



# Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

## September, 2021

Website: [www.midhudsonastro.org](http://www.midhudsonastro.org)

groups.io Group: [mhaa.groups.io](https://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 September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, on Zoom. Check MeetUp for details and link. Link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

### Speaker for September

Astronomer to Discuss Magnetic Fields and Star Formation

Dr. Pierre Marchand will give a talk about the early stages of star formation, when the gas of the interstellar medium collapses onto itself to form a protostar and protoplanetary disk, the future cradle of planet formation. He will explain how the magnetic field regulates the gas dynamics during this phase through the interaction of a wide range of physical processes: chemistry, gas dynamics, magnetic fields, and thermodynamics..all of them important.



### 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](http://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!

## MHAA Receives new Telescope Donation

Thanks to a generous donation by **Randy Raichart**, MHAA has a fully-functional Meade 8" "Magellan I" telescope, with tripod, eyepiece (8mm-24mm zoom), dew shield, control hand-boxes and manual. I haven't yet had a chance to look through it, but the optics look perfect and it is reportedly in perfect working condition. It looks great and we thank Randy for his generous donation!

### New Public Events

Events are starting to pick up! We have a couple of requests for Scopes that will be amplified soon. Please consider volunteering your time for these upcoming events:

- **Desmond-Fish Library**, Garrison, NY: Pre-IOMN night Thursday, Oct 14 - This is a regular event for several years now, two or three scopes would be appreciated.
- **Saugerties High School** - No date decided upon yet, but probably late October. This is an event we have supported for several years now and presents the night sky to all grades at the Saugerties school. Usually very well attended and a great evening for everyone.
- **Mohonk Mountain House** - THREE weekends! - Oct 29,30, Nov 5, 6 and Nov 19,20. This could be more naked-eye than telescopes, but the option for scopes is there and I would like to plan for a few. The event will bring in some money as well - \$100 per night to MHAA. The event is basically a large company "private party" and normally supported by Raj Pandaya, who is unavailable this year. Contact Jack Chastain if you are willing to help out for any or all nights!
- PROPOSED: Recently received request for **Opus 40**, an interesting "Earthwork Sculpture" near Saugerties. This is presumed to be a paid event and as such should also have some donation money to the group. No date yet.

Please consider helping out at any of these events!

### End of year events

It's September already! Time to start thinking about Officers for the next year and our annual (save the last year) Members Dinner and party. Please feel free to begin offering suggestions for dates and locations for the annual dinner, with an assumption that things will be enough "back to normal" (or as near as it gets) to actually have one this year!

Officer elections will be happening in December as usual. Please consider standing for any of the officer positions. More details on this in the coming months.

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# Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, August 17, 2021

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

The minutes of the July meeting as published in the newsletter were approved by acclimation.

## Officer's Reports:

**President:** Jack Chastain was present.

- Discussed progress on online star parties. Still need some helpers to manage Zoom windows, etc. See Jack or Eric Myers or Tim Denman.
- Need to work on getting imagers on telescopes onto Zoom.
- Thanks to Dave and Steve for "hosting" the last club star party in Jack's absence.

**Vice President:** Tim Denman was not present.

- No report

**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr was not present.

- No report.

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See the newsletter for the latest information.
- Account is healthy.
- Zoom is back to \$14.99/month.
- All award checks cashed by recipients.

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

- No report.

**Newsletter:** Rick Versace was not present.

- No report.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was not present.

- Steve reports he's ready for Jack to test the web page. This will begin tomorrow.

**Outreach:** Joe McCagne was not present.

- No report.

**Upcoming Programs:** Alexandra Passas was present.

- Alex discovered a new resource at the American Natural History Museum. She now has speakers for the next 2-3 months.
- Others in the works.

**Membership:** Rick Versace was not present.

- In response to past questions, Eric reported we have about 42 paid members with 21 whose memberships have lapsed.
- We need to find a way remind people since we no longer use the automatic notices in MemberPlanet.
- Steve's web page may be able to do it once fully online.
- Willie suggested making an "event" on MeetUp to remind people to renew.
- Contact Eric or Rick to find out your renewal date.

**Solar System Ambassador:** Willie Yee was present.

- Making a presentation to us about the moons of the solar system today.
- Applications to become a Solar System Ambassador are available through the month of September.

## Old Business:

- The last club star party was Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Good sky conditions.
  - 6 telescopes
  - Many first and second timers. Good turnout.
- Walkway event also on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - 5 telescopes
  - Transportation from the East end this time with the new Tram.
    - Some people still came from the west side with scopes in carts.
- Need imagers to put views on Zoom for the virtual star parties. See Jack or Eric.

### New Business:

- Tim was concerned about the new “dark” walkway events conflicting with our club star parties since they will both be scheduled at new moon.
  - Rick Versace encouraged the walkway organization to start the new moon events since you can see more without the full moon.
  - After discussion the consensus was that we have enough members to support both events.
  - There was a suggestion that the walkway events move to 1<sup>st</sup> quarter moon since that will be above the horizon and the terminator will provide good views for small scopes. Bright stars and planets will still be visible.
- Question about when we might return to SUNY for live meetings.
  - Eric reported that SUNY will begin to allow groups that are fully masked (and vaccinated?) to attend open meetings soon.
  - He has submitted our room application and is waiting for the “official” approval.
  - MHAA will require proof of vaccination when we return to in-person indoor meetings.

### Upcoming Events

- **Next Club Star Party:** September 10<sup>th</sup> at Lake Taghkanic State park. See MeetUp and YOU MUST RSVP with car make, model and license plate number to attend.
- **Starr Library in Rhinebeck:** Looking for a star party on September 11<sup>th</sup> in lot across from the library. 4 ‘scopes, so far. Let Jack know if you’re interested.
- **Mohonk Mountain House:** Looking for speakers on “Astronomy Weekends”; October 29/30, November 5/6, and November 19/20. Raj Pandya has done these in the past and was paid \$300 with free food and an offer of a room. Contact Jack if you want to help.
- **Saugerties High School:** Looking for an event for a TBD date in October.

### Observing Reports:

- None

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM. **The next meeting is September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, on Zoom. Check MeetUp for details and link. Link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

The presentation that followed was by Willie Yee, Solar System ambassador: “Moons of the Solar System”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



## **MHAA Treasurer’s Report for August 2021**

As of 19 September 2021 we have \$3,409.64 in our bank account and \$109.28 in our PayPal account, with no outstanding checks or anticipated expenses. We just paid our monthly bill for Zoom, for \$14.99, out of our PayPal account.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer



This article  
is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network

No article this month due to technical problems

## 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](http://www.midhudsonastro.org).