



## March, 2024

**Website:** [www.midhudsonastro.org](http://www.midhudsonastro.org)

**groups.io Group:** [mhaa.groups.io](https://mhaa.groups.io)

**President :** Jack Chastain

**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr

**Newsletter Editor:** Rick Versace

**Publicity:** Tim Denman

**Speakers:** Alexandra Passas(?)

**Vice President:** Dave Sherman

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers

**Membership Coordinator:** Eric Myers

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar

**Outreach:** Joe Macagne(?)

**College Liaison:** Dr. Amy Bartholomew

**Directors:** Alex Passas, Karl Loatman, Steve Dittmar, and Willie Yee

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The next meeting is March 19<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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### March Speaker

#### Local Astronomer to Discuss Real Time Astronomic Imaging

Michael Goldstein, the speaker, MID-Hudson Astronomical Association member, and EAA practitioner since 2022, will show examples of his work and demonstrate a simulated EAA session. Real Time Astro Imaging, sometimes called Electronically Assisted Astronomy ("EAA"), is the practice of using astrophotography hardware and software to observe celestial objects. Unlike conventional astrophotography, images are visible immediately, and improve as the observer continues to capture additional images and "live stacks" them on top of prior captures. The practice allows faint deep space objects to be observed even in highly light-polluted skies, and allows comfortable observing even in the dead of winter.

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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, February 20, 2024**

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 January meeting as published in the newsletter were unanimously approved.

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

**President:** Jack Chastain was present.

- The first Tech meeting was held on Thursday, 1/18, at 8PM on Zoom. It went well. More to be scheduled.
- Jack did a training session last night (2/19) at a local library. Resulted in a \$200 donation!

**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.

- o (No report)

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See latest newsletter for numbers.
- Annual Treasurer's report and annual budget for 2024 were presented.
  - o Copies included elsewhere in this newsletter.
  - o Motion to accept the budget was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

**Outreach:** (need a coordinator)

- o No report
- o Question was asked whether we needed this position. No decision, to be discussed more.

**Speakers:** Bart Henin was not present.

- Assistance would be appreciated.

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

- No new news.

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

- Willie handed out Night Sky Network awards for outreach to:
  - o Jack Chastain
  - o Rick Versace
  - o Mike Murphy
  - o Dave Sherman
  - o Steve Dittmar

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was present

- Renewed our Domain name.

**Old Business:**

- Last club star party went well.
  - o Small group.

**New Business:**

- Lake Taghkanic park permit received.
  - o Paid club members can get a copy for their use on the club web site.
- Eclipse event planning:
  - o Need local help at SUNY. Contact Raj Panya.
  - o Adirondack Astronomy Center also looking for help.
    - Lodging available
    - Totality!
  - o Eric will bring in eclipse glasses next month
- Several people planning to “invade” the RAC dinner. See Jack.

**Events:**

- **Club Star Party** – 3/9. Be sure to RSVP.
- **Pine Bush High School** – 3/16
- **Life Long Learning class** – 8 weeks In April. Contact 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? 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 8:03 PM. There were 16 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 12 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is March 19<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 presentation that followed was by Stoker Stoker and Dylan Szerba, students at SUNY New Paltz titled “Observing Supernova 2023ixf”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, March 17, 2024.

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As of 17 March 2024 we have \$4,022.40 in our bank account and \$2,845.02 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$51 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.

Since my last report we had 5 renewed membership, for \$1245.26 and welcomed 3 new members, for \$ 74.82. I anticipate adding two additional new members, for \$50, once I receive the checks that were collected at the most recent star party. We paid \$72.72 for DNS services fo 3 years, and I reimbursed myself for \$170.31 for parts for the club telescope, a recently donated Celestron 8", that I've been fixing up in preparation for passing it on to someone else.

Our new Fiscal Year began on March 1st, and so I submit for the record this summary of our income and expenses for FY 23-24:

**Income**

Dues Paid:	\$1,954.96
T-shirt/swag sales:	\$30.00
Event Donations:	\$1,164.00
Member Donations:	\$25.00
Other Donations	\$250.00
Picnic Receipts	\$300.00
Credit Interest:	\$4.27
<b>Total Income (Gross Receipts):</b>	<b>\$3,728.95</b>

**Expenses**

Insurance:	\$812.00
Zoom:	\$126.53
Meetup.com:	\$213.72
Google gSuite	\$243.83
Park Permit:	\$ 25.00
Domain Registration:	\$ 72.72
Equipment:	\$170.31
Picnic Expenses	\$328.47
Science Fair Prizes	\$162.42
Speakers	\$300.00
Publicity	\$331.50
Eclipse Glasses	\$160.92
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$2,947.42</b>

March 2023 Balance:	\$6,110.63
February 2024 Balance:	\$6,892.16
<b>Net gain:</b>	<b>\$781.53</b>

At the February 2024 meeting, the last of our past Fiscal Year, the club voted to adopt the following budget for the coming year:

**2024-2025 Budget**

Insurance:	\$850
Park Permit:	\$ 25
Meetup.com:	\$250

Google gSuite	\$400
Domain Registration:	\$ 75
Zoom:	\$200
Speakers:	\$300
Publicity:	\$300
Equipment Repairs:	\$300
New Equipment:	\$300
Science Fair Prizes:	\$150
TOTAL:	\$ 3150
82 members × \$25	\$ 2050
Expected Event Donations	\$ 700
Expected Income – Expenses:	– \$400

I will point out that this underestimates expected donations, compared to previous years, and the deficit of \$400 is less than the net income of \$781 from the previous year. Remember, this is a) an estimate of expenses, and b) authorization by the club membership to spend up to the allotted amount for a particular purpose. The club can vote at any time to authorize additional expenses. As of 17 March 2024 we have \$4,022.40 in our bank account and \$2,845.02 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$51 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.

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

## MHAA Membership Report for March 2024

As of 18 March 2024 the club has 83 paid members in good standing, of which 4 are students. This month we gained 4 new members, with 5 renewals, while there are currently 9 lapsed memberships, of which 2 are long-time members who have not renewed in over a year, and 1 has only expired in the last month.

Our Slack workspace has 85 “regular” members, which does not include 31 deactivated accounts or 41 invitations sent out but not used. Of those 85 regular members, 32 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](https://groups.io), which is for both members and non-members interested in our activities, now has 113 subscribers. We have 2565 followers on our site on Meetup.com (they call them “members,” but they are not paid MHAA members). On Facebook our page has 1048 followers (in the United States — the few others are probably fake accounts), and our Instagram account has 146 followers.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Acting Membership Coordinator

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**This article is distributed by NASA’s Night Sky Network (NSN).**

The NSN 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!

### Constant Companions: Circumpolar Constellations, Part II

By Kat Troche

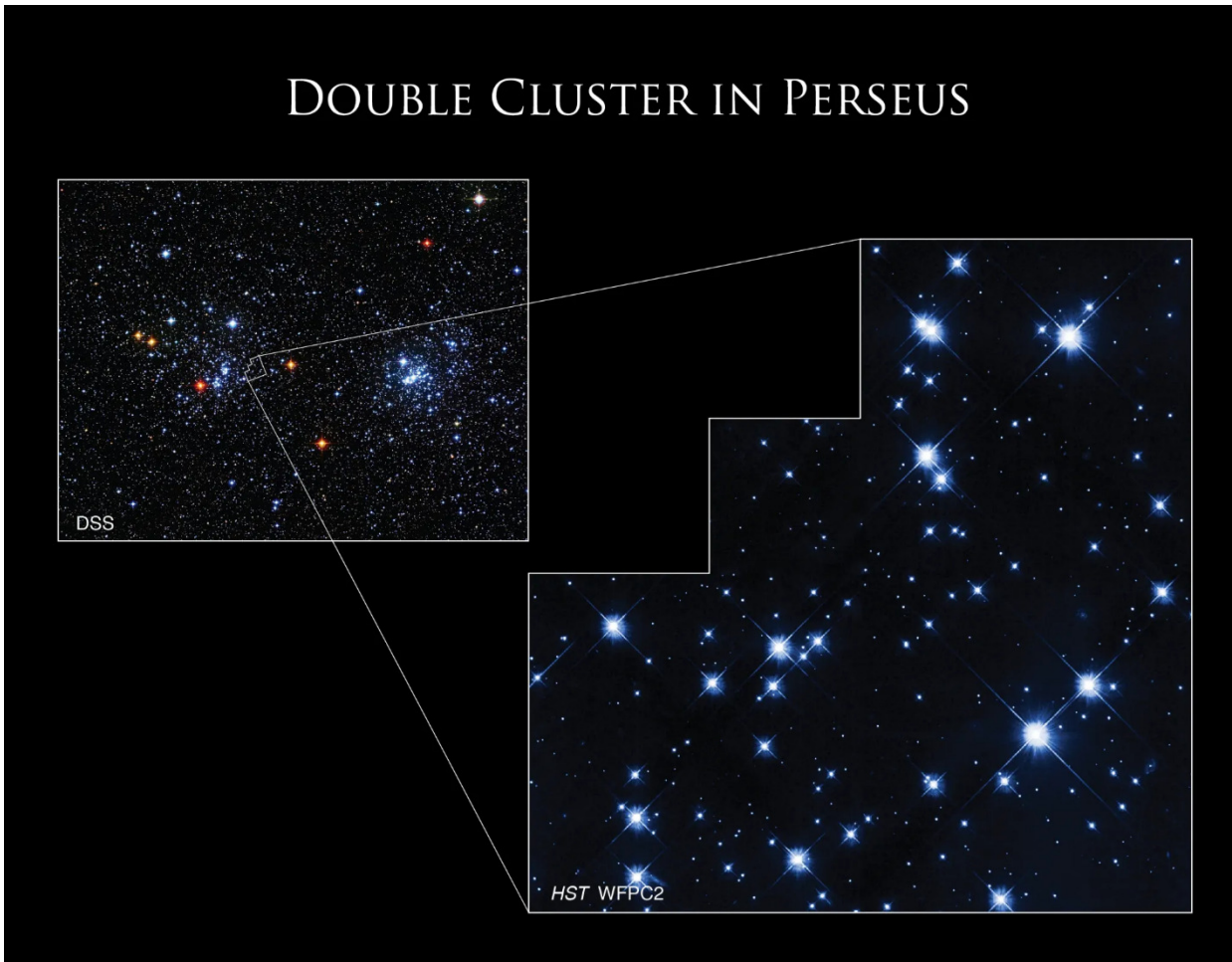
As the seasons shift from Winter to Spring, heralding in the promise of warmer weather here in the northern hemisphere, our circumpolar constellations remain the same. Depending on your latitude, you will be able to see up to nine circumpolar constellations. This month, we’ll focus on: **Lynx, Camelopardalis, and Perseus**. The objects within these constellations can all be spotted with a pair of binoculars or a small to medium-sized telescope, depending on your [Bortle scale](#) – the darkness of your night skies.



In the appearance of left to right: constellations Perseus, Camelopardalis, and Lynx in the night sky. Also featured: Cassiopeia as a guide constellation, and various guide stars.

Credit: Stellarium Web

- **Double Stars:** The area that comprises the constellation Lynx is famous for its multiple star systems, all of which can be separated with a telescope under dark skies. Some of the notable stars in Lynx are the following:
  - o **12 Lyncis** – a triple star that can be resolved with a medium-sized telescope.
  - o **10 Ursae Majoris** – a double star that was once a part of Ursa Major.
  - o **38 Lyncis** – a double star that is described as blue-white and lilac.
- **Kemble's Cascade:** This [asterism](#) located in Camelopardalis, has over 20 stars, ranging in visible magnitude (brightness) and temperature. The stars give the appearance of flowing in a straight line leading to the Jolly Roger Cluster (NGC 1502). On the opposite side of this constellation, you find the asterism **Kemble's Kite**. All three objects can be spotted with a pair of binoculars or a telescope and require moderate dark skies.



A ground-based image from the Digitized Sky Survey (DSS) in the upper left shows Caldwell 14, the Double Cluster in Perseus, with an outline of the region imaged by Hubble's Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 (WFPC2).  
 Ground-based image: Digitized Sky Survey (DSS); Hubble image: NASA, ESA, and S. Casertano (Space Telescope Science Institute); Processing: Gladys Kober (NASA/Catholic University of America)

- **Double Cluster:** The constellation Perseus contains the beautiful Double Cluster, two open star clusters (NGC 869 and 884) approximately 7,500 light-years from Earth. This object can be spotted with a small telescope or binoculars and is photographed by amateur and professional photographers alike. It can even be seen with the naked eye in very dark skies. Also in Perseus lies **Algol, the Demon Star**. Algol is a triple-star system that contains an eclipsing binary, meaning two of its three stars constantly orbit each other. Because of this orbit, you can watch the brightness dim every two days, 20 hours, 49 minutes – for 10-hour periods at a time. For a visual representation of this, revisit [NASA's What's Up: November 2019](#).

From constellations you can see all year to a once in a lifetime event! Up next, find out how you can partner with NASA volunteers for the April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse with our upcoming mid-month article on the [Night Sky Network](#) page through NASA's website!

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## Star Party Schedule

Date	Arrival Time	Civil Dusk
Mar 8 2024	6:00 PM	18:21 EST
Apr 5 2024	7:30 PM	19:53 EDT
May 3 2024	8:00 PM	20:27 EDT
Jun 7 2024	8:30 PM	21:02 EDT
Jul 5 2024	8:30 PM	21:07 EDT
Aug 2 2024	8:00 PM	20:43 EDT
Aug 30 2024	7:30 PM	20:00 EDT
Sep 27 2024	6:30 PM	19:10 EDT
Nov 1 2024	5:30 PM	18:17 EDT

### 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).