



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association August, 2019

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

President : Jack Chastain

Vice President: C. E. Raum

Secretary: Jim Rockrohr

Treasurer: Eric Myers

Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace

Membership Coordinator: C. E. Raum

Publicity: Tim Denman

Webmaster: Paul Chauvet

Speakers: Paul Granich

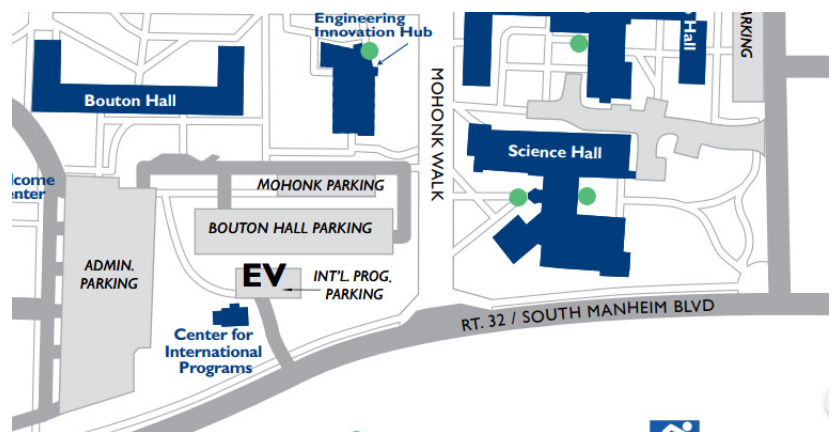
Outreach: Joe Macagne

College Liaison: Dr. Amy Forestell

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

!!! The Meeting location has changed !!!!

The Meeting will be in the Science Building, SH181 (The square at the South entrance area in the image). The building is at the corner of Rt 32 and Plattekill Ave. Parking is available on the road or possibly in the large Admin parking lot. The Bouton Hall and Mohonk parking are not necessarily recommended, particularly when college is in session. Parking is available on the street as well, and there are a couple spaces on the North West parking on the road - MAKE SURE they are unmarked places though!



Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, July 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 June meeting as published in the latest Newsletter were approved.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack reported that there have been good inputs to the club history document on Google docs. Please review it and add to it.

Vice President: C. E. Raum was not present.

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

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- There is money coming in through PayPal and MemberPlanet.
- Current balance with no outstanding checks or deposits is \$2,764.70.
- "Business" cards are available, see Jack.

MHAA Treasurer's Report for August 2019

As of 17 August 2019 we have \$2815.06 in the bank. We had three new membership payments this month, with one yet to be transferred to the bank from Member Planet.

I have not yet received receipts from the President for the awards given out at the Dutchess County Science Fair in March. The membership voted to spend up to \$200 for that activity, so that is our maximum liability, and it may be less.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer

Publicity: Tim Denman was present.

- He wants to do more internal publicity...events, etc.

Newsletter: Rick Versace was not present.

- It was suggested to keep the newsletter in Google Docs and just send out a link rather than dealing with MemberPlanet email distribution issues. This will be discussed with Rick and CE Raum.

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

Outreach: Joe Macagne was present. No news.

Upcoming programs: C.E. Raum was not present.

- August and September Meetings TBD
- See MeetUp page for the latest information.

Membership: C. E. Raum was not present.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present.

- He will be doing a presentation on the Apollo missions at the Gardner Library on Tuesday, July 23. If the weather is good, he'd like some 'scopes there for viewing.

Old Business:

- Last Club Star Party on July 5 at Lake Taghkanic was cancelled due to weather.
- July 10 talk at Goshen Library by Jack on the Event Horizon was well received.
- July 13 event at Staatsburg Library had 6 ‘scopes and 50-60 people. Good time.
- July 15 talk at Lagrange Library on starting out in astronomy was attended by 8-9 people.
- Club telescopes and equipment 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 well.
 5. Orion 8” dobsonian is with Jim Rockrohr.
 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:** August 2, 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.
- **50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 launch** is today! Watch “Chasing the Moon” a 6 hour movie about the space program on PBS. It is available to stream through Sept 3.
- Willie handed out “**Moon Oreos**” imprinted with space themes and purple icing.
- Look at **Apolloinrealtime.org** as they show mission control and all console audio for the entire mission in real time.
- **Sandy Wood** is leaving the long running radio program “Star Date” due to health reasons.
- **The August meeting will be in a new location:** the new Science Building Auditorium, SH181. See newpaltz.edu/map for directions and nearby parking. We may be meeting there for the rest of 2019.
- **We need speakers for our meetings:** please let C.E. Raum know if you have any leads or ideas.
- **Pictures by club members** are welcome. Send them to Jack.
- **Please consider membership.** All of our meetings and star parties are free and open to the public. Membership dues (\$25/year cash or check, \$27 if paid online) help with our expenses which include honorariums for our speakers, liability insurance for our events, club ‘scope repairs, etc. Benefits of paid membership include access to our club scopes, videos, and other equipment.
- We are getting a lot of **requests for talks** at libraries and schools this summer. Please volunteer. Contact Jack.
- **Upcoming events:**
 - o July 17: Goshen Library. See Jack; 6-12 graders.
 - o July 19: Walkway over the Hudson; need help. See Eric.
 - o July 22: Washington Library.
 - o July 23: SSA at Gardiner Library – Willie yee.
 - o July 24: Goshen Library. Jack, 3-6 graders.
 - o July 25: Plattekill Library. Jack; star party...need ‘scopes.
 - o July 31: Goshen Library. Jack; 6-12 graders
 - o August 1: Desmond Fish Library, Garrison, NY. Jack; star party...need ‘scopes.
 - o August 2: Club star party at Lake Taghkanic

Observing Reports:

- (None mentioned.)

Visitors/New Members:

There were about 14 people in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned at about 8:11 PM. **The next meeting is August 20th, 2019, in the Science Hall Auditorium, SH181, at SUNY, New Paltz.**

The presentation that followed was “50 Years of Apollo: Apollo Moon Science and Beyond” by Willie Yee, SSA (NASA Space Science Ambassador).

Submitted by James Rockrohr, August 16th, 2019.



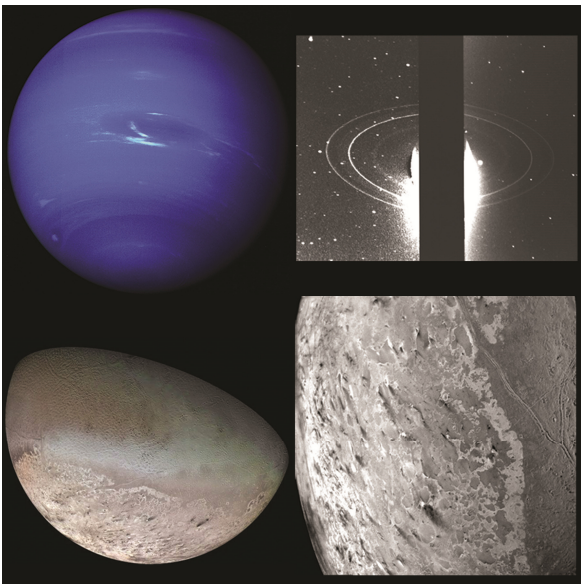
Chill Out: Spot an Ice Giant in August By David Prosper

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 to find local clubs, events, and more!

Is the summer heat getting to you? Cool off overnight while spotting one of the solar system’s ice giants: **Neptune!** It’s the perfect way to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Voyager 2’s flyby.

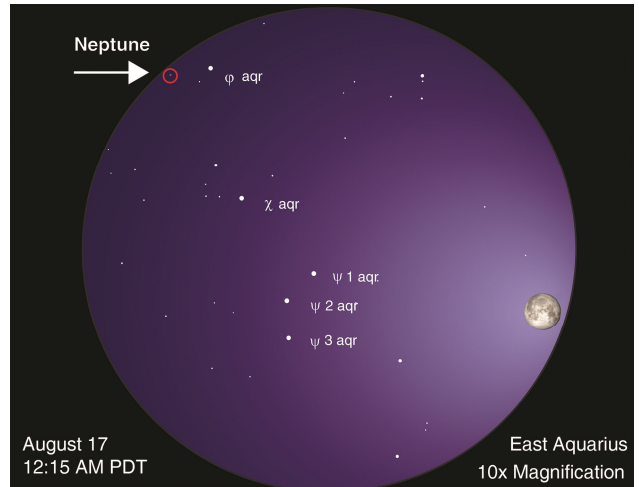
Neptune is too dim to see with your unaided eye so you’ll need a telescope to find it. Neptune is at opposition in September, but its brightness and apparent size won’t change dramatically as it’s so distant; the planet is usually just under 8th magnitude and 4.5 billion kilometers away. You can see Neptune with binoculars but a telescope is recommended if you want to discern its disc; the distant world reveals a very small but discernible disc at high magnification. Neptune currently appears in Aquarius, a constellation lacking in bright stars, which adds difficulty to pinpointing its exact location. Fortunately, the Moon travels past Neptune the night of August 16th, passing less than six degrees apart (or about 12 Moon widths) at their closest. If the Moon’s glare overwhelms Neptune’s dim light, you can still use the its location that evening to mark the general area to search on a darker night. Another Neptune-spotting tip: Draw an imaginary line from bright southern star Fomalhaut up to the Great Square of Pegasus, then mark a point roughly in the middle and search there, in the eastern edge of Aquarius. If you spot a blue-ish star, swap your telescope’s eyepiece to zoom in as much as possible. Is the suspect blue “star” now a tiny disc, while the surrounding stars remain points of white light? You’ve found Neptune!



Clockwise from top left: Neptune and the Great Dark Spot traced by white clouds; Neptune’s rings; Triton and its famed icy cantaloupe surface; close of up Triton’s surface, with dark streaks indicating possible cryovolcano activity. Find more images and science from Voyager 2’s flyby at bit.ly/NeptuneVoyager2 Image Credit: NASA/JPL

Neptune and Uranus are ice giant planets. These worlds are larger than terrestrial worlds like Earth but smaller than gas giants like Jupiter. Neptune’s atmosphere contains hydrogen and helium like a

gas giant, but also methane, which gives it a striking blue color. The “ice” in “ice giant” refers to the mix of ammonia, methane, and water that makes up most of Neptune’s mass, located in the planet’s large, dense, hot mantle. This mantle surrounds an Earth-size rocky core. Neptune possesses a faint ring system and 13 confirmed moons. NASA’s Voyager 2 mission made a very close flyby on August 25, 1989. It revealed a dynamic, stormy world streaked by the fastest winds in the solar system, their ferocity fueled by the planet’s surprisingly strong internal heating. Triton, Neptune’s largest moon, was discovered to be geologically active, with cryovolcanoes erupting nitrogen gas and dust dotting its surface, and a mottled “cantaloupe” terrain made up of hard water ice. Triton is similar to Pluto in size and composition, and orbits Neptune in the opposite direction of the planet’s rotation, unlike every other large moon in the solar system. These clues lead scientists to conclude that this unusual moon is likely a captured Kuiper Belt object.



Finder chart for Neptune. This is a simulated view through 10x50 binoculars (10x magnification). Please note that the sizes of stars in this chart indicate their brightness, not their actual size. Moon image courtesy NASA Scientific Visualization Studio;

Discover more about Voyager 2, along with all of NASA’s past, present, and future missions, at 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 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.
- ♦ 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.