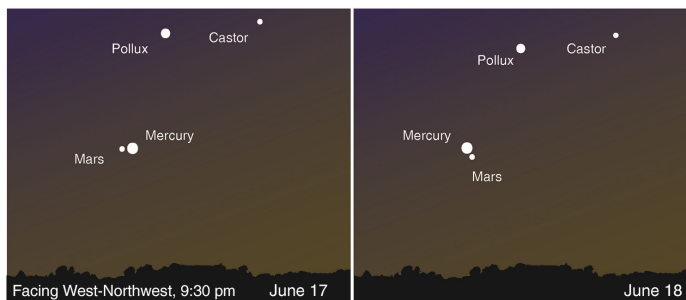
Jupiter is visible almost the entire evening this month. Earth will be between Jupiter and the Sun on June 10, meaning Jupiter is at **opposition**. On that date, Jupiter rises in the east as the Sun sets in the west, remaining visible the entire night. Jupiter will be one of the brightest objects in the night sky, shining at magnitude -2.6. Its four largest moons and cloud bands are easily spotted with even a small telescope.



What if your sky is cloudy or you don't have a telescope? See far more of Jupiter than we can observe from Earth with NASA's **Juno** mission! Juno has been orbiting Jupiter since 2016, swooping mere thousands of miles above its cloud tops in its extremely elliptical polar orbits, which take the probe over 5 million miles away at its furthest point! These extreme orbits minimize Juno's exposure to Jupiter's powerful radiation as it studies the gas giant's internal structure, especially its intense magnetic fields. Juno's hardy JunoCam instrument takes incredible photos of Jupiter's raging storms during its flybys. All of the images are available to the public, and citizen scientists are doing amazing things with them. You can too! Find out more at [bit.ly/JunoCam](https://bit.ly/JunoCam)

**Saturn** rises about two hours after Jupiter and is visible before midnight. The ringed planet rises earlier each evening as its own opposition approaches in July. The **Moon** appears near both gas giants mid-month. The Moon's tour begins on June 16 as it approaches Jupiter, and its visit ends on June 19 after swinging past Saturn.

**Mercury** is back in evening skies and will be highest after sunset on June 23, just two days after the summer solstice! Spot it low in the western horizon, close to the much dimmer and redder **Mars**. This is your best chance this year to spot Mercury in the evening, and nearly your last chance to see Mars, too! The two smallest planets of our solar system pass close to each other the evenings of June 17-18, coming within just  $\frac{1}{4}$  degree, or half the width of a full Moon, making for a potentially great landscape photo at twilight.



Discover more about NASA's current and future missions at [nasa.gov](http://nasa.gov)

## 2018 Star Party Schedule

January 11	7:00 PM
February 1	7:00 PM
March 8	7:00 PM
April 5	8:00 PM
May 3	8:00 PM
May 31	8:30 PM
July 5	8:30 PM
August 2	8:00 PM
August 30	8:00 PM
September 27	7:30 PM
October 25	7:00 PM
November 29	7:00 PM
December 27	7:00 PM

### 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.

- ♦ 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).