



M H A A

Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

July, 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

The next meeting is July 16th, 2024, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

July Speaker

“Chemical Analysis of the Europa Clipper”.

Thomas Evangelist of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association will discuss the spacecraft’s instruments that measure mass spectroscopy and both ultraviolet and visible radiation of the Jupiter moon Europa.

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, June 18, 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 May meeting as published in the newsletter were unanimously approved.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack Chastain was present.

- Can now update the database
 - Can now add members to web site.
 - Look for an email confirming your membership in the new system.
 - Web page updates.
- We received a donation of a Unitron 142 (3" refractor)
- We also possibly have 13" Teeter reflector with tracking motors coming.
- We have several nice telescopes we need to keep track of.
 - We need a procedure for controlling access

Vice President: Dave Sherman was present.

- Nothing to report.

Recording Secretary: Jim Rockrohr was present.

- Nothing to report.

Publicity: Tim Denman was not present.

- (No report).

Newsletter: Rick Versace was not present.

- (No report).

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See latest newsletter for numbers.
- A suggestion was made to purchase a SeeStar scope for outreach events.
 - Cost is about \$500.
 - Live stacking of images.
 - Fully automated
 - View on Zoom and iPhone
 - A proposal will be made at the July meeting.

Outreach: Mike Goldstein was not present.

- No report

Speakers: Bart Henin was present.

- July is booked.

Membership: Eric Myers (acting) was present

- Needs some help.
- Migrating to new system.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present.

- NASA Starliner is at the ISS.
- Voyage 1 is back online.
- Hubble is down to one gyroscope.

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar was present

- Working on membership stuff.
- Adding a library tool for equipment, videos, etc.

Old Business:

- **Last club star party** cancelled due to weather.
- **Star party at Dragon Park (West Point)** was a good night. About 6 people attended.

New Business:

- Next **Walkway Over the Hudson** event is 6/21. Meet at East Side at 7:30 PM for transportation.

Events:

- **Tech Session** this Thursday.
- **IBM** – 6/19, table at open house. See Steve.
- **Solar Noon (Solstice)** – 6/20, SUNY campus. See Eric.
- **Walkway Over the Hudson** - 6/21. See Eric.
- **Autocamp, Catskills** – 6/22, indoor (and outdoor?) event. See Jack.
- **Private Bachelorette Party** – 6/29 or (6/27 rain date), See Jack.
- **Next club star party** – 7/5. Remember to RSVP.
- **Sam's Point** – date TBD.
- **Kingston Sailing Club** – date TBD. Evening event on the river. See Jack.

Reminders:

- Paid members get access to club equipment (telescopes, imagers, trackers) and club DVD/VHS video library.
 1. See the website or Jack for a list of available items.
- Paid members can also get access to the club Slack channels. Contact Jack or Eric for access.

Observing Reports:

- (none mentioned)

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM. There were 16 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 15 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is July 16th, 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 Irene Pease: “Into the Unknown, the Voyage Interstellar Mission”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, July 14, 2024.

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## MHAA Treasurer's Report for July 2024

As of 14 July 2024 we have \$4,408.84 in our bank account and \$3,027.90 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$265 in petty cash. Our monthly payment for Google gSuite went down to \$36.59 this month after we deleted one unused account. We will pay \$15.99 on the 15th for Zoom Pro for one month.

This month we took in \$100.44 in dues for 4 renewing members, and \$201.32 for 9 new members (one of them a student). We received a donation of \$200 when some of our members took telescopes to a bachelorette party, and we received a \$25 donation from a member.

As I mentioned last month, I have been informed by Meetup that the price for their services will be going up to \$178.99 every 6 months, an increase of \$72.13, or 67%. I have not yet received that bill.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

## MHAA Membership Report for July 2024

As of 14 July 2024 the club has 99 members in good standing, of which 6 are students. This month we gained 9 new members, including another student, with 4 members renewing, while there are currently 9 lapsed memberships. We have 97 members on Slack, of which only 34 have been active this past month. There are 116 people signed up for our [groups.io](https://groups.io) mailing list. On social media, we have over 2,650 followers on Meetup.com, 1,168 followers on Facebook, and 162 followers on Instagram.

I now understand the software for managing memberships on our new website enough that I have been creating accounts for all new members and whenever an existing member renews. There were some bumps along the way, but I think they are all smoothed out now. I've worked my way back through the list of people who have paid dues since March and sent them notices to set a password on their new account. I've still got about a quarter of the list of members to put into the new system, but I expect that to be completed by the next meeting. After everybody is in the system we will run some tests to compare the new database with the old spreadsheet, and when that is done the new database will become the primary membership list.

The new website is based on software called WordPress which was originally designed for blogs and static web pages, which means that it should be fairly easy to use to post club information and news about events. I plan to test this out by posting this report to the blog on that site, though I'm not sure if it easy for visitors to view yet.

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 to find local clubs, events, and more!

Nothing this month

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## Star Party Schedule

| Date        | Arrival Time | Civil Dusk |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 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  |
| Nov 29 2024 | 4:30 PM      | 16:55 EST  |
| Dec 27 2024 | 4:30 PM      | 17:01 EST  |
| Jan 24 2025 | 5:00 PM      | 17:29 EST  |
| Feb 28 2025 | 5:30 PM      | 18:11 EST  |

### 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).