



January, 2024

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 January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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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January Speaker

Telescopes 101

This program is designed for those who have recently received or purchased a telescope, or for those who already have a telescope or are thinking of buying one . Various club members with years of astronomy experience will discuss and demonstrate aspects of setting up and using a telescope. The MHA A will use club scopes as an example, but for those who bring their own scopes specific questions will be answered or new skills will be shown.

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Online link to the MHAA monthly Business Meeting Agenda:

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



"Astronomy at Lake Taghkanic State Park"

<http://spy-hill.net/myers/astro/ltsp/>

Thanks Eric Myers



## **Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, December 19, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Jack Chastain in the Coykendall Auditorium at SUNY New Paltz, NY, and on the online application Zoom.

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

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

**President:** Jack Chastain was present.

- Elections tonight.

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

- Nothing to report

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

- Nothing to report

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present.

- Nothing to report.

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

- (No report)

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See latest newsletter for numbers.
- Our insurance is up to about \$800 per year.
- Google G-suite cost doubled.
- Paypal will support a subscription.
  - Our website has auto renewal
- We need a tech meeting to sort out web features between Eric and Steve Dittmar. Jack to set up.

**Outreach:** (need a coordinator)

- No report

**Speakers:** (Alex Passas was present.)

- Speakers booked through March.
  - April and May almost committed.

- January is “Telescopes 101”
- Alex is resigning her post. We need a replacement.
  - o Technically the Vice President is “chair of the speaker committee”.
  - o Bart Hennin may be interested.

**Membership:** Eric Myers (acting) was present

- No new news.
- Renewal emails going out.

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

- If you have attended 4 or more public outreach events, let Willie know so you can get a pin and certificate.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was not present

- No report

### **Old Business:**

- Last club star party went well.
  - o Many newbies.
  - o Observed a starlink string.
- James Evans star party moved to 12/12 due to weather.
  - o 3 telescopes, but lights.
  - o About 50 people.
- Arlington High School event moved, date 12/14
  - o Went well.
  - o 5 telescopes.
  - o About 200 people.
- Esopus Library
  - o Lots of lights.
  - o 12-15 people.
- Opus 40
  - o 4 telescopes, gorgeous seeing.
  - o Over 200 people.
- Be sure to get on MeetUp to get notices regarding our star party status and RSVP for the star parties.

### **New Business and Events:**

- **Holiday party** – still need a coordinator.
- **Officer nominations:**
  - o President: Jack Chastain
  - o Vice President: Dave Sherman
  - o Recording Secretary: Jim Rockrohr
  - o Treasurer: Eric Myers
  - o Newsletter: Rick Versace
  - o Publicity: Tim Denman
  - o Directors (4):
    - Alex Passas
    - Karl Loatman
    - Steve Dittmar
    - Willie Yee
- **Elections:** Above slate approved unanimously.
  - **Next club star party:** Friday, 1/5/2024.

### **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 8:15 PM. There were 7 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 10 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

The presentations that followed were by Willie Yee (some quantum magic) and several club scope discussions with several ‘scopes on display.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, January 13, 2024.

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MHAA Treasurer’s Report for January 2024

As of 15 January 2024 we have \$4,658.68 in our bank account and \$2843.80 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$73 in petty cash. Our monthly payment of \$32.44 for Google gSuite was paid on the 1st of the month, and \$15.99 was paid for Zoom on the 15th.

This month we received \$226.32 in dues for 2 new members and 8 membership renewals. We also received \$150 from Opus 40 for an event in December.

According to the by-laws of the club the Treasurer is to present a proposed budget for the coming year to be voted on at the February meeting. If you have suggestions for things to add, such as repairs to a specific club telescope or purchase of a particular piece of equipment, please let me know.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer

MHAA Membership Report for January 2024

As of 15 January 2024 the club has 74 paid members in good standing, of which 4 are students. This month we gained 2 new members, with 8 renewals, while there are currently 10 lapsed memberships, of which 2 are long-time members who have not renewed in over a year, and 7 have only expired in the last month. There are 5 more memberships which will lapse in the next month if not renewed.

Our Slack workspace has 78 “regular” members, which does not include 20 deactivated accounts or 39 invitations sent out but not used. Of those 78 regular members, 28 are classified as “active” this month for billing purposes (though we are not actually billed, since we use the free service). Our mailing list on groups.io, which is for both members and non-members interested in our activities, now has 108 subscribers. We have over 2520 followers on our site on Meetup.com (they call them “members,” but they are not paid MHAA members). On Facebook our page has 1035 followers (in the United States — the few others are probably fake accounts), and our Instagram account has 125 followers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Acting Membership Coordinator

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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).