



August, 2023

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 Dittmar, 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 August 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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August Speaker

Solar To The Max
Alan Friedman

The sun is a unique and rewarding subject for the astrophotographer. It can be studied in different wavelengths, imaged from almost any location and can be presented in different ways to portray our star in a unique and compelling light. The sun is now well along on its journey to maximum activity (predicted 2023-2026). Now is the perfect time to hone our solar imaging skills for the opportunities to come. This talk will discuss technical and creative considerations in solar imaging with the goal of exercising those solar “muscles” and preparing for the increase in activity that lies just around the corner.

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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, July 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by President Jack Chastain in the Auditorium (room SH181) of the Science Hall at SUNY New Paltz, NY, and on the online application Zoom.

The minutes of the June meeting (by Tim Denman) as published in the newsletter were unanimously approved noting that the treasurer's report was out of date. See elsewhere in the newsletter.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack Chastain was present.

- 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.

- (No report)

Recording Secretary: Jim Rockrohr was present.

- Thank you to Tim Denman for filling in at the June meeting.
- I will also be away on vacation for the August meeting.

Publicity: Tim Denman was present.

- 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.
- There was an error about the room number for this meeting in the press releases. (Tim is looking out for confused people.)

Newsletter: Rick Versace was not present.

- o (No report)

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See latest newsletter for numbers.

Outreach: (need a coordinator)

- o No report

Speakers: Alex Passas was present.

- Speakers booked through August.

Membership: Eric Myers was present

- See the newsletter
- 1 new member.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was not present.

- No report.

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar was present

- Updating fixes and security updates. Behind on posting videos.

Old Business:

- **Summer Star Picnic** (Alex Passas):
 - o Sunday August 13 at 6 PM
 - o Field of dreams pavilion in Ulster County.
 - o YOU MUST RSVP. (10 so far.)
 - o Cost will be \$10.00 plus amortized cost of pavilion.
 - o If only attending later star party (no food) no cost.
- **US Military Academy Star Party:**
 - o Uncertain due to recent washouts.
 - o Date and place in flux (originally August 12).
 - o There is a planned practice star party on August 4.
 - o See Eric for details as they develop.
- **Solstice event at Opus 40** was cancelled due to weather.
- **IBM Poughkeepsie Science Fair** a success. White light and H-alpha telescopes.
- **Last club star party** cancelled due to weather.
- Work with **Poughkeepsie Discovery Museum's StarLab** is underway. See Eric for details.
- Be sure to ask people how they found us and let Tim know.

New Business and Events:

- **Next Club star party** is Friday, August 11, at Lake Taghkanic.
- Encourage people to join us on **MeetUp** to get notices of events and changes due to weather, etc.
- **Next Walkway** event:
 - o August 4. Eric will send announcement.
- **West Hurley Library** is looking for a telescope training event with their telescopes on July 26 at about 6 PM. See Jack.
 - **Winnakee Land Trust** (Burger Hill in Rhinebeck) wants a star party on August 31. See Jack.
 - **Gardiner Parks** wants to host star parties in August. Details TBD.
 - **Audubon Club:** Tim Denman – no new news.
 - **Sam's Point:** Tim Denman – still working on it.
- Getting requests from people in Germantown who want personal help with 'scopes. See Jack.
- People are finding us on the web.
- All of the events listed above are open to the public.

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? Yes, see the website or Jack.
- Paid members can also get access to the club Slack channels. Contact Jack or Eric for access.

Observing Reports:

- (none reported).

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM. There were 3 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 14 people were in the Science Hall Auditorium. **The next meeting is August 15th, 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 Frank Hughes, Chief of Space Flight Training (ret.), NASA, titled "Let the Games Begin: The Changing Face of Space Training Simulators".

Submitted by James Rockrohr, June 15, 2023.

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## MHAA Treasurer's Report for August 2023

As of 14 August 2023 we have \$4037.34 in our bank account and \$2,537.67 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$375 in 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 will be paid tomorrow. This month we had 6 membership renewals for a total income of \$108.20.

We held our second Summer Picnic at the Field of Dreams Park in the Town of New Paltz on Sunday, August 13th. The rental of the Pavilion cost \$100, while sandwiches cost \$175 and drinks and chips were \$37, so the total expenses were \$312. We had 14 people in attendance, at \$20 each, for a total of \$280 collected, so we came within \$32 of breaking even, which is much better than last year.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

## MHAA Membership Report for August 2023

As of 14 August 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 is all unchanged since last month. This month we had 6 membership renewals and no new members.

Our Slack workspace has 63 "regular" members, which does not include 18 deactivated accounts or 35 invitations sent out but not used. We have over 2420 subscribers to our site on Meetup.com, and over 1000 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 to find local clubs, events, and more!

Super Blue Sturgeon Moon

Vivian White

On August 1st, catch a **full Moon** rising in the east just 30 minutes after sunset. We are seeing the entire sunlit side of the Moon as it is nearly (but not quite) in line with the Sun and Earth. The *Farmers' Almanac* calls this month's Moon the "Sturgeon Moon", for the time of year when this giant fish was once abundant in the Great Lakes. Cultures around the world give full Moons special names, often related to growing seasons or celebrations.

As the Moon rises later and later each night, the bright sunlit part appears to get smaller or "wane" - we call this a waning **gibbous Moon**. About a week later, on August 8th, we see only one half of the Moon alight. At this phase, the Moon rises around midnight and sets around noon. Have you ever seen the Moon in the daytime? You may notice this phase towards the southwest in the morning sky. Hold up a ball or egg beside it and see how the Sun lights up the same part.

By August 16th, the Moon has gone through its crescent phase and is now only showing its dark side towards the Earth. Did you know the **dark side** and the **far side** of the Moon are different? The Moon always shows the same face towards Earth due to the gravitational pull of Earth, so the far side of the Moon was only viewed by humans for the first time in 1968 with the Apollo 8 mission. However, the dark side is pointed at us almost all the time. As the Moon orbits the Earth, the sunlit side changes slowly until the full dark side is facing us during a **new Moon**. When the Moon is just a small crescent, you can sometimes even see the light of an **Earthshine** reflecting off Earth and lighting up the dark side of the Moon faintly.

Then as the Moon reappears, making a waxing (or growing) **crescent Moon**, best seen in the afternoons. By the time it reaches the first quarter on August 24th, we see the other half of the Moon lit up. At this point, the Moon passes through Earth's orbit and marks the spot where the Earth was just 3 hours prior. It takes the Earth about 3 hours to move the distance between the Moon and Earth.

The Moon on August 30th is referred to as a blue moon. **Blue moons** are not actually blue in color of course; it refers to the second full Moon in any month. Since it takes 29.5 days to complete the cycle from full to new and back to full, most months will see only one. But occasionally, you'll fit two into one month, hence the phrase "once in a blue moon." We see a blue moon about once every 3 years on average - next in May 2026. In addition, this full Moon appears larger in the sky than any other full Moon this year - an unofficial **supermoon**. A supermoon appears larger than average because it is closer in its slightly elliptical orbit. The difference in apparent size between the smallest and largest full Moon is about the size difference between a quarter and a nickel. Even at its largest, you can always cover the whole Moon with your pinky extended at arm's length.



*Image of waning crescent Moon shown next to a ball on a stick that is lit by the Sun on the same side as the Moon, with trees and a blue sky in the background. Try this with an egg or any round object when you see the Moon during the day!
Credit: Vivian White*

Follow the Moon with us this month and keep a Moon journal if you like - you may be surprised what you discover! moon.nasa.gov/moon-observation

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## Star Party Schedule

| Date        | Arrival Time | Civil Dusk |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 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  |

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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.