



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

November, 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: Tim Denman

Speakers: Alexandra Passas

Vice President: Tim Denman

Treasurer: Eric Myers

Membership Coordinator: Open

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar

Outreach: Joe Macagne

College Liaison: Dr. Amy Bartholomew

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

The next meeting is November 17th, 2020, on Zoom. Check MeetUp for details and link. Link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

Speaker for November

Viewing and Imaging the Sun by Tim "TJ" Connolly

Learn how to safely view and image the sun. This presentation will guide you through the various solar scopes available on the market, important differences between the solar setups, the various types of solar filters, what they will show on the sun, and a peek at solar imaging.



Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, October 20, 2020

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

The minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously as published in the newsletter. It was suggested that the directions to SUNY New Paltz Science Hall be removed for now since we are not meeting there.

Officer's Reports:

President: The meeting is being recorded on Zoom. We will be continuing on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

- We need a nominating committee for officers for 2021. If no volunteers, Jack will appoint someone.
- Yahoo Groups is ending on December 15. All messages should move to Groups.io (main@mhaa.groups.io).

Vice President: Tim Denman was present. No news to report.

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

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See the newsletter for the latest information.
- Picked up 1 new paying member.
- We received a \$100 donation from the SUNY New Paltz Asian Studies group (see below).
- 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. Middletown Record is giving us good coverage.

- Let Tim know if you see any of our publicity.
- Star parties are published only on MeetUp to restrict attendance. Even so we had 35 people at the last outdoor star party.
- We need to set up future Star Parties on MeetUp so people can plan.

Newsletter: Rick Versace was present.

- If you send something to Rick for the newsletter and do not get an acknowledgement from him by the Saturday before the meeting, contact him again as it may have gotten lost in his email.

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar was present.

- Still working on a proof-of-concept website

Outreach: Joe Macagne was not present.

- Willie Yee mentioned that Olana has reached out to Joe to arrange something for December. Stay tuned.

Upcoming programs: Alexandra Passas was present.

- November: Need a speaker due to a cancellation. Several suggestions were made at the meeting and Alex will pursue them.
- December: Traditionally member presentations.
- January: Seth McGowan.
- See MeetUp page for the latest information.

Membership: (needs leader; Eric is handling it for now but needs help.)

- Picking up members from New York City.
- We've gained 3 new members in the last month.
- How to become a member? Read about it under "MORE" on MeetUp.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present.

- Giving Black hole presentation to Westchester Astronomy club on November 6.

- Osiris-Rex touchdown press conference at 1 PM tomorrow.
- Soyuz returning from ISS tomorrow. This is the last scheduled US use of Soyuz. We will use SpaceX or other commercial launches in the future.
- The James Webb Space Telescope will launch 1 year from now.
- Willie will be giving his Chinese Astronomy History presentation to the Long Island Astronomy Club.
- SSA John Fontana is working on Mars interests.

Old Business:

- The last star party on Saturday had excellent skies and a large turnout. Counted 18 cars.
 - Zoom presentation of telescopes did not turn out well using phone cameras. Will keep working on it.
- The club provided talks and a Zoom presentation for International Observe the Moon Night to the SUNY NP Asian Studies Class and received a \$100 donation.

New Business:

- We need a nominating committee. Officers are to be presented for nomination at the next (November) meeting.
- MHAA has received a Celestron Celestar 8" telescope with a clock drive. Working on repairs.
- Club scopes and cameras are available to paid members.
- Indoor meetings are not likely for quite a while due to SUNY guidelines.

Upcoming Events

- **Next Club Star Party:** November 13 at Lake Taghkanic State park.
- Osiris Rex touchdown on NASA TV.
- Request from the Girl Scouts for an event in Westchester.
- **(Saugerties Science Fair cancelled due to Covid.)**

Observing Reports:

- Orinid meteor shower peaks tonight (10/20).

Visitors/New Members:

There were about 38 Zoom windows in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM. **The next meeting is November 17th, 2020, on Zoom. Check MeetUp for details and link. Link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

The presentation that followed was by John Fontana, SSA: "NASA's Journey to Mars."

Submitted by James Rockrohr, November 13th, 2020.



MHAA Treasurer's Report for November 2020

As of 14 November 2020 we have \$3,190.13 in our bank account and \$158.73 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$15 in petty cash.

This month we received a donation of \$100.00 from the SUNY New Paltz Asian Studies Program for an on-line event we helped them with on Oct. 1st. We received dues from one new member, one renewing member, and one lapsed member who has rejoined the club. I am expecting to receive a payment from the Westchester Amateur Astronomers

for a talk Willie Yee recently gave them. He's asked me to apply this to his next year's dues and then "keep the change." Thank you, Willie.

We paid \$112.35 to member Ryan Murphy for parts to repair the new Mead LX200 telescope. I expect by the time of the meeting we will have again paid our monthly Zoom Pro bill for \$14.99.

The way our Zoom bill is paid has been slightly odd, in that we pay with PayPal but it's immediately debited from our bank account, which is tied to the PayPal account. After investigating this a bit it seems we might be able to have them just take it out of our PayPal balance if I provide them with some legal identification information (including our Federal Tax Information Number). I have done so, and it seems to have worked, but I won't know for sure until the Zoom bill is paid.

I have removed Member Planet as an option for paying dues, with the hope that we can get off of it completely soon. PayPal works well for on-line payments, they charge a lower service fee, and I may be able to pay bills directly using PayPal without touching our bank balance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Myers

Treasurer



From the President

Officer Nominations!

It's that time again. Every December, MHAA elects its officers for the following year. The following positions are elected, along with those currently in the position:

President - Jack Chastain
Vice President - Tim Denman
Treasurer - Eric Myers
Secretary - James Rockrohr
Newsletter Editor - Rick Versace
Publicity Chairperson - Open (Tim Denman filling in)

In addition, the four Directors, otherwise known as the Steering Committee, are also elected. Current members are:

Article 8, Section 1 of MHAA bylaws states:

Both the elected officers listed in Article IV, Section 1, and the four Directors on the Steering Committee, will be elected by the membership of the Association to serve for one year, or until their successors are elected. Their term of office

shall begin at the close of the meeting at which they are elected, and shall end at the close of the following Annual meeting or immediately after the election of their successor.

Further, Article 8, Section 2 of MHAA bylaws states:

At the regular meeting in October a Nominating Committee will be elected by the membership of the Association to draw up a list of candidates for the election of Officers and Directors. Said list will be announced at the November meeting. Additional nominations from the floor may be made by members at the November meeting. Elections will be held at the December meeting.

We therefore hereby solicit, beg and entreaty someone to take up the (Very Minor!) task of performing the duties of the Nominating Committee at the meeting this month!

Please contact any of the current officers to volunteer!

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### **Yahoo Groups finally vanishing completely**

It was bound to happen - even though they said it wasn't. Yahoo Groups is really going away now. December 15 is the last day that any emails may be sent or received through that platform.

Thankfully, we saw this coming and established [groups.io](https://groups.io) as the operative site. This amounts to a series of "Last Notices" (kind of like those "This is your last notification for auto insurance" phone calls....) for yahoo groups MHAA channel - Move to [grtroups.io](https://grtroups.io) or be left out!

To access our MHAA list on [groups.io](https://groups.io), simply go to <https://mhaa.groups.io/g/main> and sign up!

Up until mid December, notices will be sent out several times to "move it or lose it!" - only on the Yahoo platform though. If you don't want to get the message repeatedly, log into the Yahoo site, remove your membership there and make sure you join the group again on [groups.io](https://groups.io)!

Jack

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This article
is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

The International Space Station: 20 Continuously Crewed Years of Operation

David Prosper

Did you know that humans have been living in the International Space Station, uninterrupted, for twenty years? Ever since the first crew members docked with the International Space Station (ISS) in November 2000, more than 240 people have visited this outpost, representing 19 countries working together. They have been busy building, upgrading, and maintaining the space station - while simultaneously engaging in cutting-edge scientific research.

The first modules that would later make up the ISS were launched into orbit in 1998: the Russian Zarya launched via a Proton-K rocket, and the US-built Unity module launched about a week and a half later by the Space Shuttle Endeavour. Subsequent missions added vital elements and modules to the Space Station before it was ready to be inhabited. And at last, on November 2, 2000, Expedition-1 brought the first three permanent crew members to the station in a Russian Soyuz capsule: NASA astronaut William M. Shepherd and Russian cosmonauts Sergei Krikalev and Yuri Gidzenk. Since then, an entire generation has been born into a world where humans continually live and work in space! The pressurized space inside this modern engineering marvel is roughly equal to the volume of a Boeing 747, and is sometimes briefly shared by up to 13 individuals, though the average number of crew members is 6. The unique microgravity environment of the ISS means that long-term studies can be performed on the space station that can't be performed anywhere on Earth in many fields including space medicine, fluid dynamics, biology, meteorology and environmental monitoring, particle physics, and astrophysics. Of course, one of the biggest and longest experiments on board is research into the effects of microgravity on the human body itself, absolutely vital knowledge for future crewed exploration into deep space.



The ISS photobombs the Sun in this amazing image taken during the eclipse of August 21, 2017 from Banner, Wyoming. Photo credit: NASA/Joel Kowsky More info: bit.ly/eclipseiss



A complete view of the ISS as of October 4, 2018, taken from the Soyuz capsule of the departing crew of Expedition 56 from their Soyuz capsule. This structure was built by materials launched into orbit by 37 United States Space Shuttle missions and 5 Russian Proton and Soyuz rockets, and assembled and maintained by 230 spacewalks, with more to come! Credit: NASA/Roscosmos More info: bit.ly/issbasics and stargazing and satellite tracking apps.

Stargazers have also enjoyed the presence of the ISS as it graces our skies with bright passes overhead. This space station is the largest object humans have yet put into orbit at 357 feet long, almost the length of an American football field (if end zones are included). The large solar arrays – 240 feet wide - reflect quite a bit of sunlight, at times making the ISS brighter than Venus to observers on the ground! Its morning and evening passes can be a treat for stargazers and can even be observed from brightly-lit cities. People all over the world can spot the ISS, and with an orbit only 90 minutes long, sometimes you can spot the station multiple times a night. You can find the next ISS pass near you and receive alerts at sites like NASA's Spot the Station website (spotthestation.nasa.gov)

Hundreds of astronauts from all over the world have crewed the International Space Station over the last two decades, and their work has inspired countless people to look up and ponder humanity's presence and future in space. You can find out more about the International Space Station and how living and working on board this amazing outpost has helped prepare us to return to the Moon - and beyond! - at nasa.gov.

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## 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 |

## 2021

|            |         |
|------------|---------|
| January 15 | 4:30 PM |
|------------|---------|

## Directions To The Star Party Site

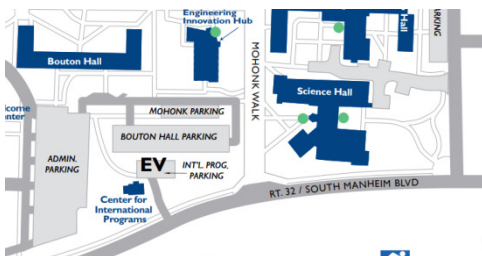
[Lake Taghkanic State Park](#) is in the town Ancram, NY. The park entrance is on the Taconic Parkway 10 minutes north of the exit used for Wilcox park.

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!