



**May, 2023**

**Website:** [www.midhudsonastro.org](http://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 Dittmar, and Willie Yee

**groups.io Group:** [mhaa.groups.io](https://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 May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

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**May Speaker**

**“Space Colonization: A brief trip to Jupiter’s Moon Ganymede”**  
Shantha Thangiah

Recently, the concept of colonizing other planets and moons has attracted the public's attention. As we already sent robots and are currently researching the planet Mars, it may be the most fantasized planet for colonization than any other celestial bodies. In this presentation, we will take a different approach to examine

if one of Jupiter's moons, Ganymede, would also be a candidate for human colonization. Indeed, space travel and its economics are always challenging. Yet, what would we be willing to do for our own species survival...

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Online link to the MHAA monthly Business Meeting Agenda:

<http://mhaa.midhudsonastro.org/agenda>

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## **Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, April 18, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Jack Chastain in the Auditorium of the Coykendall Science Center and on the online application Zoom.

The minutes of the March meeting as published in the newsletter were unanimously approved.

### **Officer's Reports:**

**President:** Jack Chastain was present.

- Apologies for computer glitches last month.
- Needs help with events. Please contact Jack if you can host and/or manage an event.
- We need a new position: Events Coordinator. See Jack if interested.

**Vice President:** Dave Sherman was present.

- 2 local libraries are looking for star parties;
  - o Pine Plains Library – 4/22; This Saturday.
  - o Millerton Library – 4/28
  - o No rain dates, use indoor presentation.

**Recording Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr was present.

- (Nothing to report)

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present on zoom from Florida.

- Press releases are going out. If you see them tell Tim!
- Remember to ask people you talk to at our events how they heard about us and let Tim know so we can gauge our effectiveness.

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

- o (No report)

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See latest newsletter for numbers.
- It was moved, seconded and approved to spend an additional \$31.50 for an ad in the Chronogram Explorer issue. (\$300.00 previously approved in the recently passed budget.)

**Outreach:** (need a coordinator)

- o Willy Yee reported:
  - o The Night Sky Network is looking for Eclipse Ambassadors. See Willy if interested.
  - o Dave Sherman gets a Night Sky award for last year.
  - o There were 12 Solar System Ambassadors at NEAF.

**Speakers:** Alex Passas was not present.

- (No report.)

**Membership:** Eric Myers was present

- Typo in the last report:
  - We have 69 paid members
  - 2,351 “followers” on MeetUp
  - 1,028 “followers” on Facebook.

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

- See Outreach report above.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was present

- Small changes to fix/improve things.
- Updating the Event Calendar to hide from the public.
- There’s an issue with MeetUp “breaking” our web page (?)

### **Old Business:**

- Jack and others participated in a great wedding event on 4/11.
  - Near Big Indian, NY.
  - Lovely night sky.
  - \$530.00 donation to the club.
- Work with Poughkeepsie Discovery Museum’s StarLab is underway. See Eric for details.
- Eric reported that the Dutchess County Science Fair, 3/25, had very few astronomy related entries. We gave out 4 gift card prizes.
- NEAF: Excellent show. Several members attended.

### **New Business:**

- Club star party this Friday (4/21).
- 4/22 event at Pine Plains Library.
- 4/28 event at Millerton Library.
- Encourage people to join us on **MeetUp** to get notices of events and changes due to weather, etc.
- Dave Sherman reports on two offers of donations of telescopes to the club:
  - Celestron refractor with Star Sense.
  - 5” OTA “Cave Astrola”(sp?) with no mount. (Antique)

### **Events:**

- **Audubon Club:** Tim Denman – no new news.
- **Sam’s Point:** Tim Denman – still working on it.
- **Next Club Star Party** – April 21<sup>st</sup>, Lake Taghkanic State Park.
- Getting requests from people in Germantown who want personal help with ‘scopes. See Jack.

### **Reminders:**

- Paid members get access to club equipment (telescopes, imagers, trackers) and club DVD/VHS video library. See Jack.
  1. Do we have a list of equipment available for loan? Steve Dittmar is working on this.
- Paid members can also get access to the club Slack channels. Contact Jack or Eric for access.

### **Observing Reports:**

- Scott Ewart reported that there will be a very thin crescent moon tomorrow morning (4/19) just before sunrise.
- He also reported that you need to make your April 8, 2024, Solar Eclipse reservations NOW! Most places already full.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM. There were 18 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 19 people were in the Coykendall Auditorium. **The next meeting is May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

The presentation that followed was by Thomas Evangelist, Assistant Principal for Physical Sciences at Brooklyn Technical High School, titled “I think I’ll Stay Here, Astronomy from a Chemist’s Point of View”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, May 14, 2023.

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### **MHAA Treasurer's Report for May 2023**

As of 14 May 2023 we have \$3945.96 in our bank account and \$2,415.78 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$40 as petty cash. Since the last meeting we took in \$100.88 in dues for 2 new member and 2 renewals. Our monthly payment of \$16.22 for Google gSuite was paid on the 1st of the month, and our monthly payment of \$15.99 for Zoom should be paid on the 15th (the day before our next meeting).

Last month we received a donation of \$270 from Wildflower Farms for several nights of observing at their new resort back in December.

This past month I filed form CHAR500 with the New York State Attorney General's office using their new online procedure rather than mailing in a paper form. This should preserve our status as a non-profit organization.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

### **MHAA Membership Report for May 2023**

As of 14 May 2023 the club has 72 paid members in good standing and 7 lapsed memberships, of which 2 expired over a year ago. We have 3 student members and 12 lifetime members. This month we had 2 membership renewals and gained 2 new members. Our Slack workspace has 61 "regular" members, which does not include 16 deactivated accounts or 45 invitations sent out but not used. We have 2369 followers who have subscribed to our site on Meetup.com, and 1038 followers of our Facebook page.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Acting Membership Coordinator

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**This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network**

The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit [nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov](https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov) to find local clubs, events, and more!

**No Article This Month**

Date	Arrival Time	Civil Dusk
May 19 2023	8:00 PM	20:45 EDT
Jun 16 2023	8:30 PM	21:07 EDT
Jul 14 2023	8:30 PM	21:02 EDT
Aug 11 2023	8:00 PM	20:31 EDT
Sep 15 2023	7:00 PM	19:32 EDT
Oct 13 2023	6:00 PM	18:44 EDT
Nov 10 2023	4:30 PM	17:07 EST
Dec 8 2023	4:30 PM	16:54 EST
Jan 5 2024	4:30 PM	17:09 EST



### 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).