



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association September, 2019

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

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

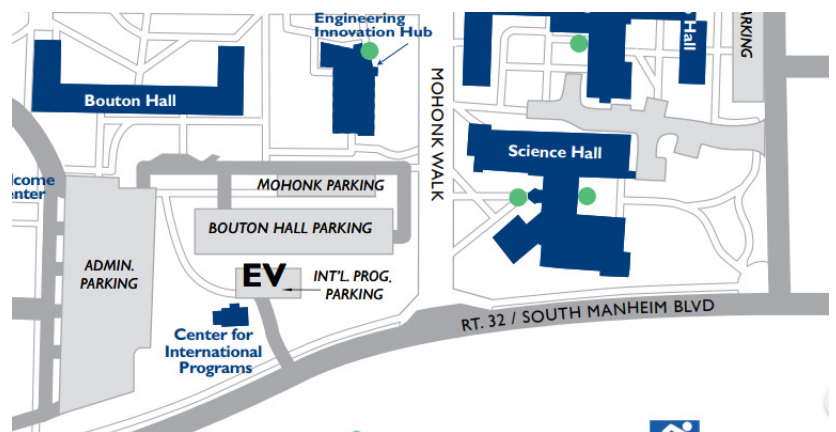
Directors: Joe Macagne, Steve Carey, Willie Yee, Karl Loatman

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

Vice President: C. E. Raum
Treasurer: Eric Myers
Membership Coordinator: C. E. Raum
Webmaster: Paul Chauvet
Outreach: Joe Macagne
College Liaison: Dr. Amy Forestell

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

The Meeting will be in the Science Hall, 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, August 20, 2019

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

The minutes of the July meeting as published in the latest Newsletter were approved.

Officer's Reports:

President: Nothing new.

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

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

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See the newsletter for the latest information.
- Current balance is \$2,815.06
- He is getting memberships through MemberPlanet.
- T-shirts (\$15) and sweatshirts (\$25) are available.

MHAA Treasurer's Report for September 2019

As of 15 September 2019 we have \$2940.42 in our bank account, but two outstanding checks: the first to Jack Chastain for \$148.00 to pay him back for awards for the Dutchess County Science Fair in March, and the second to Paul Chauvet for \$106.86 to pay him back for paying for Meetup.com. (And the price seems to have gone up for Meetup.com). We had one new membership payment from last month from Member Planet, for \$24.99, leaving our net available balance at \$2685.56..

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer

Publicity: Tim Denman was present. Nothing new.

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. Also, the star party dates list says "2018" and it should be "2019".

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

Outreach: Joe Macagne was present.

- Possible Girl Scout Badge. We may get requests for programs.
- There is a "dude ranch" resort in Kerhonkson that is looking for an astronomy related program.
- We have a request from the West Hurley Library for help in buying a telescope to lend out. Karl Loatman has some experience in this area. Joe Macagne will also help.

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

- We have a member who is willing to give a talk on building a home observatory. Date TBD.
- See MeetUp page for the latest information.

Membership: C. E. Raum was not present.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present. Nothing new.

Old Business:

- Last Club Star Party on August 2 at Lake Taghkanic turned out well. We had lots of people and cameras.
- There were multiple other events, many of which were cancelled due to the weather.

New Business:

- **Next Club Star Party:** August 30, 8:00 PM. Be sure to RSVP with 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 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. Greg Salyer has already contributed several.
- **We will be meeting in the Science Hall Auditorium (SH181) for the next several months.**
- **Please consider paid 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.

Observing Reports:

- (None mentioned.)

Visitors/New Members:

There were about 18 people in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned at about 8:04 PM. **The next meeting is September 17th, 2019, in the Science Hall Auditorium, SH181, at SUNY, New Paltz.**

The presentations that followed were a number of member presentations:

- Eric Myers had 4 "mini" presentations on work he has ongoing:
 - o The latest on the Scale Model Solar System (1000 yard model).
 - o Adding a red dot finder and a laser pointer to one of the colleges 8" dobsonians by adapting a laser gun sight.
 - o Updates on the Pi Camera and adding an iPad as a viewing screen for public showings.
 - o The college has two 6" Criterion and a 10" Criterion that need some TLC if someone is willing to take on the projects.
- Willie Yee did a presentation on the "Benefits of the Space Program"
- Karl Loatman: "Misdiagnosis? Dr. Karl Jung's Phallus of the Sun Disk vs. Sun Grazing Comets."
- Steve Bossert: Amateur Radio Astronomy (Hudson Valley Digital Network, [www. HVDN.com](http://www.HVDN.com))

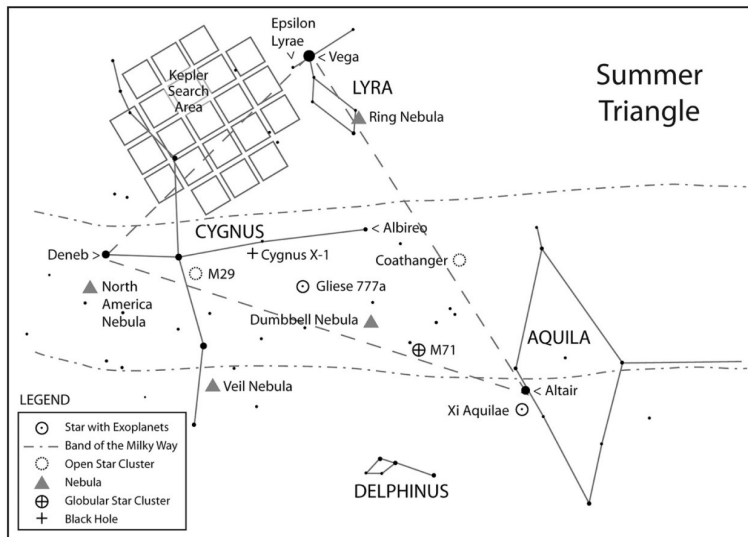
Submitted by James Rockrohr, September 14th, 2019.



Spot the Stars of the Summer Triangle

David Prosper

September skies are a showcase for the **Summer Triangle**, its three stars gleaming directly overhead after sunset. The **equinox** ushers in the official change of seasons on September 23. **Jupiter** and **Saturn** maintain their vigil over the southern horizon, but set earlier each evening, while the terrestrial planets remain hidden.

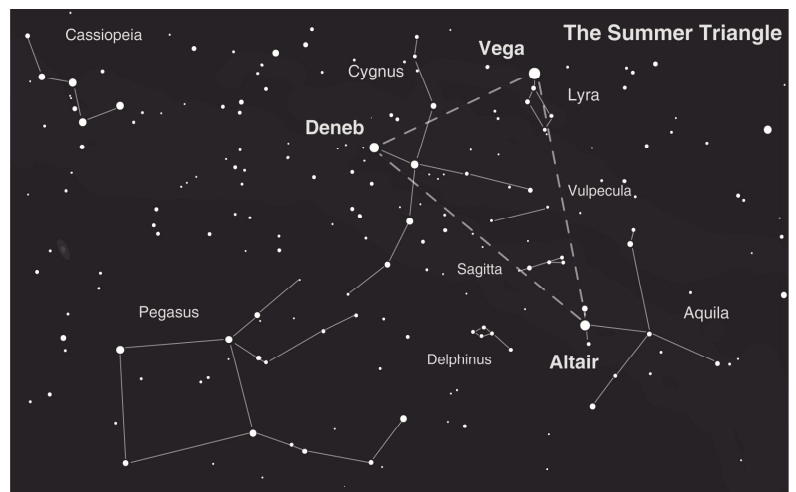


The bright three points of the **Summer Triangle** are among the first stars you can see after sunset: Deneb, Vega, and Altair. The Summer Triangle is called an **asterism**, as it's not an official constellation, but still a striking group of stars. However, the Triangle is the key to spotting multiple constellations! Its three stars are themselves the brightest in their respective constellations: Deneb, in Cygnus the Swan; Vega, in Lyra the Harp; and Altair, in Aquila the Eagle. That alone would be impressive, but the Summer Triangle also contains two small constellations inside its lines, Vulpecula the Fox and Sagitta the Arrow. There is even another small constellation just outside its borders: diminutive Delphinus the Dolphin. The Summer Triangle is huge!

Once you spot the Summer Triangle, you can explore the cosmic treasures found in this busy region of the Milky Way. Make sure to "Take a Trip Around the Triangle" before it sets this fall! Find the full handout at bit.ly/TriangleTrip

The **equinox** occurs on September 23, officially ushering in autumn for folks in the Northern Hemisphere and bringing with it longer nights and shorter days, a change many stargazers appreciate. Right before sunrise on the 23rd, look for Deneb - the Summer Triangle's last visible point - flickering right above the western horizon, almost as if saying goodbye to summer.

The Summer Triangle region is home to many important astronomical discoveries. Cygnus X-1, the first confirmed black hole, was initially detected here by x-ray equipment on board a sounding rocket launched in 1964. NASA's Kepler Mission, which revolutionized our understanding of exoplanets, discovered thousands of planet candidates within its initial field of view in Cygnus. The Dumbbell Nebula (M27), the first planetary nebula discovered, was spotted by Charles Messier in the diminutive constellation Vulpecula way back in 1764!



This wider view of the area around the Summer Triangle includes another nearby asterism: the Great Square of Pegasus.

Planet watchers can easily find **Jupiter** and **Saturn** shining in the south after sunset, with Jupiter to the right and brighter than Saturn. At the beginning of September, Jupiter sets shortly after midnight, with Saturn following a couple of hours later, around 2:00am. By month's end the gas giant duo are setting noticeably earlier: Jupiter sets right before 10:30pm, with Saturn following just after midnight. Thankfully for planet watchers, earlier fall sunsets help these giant worlds remain in view for a bit longer. The terrestrial planets, Mars, Venus, and Mercury, remain hidden in the Sun's glare for the entire month.

2019 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.