



**May, 2024**

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

**groups.io Group:** 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

~~~~~

**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.**

~~~~~

### **May Speaker**

Jack Chastain, president of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association, will present a short study on weird Ideas in space.

This talk will take a look at what might be best described as odd Ideas - things taken from several sources that may or may not be out there somewhere. It will be a fun look at how some wierd ways of looking at our universe might come into being. It will be totally different than presentations throughout the year which are serious talks about serious subjects made to the MHAA. Some of these might be speculative but overall they present good science and where our current levels of knowledge are regarding such subjects.

~~~~~

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 MHAA Meeting on April 16, 2024

### OFFICER REPORTS

The Meeting began at 7:30. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted unanimously.

**PRESIDENT REORT:** Jack Chastain

The technical support group has been detained by eclipse activities and will resume soon and will work on how to enter members into the database.

**VICE PRESIDENT REPORT:** Dave Sherman

Dave has been approached for an outreach event by a group that will get back to him.

**NEWSLETTER REPORT:** Rick Versace was not present

**RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT:** Jim Rockrohr was not present

**PUBLICITY REPORT:** Tim Denman

The sooner we get press releases out the better the coverage.

**TREASURERER'S REPORT:** Eric Myers

The report in the newsletter was updated:

The price of the Google Suite has increased by a few dollars.

\$75 was spent on the Dutchess County Science Fair.

\$150 was spent on eclipse glasses.

\$150 was spent on eyepieces for club scopes including the Daystar used by David for the eclipse. The Daystar will be getting a new diagonal soon.

### NON-OFFICER REPORTS

**OUTREACH:** Michael Goldstein

Nothing new to report. Michael requested a meeting with prior publicity people and Joe offered to do so.

**SPEAKERS:** Bart Hennin

Speakers are scheduled thru July. Jack is currently the May speaker.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Eric Myers

Eric and Steve are still working on transferring the database to the new website. Technical problems are blocking progress.

**SOLAR SYSTEM AMBASSADOR:** Willie Yee

Willie showed the eclipse viewers map from 2017 and invited members to update it for the current eclipse. He will be operating the SSA booths at NEAF with John Fontana and will be speaking on both days at noon. His topics will be the same as those presented to the MHAA on neutron stars and on moons of the solar system.

Eric volunteered to create a Google map that everyone could add to. Willie wants to wait until after next month's meeting to do this.

**WEBMASTER:** Steve Dittmar was not present.

**OLD BUSINESS****MARCH STAR PARTY**

The event was clouded out and windy. After an hour and a half of it was called off. Jack has decided that winds over 10 mph will result in cancellations or postponements in the future.

**MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

Jack did two presentations for the early grades and they went well.

**DUTCHESS COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR**

Tommy and Steve made three astronomy award presentations and issued eclipse glasses to two others who did excellent non-astronomy ones.

**TOTAL ECLIPSE**

Several members have sent pictures. Not all have been posted yet due to technical issues. Jack and Eric will update the postings.

**NEW BUSINESS****CANOPUS LAKE**

The event was postponed due to cloudy conditions. Rick will let us know the new date.

**NEAF**

The forum is well worth attending and will be Saturday and Sunday April 20 and 21. Jack and Willie will be working booths.

**WALKWAY AT NIGHT**

The event will be on Friday the 21st from 8-9:30. Meet at the east entrance at 7 for transportation. More than one trip will occur if necessary.

**ASTROCHEMISTRY PRESENTATION**

Tim handed out a flyer as per the speaker's request. Dr. Bill Istone from Orange County Community College will be presenting the talk.

The meeting ended ahead of schedule!

Respectfully submitted by Tim Denman

~~~~~

### MHAA Treasurer’s Report for May 2024

As of 19 May 2024 we have \$4,334.11 in our bank account and \$2,767.57 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$40 in petty cash. Our monthly payment for Google gSuite went up again to \$38.93 this month. We paid \$15.99 on the 15th for Zoom Pro for one month.

This month we took in \$126.10 in dues for 5 renewing members, and \$75.66 for 3 new members. This month I reimbursed Jack Chastain \$124 for hardware he bought at NEAF for club telescopes, primarily the DayStar solar scope.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

### MHAA Membership Report for May 2024

As of 19 May 2024 the club has 94 paid members in good standing, of which 5 are students. This month we gained 3 new members, with 5 renewals, while there are 5 lapsed memberships.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Acting Membership Coordinator

~~~~~

## 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).