



October, 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 October 21st, 2025, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

October Speaker

On Tuesday, Oct 21st, four SUNY New Paltz Students will be presenting their reports from their "Seestar summer camp" with an introduction by Mid Hudson Astronomical Association club member Eric Meyers who has worked as an advisor to these students.

Each student has been working on a separate project with the overall aim being to see if we can 'do science' with the Seestar. This represents 4 distinctly different attempts at using this modest piece of equipment to do more than just take photos. Whether successful or not, the results promise to be interesting!

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/>



**Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association,
September 16, 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 August meeting as published in the newsletter were passed unanimously after one correction to add Steve Dittmar to the Innisfree event.

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack Chastain was present.

- 3 meetings until election of officers.
 - o Nomination committee is Scott Ewert.
- Meade 10 and 12 inch scopes being tested.
- Criterion RV6 looks good.
- There are two Google calendars:
 - o An MHAA "open" calendar of events open to the public; visible to all.
 - o An MHAA members only calendar for 3rd party events.
- Jack was offered a framed copy of the recent MHAA article in Hudson Valley magazine.
 - o "Only" \$250.00; he turned it down.

Vice President: Dave Sherman was present.

- Nothing to report.

Recording Secretary: Jim Rockrohr was present.

- Nothing to report.

Publicity: Tim Denman was present.

- Press releases went out for this meeting and the upcoming Star Party.

Newsletter: Rick Versace was not present.

- (No report).

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See newsletter for the current numbers.
- Google G-suite has gone up \$2.00 /month.
- Eric proposed that we loan a SUNY astronomy student \$315.00 for attendance at a conference that will be paid back when he gets reimbursement from SUNY.

- It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Outreach: Mike Goldstein was present.

- **Woodchuck Lodge** annual star party – Saturday, 9/27.
- Nothing scheduled at **Olana** for the remainder of this year. Maybe next year.

Speakers: Bart Henin was present.

- October: SUNY Students: “Seestar Science”
- November: Mike Goldstein: ARP objects
- December: Member presentations and holiday party.
- January: Member presentation and Q & A: “Astronomy 101: Or How to Use the Telescope You Got For Christmas”.
- February :
- March: Astrophotography

Membership: Steve Dittmar was present

- See newsletter.
- 103 paid members including 4 students.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present.

- Applications open for Solar System Ambassador positions until the end of September. See Willie.

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar was present

- Log in and sign the new liability waiver, especially if you plan to attend the Woodchuck Lodge event.
- Membership card issues fixed on web site.

Old Business:

- **Last club star party** – went well.
- **Walkway over the Hudson** – Weather was OK. 4 MHAA members attended.
- **AutoCamp event** – 2 MHAA members attended.
 - Client loved it.

New Business:

- Received a donation of a Criterion RV6 – Looks good.
- Tasco – given to Raj for student use.
- 10” and 12” Meades available.
- Offers of a Coulter Odyssey and a small Celestron.
- We need to update the loaner list! We’re getting a lot of hardware.
- V Sagittae may be a possible Nova.

Events:

- **10/17 Club Star Party:** Lake Taghkanic. Rain date 10/18.
- **Wally Farms (Ancram) star party** – 9/18.
- **Mohonk event** – 9/18 ?
- **Club star party** – 9/19.
- **John Burroughs’s Woodchuck Lodge** in Roxbury, NY, 9/26 (rain date 27th).
- **Innesfree, 10/4** – wants IOMN star party.
- **SUNY New Paltz, 10/4** - is doing an IOMN program and would like our help.
 - Will work out the details as we get closer.
- **Walkway Over the Hudson, 10/10** - see Eric.

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 8:00 PM. There were 18 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 25 people were in the auditorium.

The next meeting is October 21st, 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. Charles Merguerian: “Exploration and Geology of Earth’s Moon”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, October 20, 2025.

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**MHAA Treasurer’s Report for October 2025**

As of 19 October 2025 we have \$8,286.71 in our bank account, \$2,843.30 in our PayPal account, and \$51.00 in petty cash, for a net gain of \$252.74 over last month.

Our monthly payment for Google gSuite on the first of the month was \$36.33, and our monthly payment for Zoom Pro on the 15th was \$16.99. We received \$72.40 in dues for two new members and one renewal. We received \$250.00 from the Mohonk Mountain House for an event on 20 Sept 2025. I anticipate receiving \$600 for a star party held on October 16th at AutoCamp in the Town of Saugerties.

This month I received an acknowledgement of our annual filing of form CHAR500 to the NY state Attorney General’s Charities Bureau, which I filed in May. The next filing is due at the end of August 2026.

I have not yet completed our application to the IRS for a Letter of Determination, but I will be prepared to report details of our tax-exempt status at the business meeting on Tuesday.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

**MHAA Membership Report for October 2025**

Since last month's meeting we've gained 1 new member.

As of 20 October 2025 the club has 103 members in good standing including 5 students and 2 honorary members from SUNY New Paltz.

We have 149 participants in our Slack workspace, of which 25 are classified as “active.”

We have 2974 “members” on Meetup.com, which is primarily “friends, fans, and followers,” as well as actual club members. There are 121 people in our email list on [groups.io](https://groups.io), which includes non-members who are interested in receiving those notifications. We have 1264 followers on Facebook, and 252 followers on Instagram.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Dittmar  
Membership Coordinator

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NASA Night Sky at Night will no longer be available due to NASA budget cuts

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### Star Party Schedule

| Date        | Arrival Time | Civil Dusk |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 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  |
| Mar 13 2026 | 7:00 PM      | 19:26 EDT  |
| Apr 17 2026 | 7:30 PM      | 20:07 EDT  |
| May 15 2026 | 8:00 PM      | 20:40 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).