



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

May, 2020

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

groups.io Group: [mhaa.groups.io](https://groups.io/g/mhaa)

President : Jack Chastain

Secretary: Jim Rockrohr

Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace

Publicity: Open

Speakers: ?

Vice President: Tim Denman

Treasurer: Eric Myers

Membership Coordinator: Open

Webmaster: ?

Outreach: ?

College Liaison: Dr. Amy Forestell

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

General Meeting, April 19 to once again be held via Zoom. Please use the following link to access the Zoom meeting beginning at 1930 Tuesday, 19 April:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82159736227?pwd=Z3U3Nm5HOEs3SWJZQ0dOSzMrTlFOZz09>

Meeting ID: 821 5973 6227

Password: Stars

To join by phone, use

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, April 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Jack Chastain on the online application Zoom.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. (There was no March meeting due to the Carona virus outbreak.)

Officer's Reports:

President: The meeting is being recorded on Zoom.

Vice President: Tim Denman was present but no news.

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

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See the newsletter for the latest information.
- He has purchased a month to month “pro” subscription to Zoom so we can go longer than the 40 minutes allowed in the free version. It costs \$15/month.
- Since the Dutchess County Science Fair was cancelled, the \$200 allocated for prizes will be used to pay for the Zoom subscription.
- He reports that he has renewed our liability insurance and it is paid in full for the year.
- T-shirts (\$15), sweatshirts (\$25) and pins (\$4) are available.
- Membership dues of \$25 per year can be paid by cash or check to Eric. Eric has PayPal set up which will cost \$1 more. You can also pay through MemberPlanet for a \$2 charge.

Publicity: Tim Denman was present. He has added several new newspapers to our press releases and calendar events.

Newsletter: Rick Versace was not present.

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

Outreach: Joe Macagne was not present.

Upcoming programs: (need leader)

- See MeetUp page for the latest information.

Membership: (need leader)

- (no report)

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present. He is scheduled to give a presentation about Mars at the Moffat library.

Old Business:

- Science Fair cancelled and money used for Zoom subscription (see above).

New Business:

- Upcoming star party will be virtual on Zoom. We may not be having any in-person star parties for the foreseeable future.
- The April 24 star party will be a presentation by Greg Salyer using his home observatory and broadcasting pictures live on Zoom (assuming the weather cooperates). Jack will be adding context with Stellarium.

Upcoming Events

- **Next Club Star Party:** April 24; see above.
- **Lyrid meteor shower:** Tonight (April 21). Peak will be in the early AM.
- **American Museum of Natural History Watch Party:** 6 PM April 22. See their website for details.
- **Walkway Over the Hudson:** They are asking if we could do a virtual event in May on Zoom with Stellarium. Jack to get more details.

Observing Reports:

- (none reported)
- Comet “Atlas” has broken up.

- Comet “Swan” will be visible in May (currently in the southern hemisphere.)

Visitors/New Members:

There were about 20 people in attendance on Zoom at the end of the business meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 PM. **The next meeting is May 19th, 2020, probably on Zoom. Check Meetup for details and link.**

The presentation that followed was by Greg Salyer showing and talking about the hardware in his home observatory that he will be using for the virtual star party on Friday, 4/24.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, May 17th, 2020.



MHAA Treasurer’s Report for May 2020

As of 16 May 2020 we have \$2,824.66 in our bank account, with no outstanding checks or debts. The Treasurer holds \$30 in Petty Cash to make change for dues or selling shirts and pins. (And by the way, I now have some nice MHAA lapel pins for for sale at \$4 each, donated by Willie Yee.) We had four new members join this past month (welcome to Larry, Erich, Alex, and Michael), with 3 paying by PayPal, and one who sent a check by mail. We also had 3 existing members renew and pay dues via Member Planet. As a result we have a PayPal balance of \$74.85 and a Member Planet balance of \$74.97. We currently have 37 paid annual memberships.

Our monthly charge of \$14.99 for our Zoom account is now being paid out of our PayPal account, so we don’t have to reimburse someone for paying for it on their personal credit card.

Our annual tax filings have been completed. I sent in Form 990 to the IRS, which helps preserve our tax-exempt status with them, and I sent in New York State form CHAR500 to maintain our “charity” registration with the state.

We have 6 members who have not yet paid dues for the coming year. Rick Versace has been working on an automated system to send out e-mails to just members or to just a subset of members, such as those who are behind in their dues. We need to test it further before putting it into production, but the plan is to use it to send reminders to those who may have forgotten. We can also use it for other emails just to members, since our email list on groups.io also includes non-members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer



Messages from the President

Alex Passas has joined MHAA and will be assisting Tim Denman with various duties, including speakers and outreach. Welcome Alex, and Thanks!

Star Party - Friday (or Saturday) May 22 (or 23 - or ???)

MHAA will once again try to have a Virtual Star Party. We have scheduled it for Friday as usual, but way too far ahead, the weather looks bad (if I say that enough, Nature will have to prove me WRONG so it will be nice, right?)

We will try to have a few more presenters this time - if all the stars align just right (so to speak). Info will as always be on Meetup, including all data about joining via Zoom.

Astronomical Events!

Two nice conjunctions should be occurring Thursday, May 21 and Saturday, May 23. The first is a nice one with Venus and Mercury within one degree visible (hopefully) between 2010 and Mercury setting around 2101 or so depending on your location.

The second is a few days later on Saturday, May 23, when the Moon, a bare 30 or so hours old, joins Mercury and Saturn just before they all set. The moon will be a very slim crescent and will probably be really hard to see, but it should be nice if you can. Of course, it will probably be cloudy, raining, miserable, whatever. Sigh.

Reminder: May 27th - SpaceX scheduled to launch HUMANS from the US for the first time since 2011!

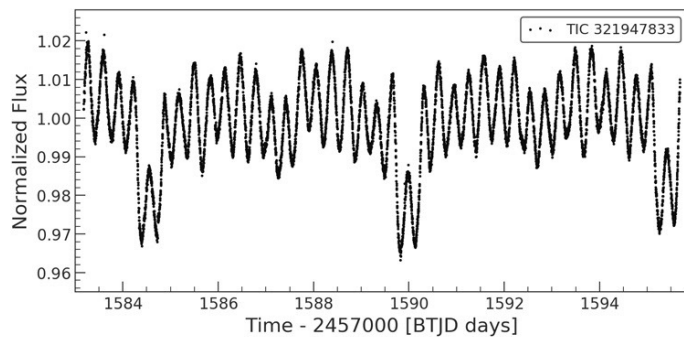


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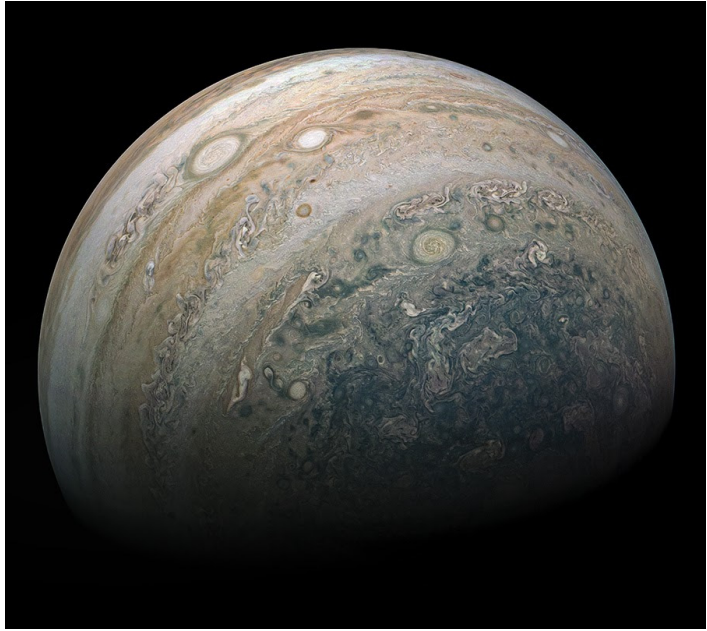
David Prosper

Ever want to mix in some science with your stargazing, but not sure where to start? NASA hosts a galaxy of citizen science programs that you can join! You'll find programs perfect for dedicated astronomers and novices alike, from reporting aurora, creating amazing images from real NASA data, searching for asteroids, and scouring data from NASA missions from the comfort of your home. If you can't get to your favorite stargazing spot, then NASA's suite of citizen science programs may be just the thing for you.



Light curve of a binary star system containing a pulsating (variable) star, as spotted on Planet Hunters TESS by user mhuten and featured by project scientist Nora Eisner as a "Light Curve of the Week." Credit: Planet Hunters TESS/NASA/mhuten/Nora Eisner

Jupiter shines brightly in the morning sky this spring. If you'd rather catch up on sleep, or if your local weather isn't cooperating, all you need is a space telescope - preferably one in orbit around Jupiter! Download raw images straight from the Juno mission, and even process and submit your favorites, on the **JunoCam** website! You may have seen some incredible images from Juno in the news, but did you know that these images were created by enthusiasts like yourself? Go to their website and download some sample images to start your image processing journey. Who knows where it will take you? Get started at bit.ly/nasajunocam



GREAT SOUTHERN JUPITER: Incredible image of Jupiter, submitted to the JunoCam site by Kevin M. Gill. Full Credits : NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS/Kevin M. Gill

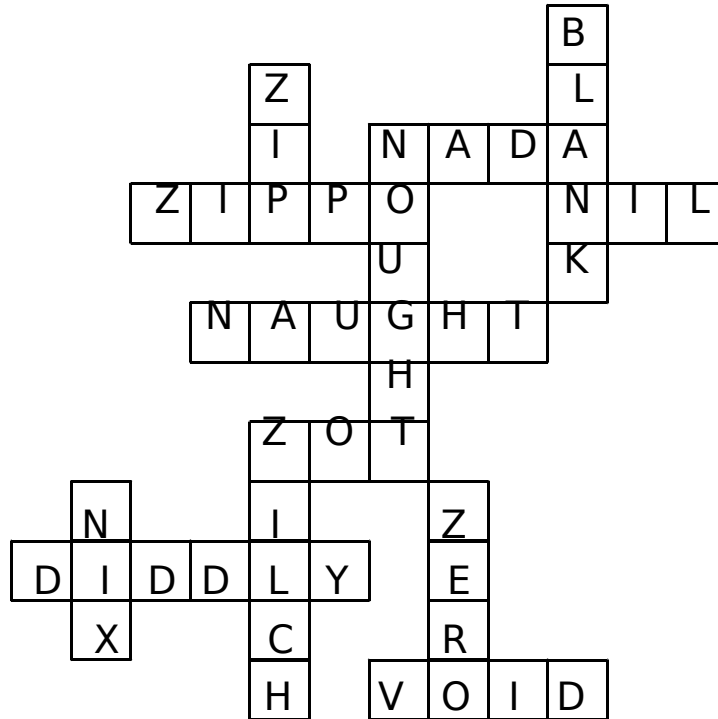
Interested in hunting for asteroids? Want to collaborate with a team to find them?? The **International Astronomical Search Collaboration** program matches potential asteroid hunters together into teams throughout the year to help each other dig into astronomical data in order to spot dim objects moving in between photos. If your team discovers a potential asteroid that is later confirmed, you may even get a chance to name it! Join or build a team and search for asteroids at iasc.cosmosearch.org

Want to help discover planets around other star systems? NASA's TESS mission is orbiting the Earth right now and scanning the sky for planets around other stars. It's accumulating a giant horde of data, and NASA scientists need your help to sift through it all to find other worlds! You can join **Planet Hunters TESS** at: planethunters.org

Intrigued by these opportunities? These are just a few of the many ways to participate in NASA citizen science, including observing your local environment with the GLOBE program, reporting aurora with Aurorasaurus, measuring snowpack levels, training software for Mars missions – even counting penguins! Discover more opportunities at science.nasa.gov/citizenscience and join the NASA citizen science Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/Sciencing/
And of course, visit nasa.gov to find the latest discoveries from all the research teams at NASA!

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# Nothing



Down:

1. nothing
2. nothing
3. nothing
7. nothing
8. nothing
9. nothing

Across:

3. nothing
4. nothing
5. nothing
6. nothing
7. nothing
10. nothing
11. nothing

## 2020 Star Party Schedule

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| January 24   | 5:00 PM |
| February 21  | 5:30 PM |
| March 27     | 7:00 PM |
| April 24     | 7:30 PM |
| May 22       | 8:00 PM |
| June 19      | 8:30 PM |
| July 17      | 8:30 PM |
| August 21    | 7:30 PM |
| September 18 | 7:00 PM |
| October 16   | 6:00 PM |
| November 13  | 4:30 PM |
| December 11  | 4:30 PM |
| <b>2021</b>  |         |
| January 15   | 4:30 PM |

### Directions To The Star Party Site

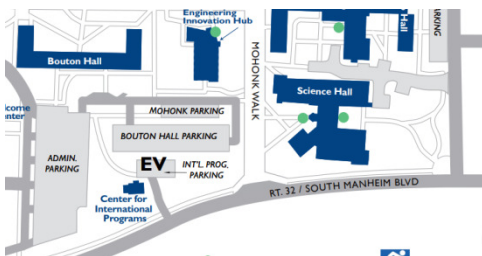
[Lake Taghkanic State Park](#) is in the town Ancram, NY. The park entrance is on the Taconic Parkway 10 minutes north of the exit used for Wilcox park.

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 the Science Hall Bldg., SUNY New Paltz (directions below) 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).



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!