



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

August, 2021

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

groups.io Group: mhaa.groups.io

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: Rick Versace

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar

Outreach: Joe Macagne

College Liaison: Dr. Amy Bartholomew

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

The next meeting is August 17th, 2021, on Zoom. Check MeetUp for details and link. Link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

Speaker for August

NASA Ambassador to Discuss Moons of the Solar System

Dr. Willie Yee will be giving a talk about the moons of the solar system. This dynamic topic has much updated information and actually changes yearly. All the major planets except Mercury and Venus have moons. NASA and other countries have explored these moons, usually in the course of exploring other solar system bodies. This talk will explore the variety of moons encountered, their history, structures, and possible missions for the futures.



Lectures Opportunity

submitted by Alex Passas

I recently discovered an online source of astronomy lectures. The Amateur Astronomers Association offers online lectures at 7 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. Their website is aaa.org. If you open that up you go to events then calendar and click on the word lecture on the second Tuesday. Scroll down to register. Have fun!

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, July 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by President Jack Chastain on the online application Zoom.

The minutes of the June meeting as published in the newsletter with a correction to the radio station call letters to WJFF were approved unanimously.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack Chastain was present.

- Discussed progress on online star parties. Need some helpers to manage Zoom windows, etc. See Jack or Eric Myers.
- Need to work on getting imagers on telescopes onto Zoom.

Vice President: Tim Denman was present.

- We are now advertising our star parties to the public in newspapers, Facebook, etc. Did anyone see them? Let Tim know.
- Sent press releases about this meeting and the next star party (August 6).
- Let Tim know who will be actually attending star parties as we need to have at least 1 member there.

Secretary: Jim Rockrohr was present.

- Nothing new to report.

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See the newsletter for the latest information.
- Account is healthy.
- PayPal rates are going up slightly.
- The membership list is available to club officers on MeetUp.
- We need to start sending dues reminders to people now that we are off of MemberPlanet.

Publicity: (Need a volunteer. Tim Denman is covering.)

- (See Vice President above.)

Newsletter: Rick Versace was not present.

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar was present.

- Continuing web page development.
- Ready to send pages to Jack for review.
- Hope to launch by the end of the month (July).

Outreach: Joe McCagne was not present.

Upcoming Programs: Alexandra Passas was present.

- August: Willie Yee, Solar system moons.
- Others in the works.

Membership: Rick Versace was not present.

- Eric reports we added one new member.
- In response to questions, Eric reported we have about 50 paid members and 66 members on Groups.io.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present.

- Making a presentation to us about the moons of the solar system next month.
- From NASA: Hubble is back online!
- Mars Perseverance Rover update on NASA website on Wednesday, 7/21, at 1 PM EDT.

Old Business:

- The last club star party was Saturday, July 10th.

- Very good sky conditions.
- Lots of telescopes!
- Jack made a presentation to 50 grade school students in Saugerties. It was well received and fun to do.

New Business:

- Question about when we might return to SUNY for live meetings. Eric has nothing “official” yet, but all students will be required to be vaccinated next fall. It might be possible for outside groups that are fully vaccinated to use the facilities at that time. Eric will submit the application for the room and see what happens. Recommended to keep doing zoom anyway.
- MHAA will require proof of vaccination when we return to in-person indoor meetings.

Upcoming Events

- **Next Club Star Party:** August 6 at Lake Taghkanic State park. See MeetUp and YOU MUST RSVP with car make, model and license plate number to attend.
- **Walkway at Night:** This Friday, July 23. See Eric. We have 3 ‘scopes, so far.
- **Astrophotography Conference:** October 7-10 at the Adirondack Sky Center and Observatory in Tupper Lake, NY. Welcomes beginners. Great presentations and classes. See Steve Dittmar for details.

Observing Reports:

- None

Visitors/New Members:

There were about 17 Zoom windows in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM. **The next meeting is August 17th, 2021, on Zoom. Check MeetUp for details and link. Link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

The presentation that followed was by Alex Howe, post doc at Goddard Space Center: “Super Earths to Super Jupiters”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, August 8th, 2021.



MHAA Treasurer’s Report for August 2021

As of 14 August 2021 we have \$3,409.20 in our bank account and \$221.36 in our PayPal account, with no outstanding checks. This month I deposited a \$25 gift we received at a star party, and we had three new memberships

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer

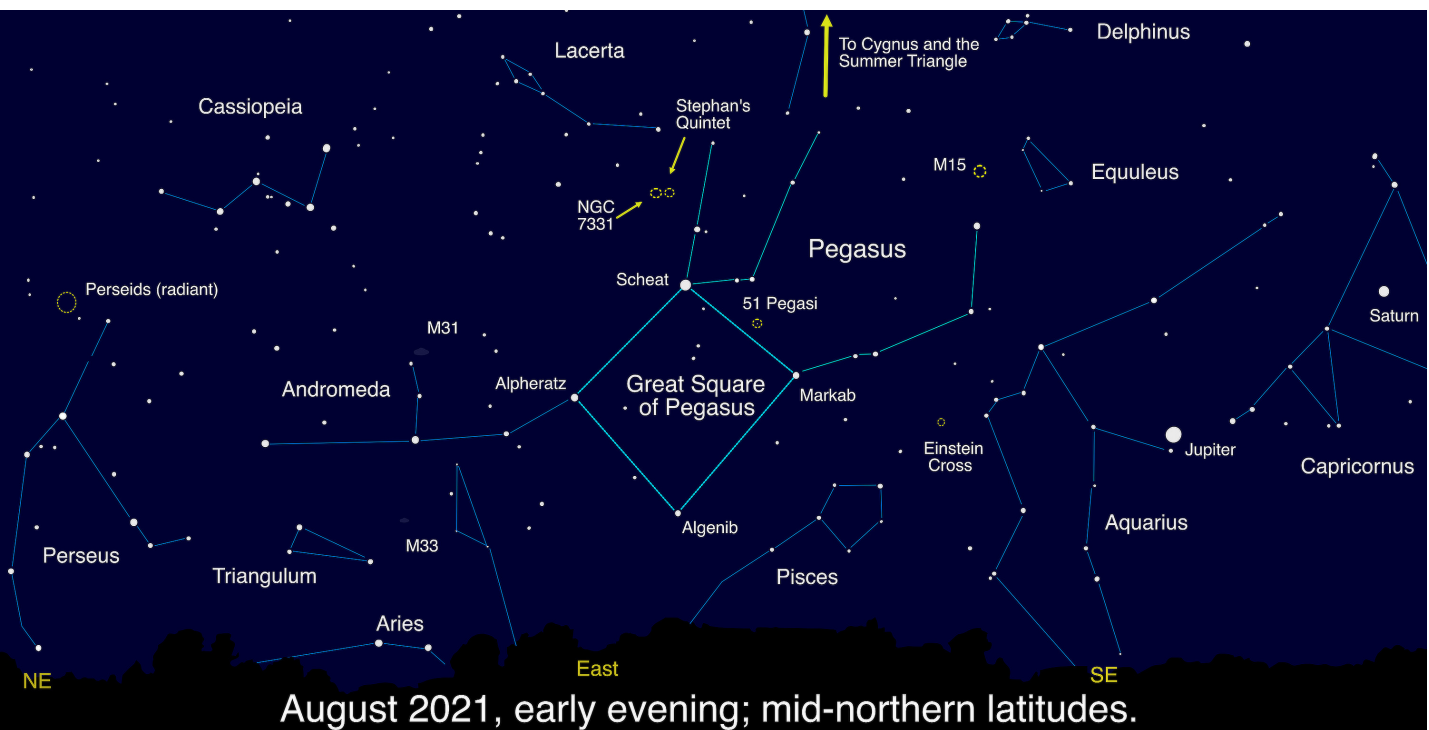


This article
is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

Corner the Great Square of Pegasus

David Prosper

The Summer Triangle may be the most famous seasonal star pattern, but during early August evenings another geometrically-themed asterism rises: the Great Square of Pegasus. This asterism’s name is a bit misleading: while three of its stars - Scheat, Markab, and Algenib - are indeed found in the constellation of the winged horse Pegasus, its fourth star, Alpheratz, is the brightest star in the constellation Andromeda!



While the stars of the Great Square of Pegasus are not as bright as those of the Summer Triangle, they still stand out compared to their neighbors, and make a great foundation for exploring this area of the night sky. Note that the brightness of the stars near the horizon is exaggerated in this picture.

August evenings are an excellent time to look for the Great Square, as it will be rising in the east after sunset. If not obvious at first, wait for this star pattern to rise a bit above the murky air, and remember that depending on your point of view, it may appear more like a diamond than a square. Look for it below the Summer Triangle, or to the southeast of nearby Cassiopeia at this time. As the Great Square rises in prominence during autumn evenings, it becomes a handy guidepost to finding more constellations, including some of the dimmer members of the Zodiac: Aries, Pisces, Aquarius, and Capricornus. Like the Summer Triangle, the Great Square of Pegasus is also huge, but Pegasus itself is even larger; out of the 88 constellations, Pegasus is 7th in size, and feels larger as the stars in its neighboring constellations are much dimmer.

There are many notable deep-sky objects found within the stars of Pegasus - ranging from easily spotted to expert level targets - making it a great constellation to revisit as your observing skills improve. Notable objects include the densely-packed stars of globular cluster M15, a great first target. The potential "Milky Way look-alike" galaxy NGC 7331 is a fun target for more advanced observers, and expert observers can hop nearby to try to tease out the much dimmer interacting galaxies of Stephan's Quintet. A fascinating (but extremely difficult to observe) object is a gravitationally-lensed quasar famously known as the Einstein Cross. Pegasus has quite a storied history in the field of exoplanet research: 51 Pegasi was the first Sun-like star discovered to be host to a planet outside our solar system, now officially named Dimidium.

While observing Pegasus and its surroundings, keep your eyes relaxed and ready to catch some Perseids, too! August 2021 promises an excellent showing of this annual meteor shower. The crescent Moon sets early on the evening of the shower's peak on August 11-12, but you can spot stray Perseids most of the month. If you trace the path of these meteors, you'll find they originate from one point in Perseus - their radiant. Giant planets Jupiter and Saturn will be up all evening as well. Look south - they easily stand out as the brightest objects in the faint constellations Aquarius and Capricornus.

Pegasus truly holds some fantastic astronomical treasures! Continue your exploration of the stars of Pegasus and beyond with NASA at [nasa.gov](https://www.nasa.gov).

2021 Star Party Schedule

January 15	4:30 PM
February 12	5:30 PM
March 12	6:00 PM
April 9	7:30 PM
May 14	8:00 PM
June 11	8:30 PM
July 9	8:30 PM
August 6	8:00 PM
September 10	7:00 PM
October 8	6:30 PM
November 5	5:30 PM
December 3	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:

- ♦ 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.