



SEPTEMBER, 2024

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

President : Jack Chastain
Secretary: Jim Rockrohr
Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace
Publicity: Tim Denman
Speakers: Bart Henin

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: Michael Goldstein
College Liaison: Dr. Amy Bartholomew

The next meeting is September 17th, 2024, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

September Speaker

“Renowned Broadcast Meteorologist to give Update on Comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS”

Joe Rao was a broadcast meteorologist for over 40 years holding the Seals of Approval of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and National Weather Association (NWA). He still serves as an associate and guest lecturer at New York's Hayden Planetarium. He also writes about astronomy for the online news service, <http://Space.com>, as well as Natural History magazine, Sky & Telescope, the Farmers' Almanac and other publications. On July 3rd, 2023, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) named Asteroid 20009 Joerao in his honor.

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Online link to the MHAA monthly Business Meeting Agenda:

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

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"Astronomy at Lake Taghkanic State Park"

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

Thanks Eric Myers

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**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association,  
August 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 July meeting as published in the newsletter were unanimously approved.

**Officer's Reports:**

**President:** Jack Chastain was present.

- o Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present.

- Having trouble connecting with Albany Times Record for announcements.

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

- (No report).

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See latest newsletter for numbers.
  - o **Google** up to \$184.00
- Eric purchased a SeeStar telescope for outreach events.
  - o Cost was \$500.
  - o Also **purchased** tripod and carrying case.
- Picnic took in \$270 and cost of food, etc., was \$273. Pavilion cost was \$125.

**Outreach:** Mike Goldstein was present.

- Working with **Olana** for a star party on 11/22 and a winter solstice event on 12/21.
- Working with **Catskill Visitor Center** in Mount Tremper for a sun/star party in October.

**Speakers:** Bart Henin was present.

- September will be Eric Myers on the Seestar telescope.

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

- Needs some help.
- 7 renewals, no new members this month
  - o We have 100 paid members, but will be losing a few students.
- Membership transferred to new web system.

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

- Applications to become a Solar System Ambassador open in September. See Willie.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was present

- Membership stuff transferred to web.
- When you log into your account the first time you must change the password.
- Starting on Version 2.0.

### **Old Business:**

- **Last club star party, 8/2-3**, was cancelled due to weather.
- **Riverbend park, Gardiner**, event, 8/3, cancelled due to weather.
- **Canopus Lake** event, 8/10, well attended, good group.
- **Wildflower Farms** event, 8/15
  - o Smoke obscured all but Moon and 2 stars.
  - o Received a \$200 donation.
- **Club picnic, 8/17**
  - o Lousy weather
  - o 18 people attended.

### **New Business:**

- o Robert Bolitho died last December.
  - o Do we want to have a memorial list of members who have passed?

### **Events:**

- **Next club star party** – 8/30. Remember to RSVP.
- **Vineyard Commons star party** – 8/30, See Rick.
- **IOMN (International Observe the Moon Night)** – 9/14 at SUNY New Paltz. See Eric.
- **Dedication of Moon Tree** – 9/21, SUNY New Paltz. See Eric.
- **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 8:01 PM. There were 15 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 10 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is September 17<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 Zoe Learner Ponterio, Cornell's Spacecraft Imaging Facility Manager: "Shooting the Moon: A History of Photographing our Cosmic Neighbor".

Submitted by James Rockrohr, September 15, 2024.

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MHAA Treasurer's Report for September 2024

As of 15 August 2024 we have \$4,400.60 in our bank account and \$2539.02 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$337.00 in petty cash. Our monthly payment for Google gSuite was again \$31.14 this month, and we paid \$15.99 on the 15th for Zoom Pro for one month. This month we took in \$50.22 in dues for 2 new members, and we received a donation of \$200 (less the 2.99% PayPal tax) for a private event at Wildflower Farms

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer

MHAA Membership Report for September 2024

As of 15 September 2024 the club has 105 members in good standing, of which 2 are students. This month we gained two new membership, with no membership renewals. I am happy to report that all members are now in the new database.

We have 92 members on Slack, of which only 30 have been active this past month, and there are 27 unused invitations to join. There are 110 people signed up for our groups.io mailing list, excluding those with unverified addresses or bouncing email addresses. As a reminder, that list includes non-members who want to receive information about club activities. On social media, we have 2,692 followers on Meetup.com, 1,191 followers on Facebook and 188 followers on Instagram.

Our new website includes a blog for club news, and I am now adding membership reports to that in addition to our Newsletter.

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!

**The article was unavaliabe 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.