



**April, 2024**

**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

**Vice President:** Dave Sherman  
**Treasurer:** Eric Myers  
**Membership Coordinator:** Eric Myers  
**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar  
**Outreach:** Joe Macagne(?)  
**College Liaison:** Dr. Amy Bartholomew

**The next meeting is April 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.**

**April Speaker**

**Ph.D Astronomer to Discuss Glacial and Stream Erosion on Mars**

Planetary astronomer Dr. Michael Zeilhofer will present a talk about the glacial and fluvial features of the Arabia Terra region of Mars.

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, March 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 February meeting as published in the newsletter were unanimously approved.

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

**President:** Jack Chastain was present.

- The Tech meetings continue
  - Membership listing
  - Web page updates
  - Trying to meet every 2 weeks

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

- Nothing to report
- There may be an event coming.

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

- Nothing to report

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present.

- Announcement in local paper.
- Notice on Hudson Valley One website.

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

- (No report)

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See latest newsletter for numbers.
- Annual Treasurer's report and annual budget for 2024 were presented.
  - Final copies included in the newsletter.
- Eric has 250 eclipse glasses. Take what you need.

**Outreach:** Mike Goldstein was present.

- No report

**Speakers:** Bart Henin was present.

- April and June are booked.
- Assistance would be appreciated.

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

- No new news.

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

- No report.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was present

- Minor bug fixes.

### Old Business:

- 3/8 club star party went well.
  - o Lots of people; about 75.
  - o Good viewing until about 9 PM.
- Sam's Point
  - o Event went well.
  - o 4 telescopes
  - o About 35 high school students.
  - o It is a possible club star party site.
- Ashokan center is another possible star party site.

### New Business:

- o Solar eclipse glasses.

### Events:

- **Rosendale Library** - 3/28
- **Club Star Party** – 4/5. Be sure to RSVP.
  - o However many people and telescopes traveling for eclipse on 4/8.
  - o Discussion, motion made, seconded and voted unanimously to move star party to 3/29.
- **Life Long Learning class** – 8 weeks In April. Contact Jack
- **Canopus Lake** – 4/5, see Rick Versace.
- Solar Eclipse events:
  - o **SUNY New Paltz** on the quad. Raj Panya is looking for help.
  - o **Wildflower Farms.**
- **Walkway over the Hudson** - 4/8 and 6/28. See Eric.
- **NEAF** - 4/21-22

### 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 7:59 PM. There were 9 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 19 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is April 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 presentation that followed was by Michael Goldstein, “Real Time Astro Imaging, EAA (Electronically Augmented Astronomy)”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, April 9, 2024.

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## MHAA Treasurer's Report for April 2024

As of 15 April 2024 we have \$4,283.75 in our bank account and \$2,736.12 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$40 in petty cash. Our monthly payment for Google gSuite went up to \$34.93 this month (an increase of \$2.49 — I don't know why). I expect to pay \$15.99 on the 15th for Zoom Pro for one month.

This month we took in \$225.44 in dues for 9 renewing members, and \$124.82 for 4 new members. We received \$25 from sales of eclipse glasses, and I expect \$50 as a donation for a presentation given by Karl Loatman at the Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church.

This month we spent \$75 for 3 awards (in the form of Amazon gift cards) for the Dutchess County Regional Science Fair, which was held last weekend at Dutchess Community College. We also purchased 3 new eyepieces, two of which are for the DayStar solar telescope recently donated by club member Greg Salyer, for a cost of \$147.73.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

## MHAA Membership Report for April 2024

As of 15 April 2024 the club has 90 paid members in good standing, of which 4 are students. This month we gained 5 new members, with 9 renewals, while there are currently two long lapsed members have returned to the fold.

Our Slack workspace has 87 "regular" members, which does not include 61 deactivated accounts or 15 invitations sent out but not used. Of those 87 regular members, 31 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 112 subscribers, but email apparently bounces for 5 of them. We now have 2583 "members" (i.e. followers) on Meetup.com.

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!

**Skipped the article this month.  
It was about participating in eclipse research.  
I think it's a little late.**

**If you want to see it anyway let me know and I'll publish it next month.**

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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).