



# M H A A

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## Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

**July, 2025**

**Website:** [www.midhudsonastro.org](http://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 July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

**July Speaker**

**“A Breath of Fresh Air”**  
Mr. Thomas Evangelist

Getting Oxygen To Other Planets So That Humans Could Briefly Inhabit The Space.

Online link to the MHA 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/ltsp/>

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## Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, June 17, 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 May meeting as published in the newsletter were passed unanimously.

### Officer's Reports:

**President:** Jack Chastain was present.

- Contact cards are coming.

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present.

- Thanks to Mike and Bart for posting to the web.

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

- (No report).

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See newsletter for the current numbers.
- Received \$750.00 donation from Olana for the February event.

**Outreach:** Mike Goldstein was present.

- Mike was interviewed by a reporter for a web magazine.
- We have added the Woodchuck Lodge to our insurance.
- **Autocamp** wants an event on 8/23.
  - o Will offer \$500 with some sponsorship.
- **John Burroughs's Woodchuck Lodge** in Roxbury, NY, looking for a public star party on September 26 (rain date 27<sup>th</sup>).
- **Olana, 10/4** - wants a family oriented program for International Observe the Moon Night (IOMN)
- **Innesfree, 10/4** – wants IOMN star party.
- **SUNY New Paltz, 10/4** - is doing an IOMN program and would like our help.
  - o Will work out the details as we get closer.

**Speakers:** Bart Henin was present.

- 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"
- September: Dr. Charles Merguerian: "Exploration and Geology of the Earth's Moon".
- October: SUNY Students: "Seestar Science"
- November: Mike Goldstein: (tentative) ARP objects

- December: Member presentations and holiday party.
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**Membership:** Eric Myers (acting) was present

- Gained 1 student member from Orange County CC.
- Gained 3 students from SUNY NP.
- Steve Dittmar will take over membership.

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

- Nothing to report.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was present

- Added ability to add a second car to your Lake Taghkanic RSVP.
- There is a waiver to sign for access to various dark sites.
- Ability to print a membership card coming in 1-2 weeks.

**Summer Picnic:** Alex Passas and Scott Ewart were present.

- Forms submitted for pavilion at Field of Dreams Park.
- August 16, 6PM until whenever.

**Old Business:**

- **Last club star party** – cancelled due to clouds and wind.
- **Walkway over the Hudson** – cancelled due to weather.
- Others that were scheduled were also cancelled.

**New Business:**

- **Next Club Star Party:** Friday, 6/20, at Lake Taghkanic. Be sure to RSVP.
- **Gather Green Wedding** – 7/6, 10 PM – midnight. West of Saugerties. See Jack.
- **Loaner equipment list has been updated on the web site.** Send info with pictures to Steve if you have additional items.
- **Astronomy 101 will be given in January, 2026.**
- **Lagrange Library** –
  - Eric has the Seestar S50 for the Lagrange Library program.
    - Will set up a meeting with them soon to discuss details.
  - Steve has the donated Seestar S30.
  - Memos of understanding have been started.
    - The loan of the scope will be for a finite time.
    - It will be actively monitored.
    - Etc.
  - Adriance Library in Poughkeepsie will be contacted about their program.
  - Hopefully get programs up and running this summer/fall.

**Events:**

- (See Outreach and new Business above.)

**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 and how to pay to join.
- 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 7:58 PM. There were 14 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 14 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 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 Dr. Willie Yee: "White Dwarf Stars and the Fate of the Universe".

Submitted by James Rockrohr, July 12, 2025.

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### **MHAA Treasurer's Report for July 2025**

As of 12 July 2025 we have \$7509.26 in our bank account and \$2,844.60 in our PayPal account, with the Treasurer holding \$100.00 in petty cash. Our monthly payment for Google gSuite on the first of the month was \$31.14, and we will pay \$16.99 on the 15th for Zoom Pro for one month (the price recently increased by \$1/month).

This month we took in \$99.20 for 4 renewing members and \$49.20 for two new members, as well as \$250.00 (less a \$12.97 fee from PayPal) for a new Life member. We received \$575.00 for a wedding event held on July 6th at Gather Greene. This month, in addition to monthly operating expenses, we paid \$27.02 for 500 contact cards

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

### **MHAA Membership Report for July 2025**

As of 12 July 2025 the club has 106 members in good standing, of which 26 are students and 2 are honorary members from SUNY New Paltz. This month we gained another Lifetime member (welcome to John Kalamaras) and a new student member from Marist University.

Steve Dittmar, who is also our Webmaster, will be taking over most duties of the Membership Coordinator. We are working on a smooth transition and documentation of the duties and tasks so that anybody else can help out as well. As Treasurer I will continue to work closely with him regarding dues collection, and possibly student members.

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 [go.nasa.gov/nightskynetwork](https://go.nasa.gov/nightskynetwork) to find local clubs, events, and more!

By: Kat Troche

As summer deepens in the Northern Hemisphere, a familiar constellation rises with the galactic core of the Milky Way each evening: Scorpius the Scorpion. One of the twelve zodiacal constellations, Scorpius contains many notable objects, making it an observer's delight during the warmer months. Here are some items to spy in July:



The star map of the Scorpius constellation highlights the star Antares and several notable deep-sky objects like the Rho Ophiuchi Complex, Messier 4, the Cat's Paw Nebula, and Caldwell 76, the Baby Scorpion Cluster. Credit: Stellarium Web

- **Antares:** referred to as “the heart of the scorpion,” this supergiant has a distinct reddish hue and is visible to the naked eye. If you have good skies, try to split this binary star with a medium-sized telescope. Antares is a double star with a white main-sequence companion that comes in at a 5.4 magnitude.
- **Messier 4:** one of the easiest globular clusters to find, M4 is the closest of these star clusters to Earth at 5,500 light years. With a magnitude of about 5.6, you can spot this with a small or medium-sized

telescope in average skies. Darker skies will reveal the bright core. Use Antares as a guide star for this short trip across the sky.

- **Caldwell 76:** If you prefer open star clusters, locate C76, also known as the Baby Scorpion Cluster, right where the ‘stinger’ of Scorpius starts to curve. At a magnitude of 2.6, it is slightly brighter than M4, albeit smaller, and can be spotted with binoculars and the naked eye under good sky conditions.



A digital map of the Rho Ophiuchi Complex. Credit: Stellarium Web

Lastly, if you have an astrophotography set up, capture the [Cat's Paw Nebula](#) near the stinger of Scorpius. You can also capture the [Rho Ophiuchi cloud complex](#) in the nearby constellation Ophiuchus. Brilliant Antares can be found at the center of this wondrous structure.

## Manaiakalani

While many cultures tell tales of a 'scorpion' in the sky, several Polynesian cultures see the same stars as the demigod Māui's fishhook, [Manaiakalani](#). It is said that Māui didn't just use his hook for giant fish in the sea, but to pull new islands from the bottom of the ocean. There are many references to the Milky Way representing a fish. As Manaiakalani rises from the southeast, it appears to pull the great celestial fish across a glittering sea of stars.

## Measure Your Darkness

While you can use smartphone apps or dedicated devices like a Sky Quality Meter, Scorpius is a great constellation to measure your sky darkness with! On a clear night, can you trail the curve of the tail? Can you see the scorpion's heart? Use our free printable [Dark Sky Wheel](#), featuring the stars of Scorpius on one side and Orion on the other for measurements during cooler months. You can find this resource and more in the [Big Astronomy Toolkit](#).

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## 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](http://www.midhudsonastro.org).