



# MHAA

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## Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

**July, 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](http://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 July 15<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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### July Speaker

NASA spaceflight chief Frank Hughes will present the lighter side of the Apollo missions from his newly written book.

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Online link to the MHA A monthly Business Meeting Agenda:

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

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## Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, June 20, 2023

Minutes from the June 20 2023 Meeting of the MHAA

### MINUTES

Minutes from the May meeting were approved with no changes.

### OFFICER REPORTS:

#### PRESIDENT: Jack Chastain

Jack is getting help with outreach from Dave, Eric, and Rick but could use more help. AH also may have jury duty next week and may need support for some events.

#### VICE PRESIDENT: Dave Sherman

No new report.

#### RECORDING SECRETARY: Jim Rockrohr

Jim was not present. Tim volunteered to record the minutes.

#### PUBLICITY: Tim Denman

Tim sent press releases to all 16 news outlets for both the meeting and star party. It was too late to change the meeting site to SH181 for this meeting but July and August will be in Science Hall. We will be in Coykendall after that.

#### NEWSLETTER: Rick Versace

Rick was not present.

#### TREASURER: Eric Myers

Eric's newsletter report:

As of 19 June 2023 we have \$4036.65 in our bank account and \$2,618.54 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$65 as petty cash. 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 was paid on the 15th. Since the last meeting we took in \$150.88 in dues for 6 new members and \$150.08 for 6 membership renewals.

This month we received a check for \$65.35 from the settlement of a class-action privacy lawsuit against Zoom. I also received a similar (but smaller) payment for my personal Zoom account. Any of us who used Zoom a lot during the pandemic may be eligible, so if you don't get a notification then maybe check your spam folder.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

#### OUTREACH: open

#### MEMBERSHIP: Eric Myers acting chair with Rick Versace

Eric's report from the newsletter:

MHAA Membership Report for June 2023

As of 19 Jun 2023 the club has 74 paid members in good standing and 5 recently lapsed memberships. We now have 4 student members (we gained another this month) and 12 lifetime members. This month we had 6 membership renewals and gained 6 new regular members. Our Slack workspace has 66 "regular" members, which does not include 17 deactivated accounts or 48 invitations sent out but not used. We have 2384 followers who have subscribed to our site on Meetup.com, and over 1000 followers of our Facebook page.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Actng Membership Coordinator

SOLAR SYSTEM AMBASSADOR: Willie Yee  
Deadline for Eclipse Ambassadors has passed.

OLD BUSINESS

The Mohonk Mountain House event and our star party were cancelled due to adverse atmospheric conditions.

Eric has been working with the Poughkeepsie Discovery Museum Starlab. Contact 845-471-0589 x17 or cjensen@mhdm.org to assist.

Jack reminded us to ask participants at events where they learned about us.

NEW BUSINESS

Star Party July 14th.

Opus 40 event this Friday the 17th.

IBM Solar presentation June 21. Jack and Steve to attend.

West Hurley Libray telescope instruction July 26. Help needed.

West Point star party August 12 at the Firing Range in Camp Buckner

Update on MHAA equipment from Jack.

Following the business meeting Keith Murdock gave an excellent presentation on the Orion Molecular Cloud.

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**MHAA Treasurer's Report for July 2023**

As of 16 July 2023 we have \$4086.99 in our bank account and \$2,479.47 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$95 as petty cash. 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 was paid on the 15th. This month we also paid \$106.86 for 6 months of service on Meetup.com.

This month we took in \$30 for two t-shirts, and we received \$25 for the membership renewal for long-time member and co-founder David Lindeman, who also donated an additional \$25 to the club. Thank you, David!

I anticipate paying \$50 this week to the Town of New Paltz to reserve the pavilion at Field of Dreams park for our summer picnic, with another \$100 to follow to complete the payment for using the facility.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

### **MHAA Membership Report for July 2023**

As of 16 July 2023 the club has 74 paid members in good standing and 7 lapsed memberships, of which 2 are long-time members who have not renewed in over a year. We now have 4 student members and 12 lifetime members. This month we had one membership renewal.

Our Slack workspace has 66 “regular” members, which does not include 29 deactivated accounts or 36 invitations sent out but not used. We have over 2400 subscribers to our site on Meetup.com, and over 1000 followers of our Facebook page.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Acting Membership Coordinator



### **Star Party Schedule**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Arrival Time</b> | <b>Civil Dusk</b> |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 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).