



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

January, 2022

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

President : Jack Chastain
Secretary: Jim Rockrohr
Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace
Publicity: Tim Denman
Speakers: Alexandra Passas

Directors: Alex Passas, Karl Loatman, Steve Carey, and Willie Yee

groups.io Group: mhaa.groups.io

Vice President: Dave Sherman
Treasurer: Eric Myers
Membership Coordinator: Eric Myers
Webmaster: Steve Dittmar
Outreach: Joe Macagne
College Liaison: Dr. Amy Bartholomew

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The next meeting is January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, on Zoom. Check MeetUp for details and link. Link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

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

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

The minutes of the November meeting as published in the newsletter were unanimously approved with a correction to indicate that a volunteer is needed for Vice President, not Publicity.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack Chastain was present.

- Our monthly indoor meetings will be online only for the foreseeable future.

- Discussed progress on online star parties. Still need some helpers to manage Zoom windows, etc. See Jack or Eric Myers or Tim Denman.

Vice President: Tim Denman was present.

- Nothing to report

Secretary: Jim Rockrohr was present.

- Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See the newsletter for the latest information.
- Received a renewal from Tom Lindeman.
- The online renewal form should now be fixed and working.

Publicity: Tim Denman was present.

- He did not send out publicity for this meeting since it is intended for members only.
- He will be publicizing the next star party.

Newsletter: Rick Versace was not present.

- No report.

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar was present.

- Voting for officers is being done online and closes at 8 PM.

Outreach: Joe McCagne was not present.

- We need someone to assist Joe.

Upcoming Programs: Alexandra Passas was present.

- Alex now has lots of leads for next year.

Membership: Rick Versace was not present. Eric reported:

- Now sending out membership renewal letters by email.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present.

- James Webb telescope now scheduled for launch on 12/25 at 7:30 AM EST.

Old Business:

- The last club star party was good, not too cold.
 - Saw 2 Starlink chains pass overhead.
- Mohonk presentations:
 - Did 3 weekends.
 - An outstanding event.
 - Had 3 indoor and 3 outdoor sessions over the 6 weekend days.
 - Our presentations were well received.
 - The club received \$900.
- Kent star party:
 - Last Sunday.
 - It went well.
 - There were 4 telescopes present.
 - Lots of good questions.
- Opus 40: Event cancelled due to weather.
- Need imagers to put views on Zoom for the virtual star parties. See Jack or Eric.

New Business:

- Election of officers is now open until 8:10 PM.
- Annual Dinner:

- There appears to be no significant interest at this time due to Covid.
- We may plan a summer outdoor event/picnic.
- Do we want to have star party on Friday, 12/31 (nearest the new moon)?
 - How about Friday, 1/7 (slight crescent moon) or Saturday, 1/1?
 - Based on discussion there is a consensus for Saturday, 1/1. It will be scheduled.
- We need a “technical meeting” to discuss various technical issues (zoom, virtual star parties, etc.) rather than taking time in this meeting. This will start soon.
- We have been offered a Celestron C6 newtonian with a tripod and mount.
 - Jack will see it on 12/28.
- The club’s 8” Dob, 13” Dob and 8” Meade telescopes are available to members. Contact Jack.

Upcoming Events

- **Next Club Star Party:** January 1, 2022, at Lake Taghkanic State park. See MeetUp and YOU MUST RSVP with car make, model and license plate number to attend.
- There is talk of a star party on College Hill in Poughkeepsie. Details TBD.

Elections

- Results reported by Jack:
- All incumbents won reelection
 - President: Jack Chastain
 - Secretary: Jim Rockrohr
 - Treasurer: Eric Myers
 - Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace
 - Publicity: Tim Denman
- Dave Sherman has been elected Vice President.
- The Directors are Alex Passas, Karl Loatman, Steve Carey, and Willie Yee.
- New officers take over at the close of this meeting.

Observing Reports:

- None

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM. There were 18 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting. **The next meeting is January 18th, 2022, on Zoom. Check MeetUp for details and link. Link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

The presentations that followed were by two of our members:

- Scott Ewart reported on the progress of his build of an 8 inch Newtonian telescope as a “viewfinder” for his planned 26 inch, F8, cassegrain telescope.
- Willie Yee gave a space-based magic show.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, January 15th, 2022.

MHAA Treasurer’s Report for January 2022

As of 15 January 2022 we have \$4611.11 in our bank account and \$547.28 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$40 in petty cash. This past month we received \$274.56 in dues for new or renewed memberships. Our monthly Zoom subscription of \$14.99 was just paid today out of our PayPal account.

A class action law suit filed against Zoom has resulted in a court approved settlement for which we may be eligible. I estimate we would get about \$30 back, which covers 2 months of Zoom, so I have submitted a claim on behalf of the club. (Anyone who has used Zoom personally - which means any of our members who attended any of our video meetings - may be able to get \$15 from them by submitting a claim at www.ZoomMeetingsClassAction.com)

Next month I will submit a budget for the next fiscal year. We are doing well financially and I'd like to apply some of our funds to repairing or upgrading existing club telescopes or related equipment, and to fixing or upgrading scopes that are donated to us and then passing them on to a good home. Anyone who is interested in helping with this should let me know what they think would be appropriate expenses to include in the budget.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer

MHAA Membership Report for January 2022

As of 15 January 2022 MHAA has 48 members in good standing, and 33 lapsed memberships, of which 8 expired over a year ago. Since my report from last month we have had 8 membership renewals, and gained 4 new regular annual members.

A large number of memberships expired at the turn of the year. I'm now able to send out email reminders for renewals, though I'm still working on improving the software to the point where it can be run automatically.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer

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### **Club member Publishes Paper**

Club member Michael Banks has had a paper published on the topic of his talk back in June 2020 (when we were still new to on-line presentations). The paper is in *Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Science*:

"Scaling, Mirror Symmetries and Musical Consonances Among the Distances of the Planets of the Solar System"

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fspas.2021.758184/full>

### **Club Acquires Another Telescope**

MHAA received a new telescope donation! This one is interesting and has some history. It's a Celestron but not quite like most of the other 6" Newtonian scopes you've seen. This model has a "sled focuser" that moves fore and aft, rather than in and out. I'm told it was to facilitate photography, which seems a little odd, but there it is.

The scope was presented to us through the Holy Cross Monastery on RT 9w in West Park. It was owned by a gentleman named Brother Lawrence who I understand is no longer able to use the scope. He kindly asked an associate, brother Robert Sevensky, to find a good home, and Robert reached out to MHAA.



This scope appears to be well traveled and used to view the sky from the US to Africa and perhaps other worldly locations. I'm hoping to be able to get a better history of of the scope soon.

Many thanks to the Monastery and to Br. Lawrence for the excellent donation.

It's much cleaner than the image too!

Jack

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2022 Star Party Schedule

February 4	5:00 PM
March 4	5:30 PM
April 1	7:00 PM
April 29	8:00 PM
May 27	8:30 PM
July 1	8:30 PM
July 29	8:00 PM
August 26	7:30 PM
September 23	6:30 PM
October 28	6:00 PM
November 26	4:30 PM
December 23	4:30 PM

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## 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).