



June, 2025

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: TBD
Webmaster: Steve Dittmar
Outreach: Michael Goldstein
College Liaison: Dr. Amy Bartholomew

The next meeting is June 17th, 2025, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

June Speaker

“White Dwarfs and the Fate of the Universe”
Dr. Willie Yee

Online link to the MHA A monthly Business Meeting Agenda:

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

~~~~~

"Astronomy at Lake Taghkanic State Park"

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

~~~~~

**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association,
May 20, 2025**

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 April meeting as published in the newsletter were passed unanimously.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack Chastain was present.

- We need more contact cards.
 - o Only minor changes suggested.

Vice President: Dave Sherman was present.

- Nothing to report.

Recording Secretary: Jim Rockrohr was not present.

- Nothing to report.
- (May business meeting was recorded and minutes produced from that.)

Publicity: Tim Denman was present.

- Press releases have not gone out yet.
- People having some issues with MeetUp.

Newsletter: Rick Versace was not present.

- (No report).

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See newsletter for the current numbers.
- Zoom cost is going up by \$1 per month.
 - o Zoom has a discount for nonprofits.
 - o Eric applied, but need an IRS letter confirming nonprofit status; working on it this summer.
- Expecting Google increase soon, too.
- A new Seestar S50 telescope was purchased for the Library program for \$549.00 (see below).

Outreach: Mike Goldstein was not present.

- **Olana** wants a program on October 4 for International Observe the Moon Night (IOMN)
 - o Also **Innesfree** and **SUNY New Paltz** are doing programs and would like our help.
 - o Will work out the details as we get closer.
- **John Burroughs's Woodchuck Lodge** in Roxbury, NY, will let MHAA have exclusive use of the dark site for membership only star parties as long as we let them know ahead of time.
 - o Mike and Steve are working out the details and how we can register ahead of time to use the site.
 - o They are looking for a public star party on September 26 (rain date 27th).

Speakers: Bart Henin was present.

- June: Willie Yee: "White Dwarfs and the Fate of the Universe"
- July: Tommy E: "A Breath of Fresh Air - Getting Oxygen to Other Planets so that Humans Could Briefly Inhabit the Space".
- August: Richard Wolff: "The History of Celestial Way Finding"

Membership: Eric Myers (acting) was present

- “Business as usual”.
- Needs someone to take over this job since the web application is up and running.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present.

- ISS crew returns on Thursday.
- JPL has a new director promoted from within (not DOGE’d).

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar was present

- Working with Astrobin to get our members group of pictures updated.
 - o They will include a method to upload pictures from a group rather than single members photos in their next API update (near end of year).
- Web maintenance.
 - o Minor issues with contact form have been fixed.

Old Business:

- **Last club star party** – cancelled due to clouds and wind.
- **Queer Outdoor Adventure group star party** – cancelled due to poor weather.
- **Walkway over the Hudson** – cancelled due to weather.

New Business:

- **Next Club Star Party:** Friday, 5/20, at Lake Taghkanic. Be sure to RSVP.
 - o Will probably be cancelled based on current weather forecasts.
- **Gather Green Wedding** – 7/6, 10 – midnight. See Jack.
- **Cub Scouts** – Modena. Date TBD, see Jack.
- Need to update the **loaner equipment list**. Send info with pictures to Steve.
 - o The club Seestar is now available.
- **Lagrange Library** –
 - o Eric has been talking with them.
 - o They are interested in a lending program.
 - They already loan out Kindles
 - o Eric purchased a Seestar S50 for this program (see treasurer’s report).
 - o Steve reported that ZWO is donating an S30 to us for this program, also.
 - Eric will follow up with letter that we are a nonprofit.
 - o We found a website that explains how to set up a program like this.
 - We need a memo of understanding, etc.
- Eric reported that **Adriance Library** in Poughkeepsie already loans out telescope(s) and may be interested in our program.
- **Summer Picnic** – If interested see Jack.

Events:

- (none discussed due to time.)

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:

- Nothing reported.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. **The next meeting is June 17th, 2025, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

Submitted by James Rockrohr, June 16, 2025.

~~~~~

### MHAA Treasurer’s Report for June 2025

As of 15 June 2025 we have \$6,908.170 n our bank account and \$2,567.33 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$75.00 in petty cash. Our monthly payment for Google gSuite on the first of the month was \$31.14, and we paid \$16.99 on the 15th for Zoom Pro for one month (the price has increased by \$1/month).

This month we took in \$148.00 for 6 renewing members.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

### MHAA Membership Report for June 2025

As of 15 June 2025 the club has 104 members in good standing, of which 5 are students and 2 are honorary members from SUNY New Paltz. Since the last report we have gained one more student member and there have been 6 renewals. This month we received \$750 from the Olana Partnership for an event we held at Olana on February 1st, and we received a \$50 donation from long-time (and founding) member David Lindemann.

Since we switched over to the web site, which is connected to PayPal in a way that allows members automatically renew their membership by creating a “subscription” we now have 20 active “auto-renew” subscriptions.

We have 102 participants in our Slack workspace, of which 24 are classified as “active.”

We have 2890 “members” on Meetup.com, which is primarily “friends, fans, and followers,” but also includes actual club members. There are 125 people in our email list on [groups.io](https://groups.io), which includes non-members who are interested in receiving those notifications. We have 1,241 followers on Facebook, and 234 followers on Instagram.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Acting Membership Coordinator

~~~~~

Star Party Schedule

Date	Arrival Time	Civil Dusk
Jun 20 2025	8:30 PM	21:08 EDT
Jul 25 2025	8:30 PM	20:53 EDT
Aug 22 2025	7:30 PM	20:14 EDT
Sep 19 2025	7:00 PM	19:25 EDT
Oct 17 2025	6:00 PM	18:38 EDT
Nov 21 2025	4:30 PM	16:59 EST
Dec 19 2025	4:30 PM	16:57 EST
Jan 16 2026	4:30 PM	17:20 EST
Feb 13 2026	5:30 PM	17:53 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.