



November, 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 November 18th, 2025, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

November Speaker

On Tuesday, Nov 18, MHA A club member Michael Goldstein will be giving a talk about ARP (the Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies).

This atlas (published in 1967) was created by Halton “Chip” Arp who was simultaneously one of the greatest observational astronomers of the post-WW II generation, and one of its most celebrated or notorious mavericks. This special atlas remains a favorite guide for amateur astronomers and astrophotographers obsessed with capturing galaxies in various stages of their life-cycle in all their weird and wonderful variations in galactic form.

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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/ltsp/>
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## **Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, October 21, 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 September meeting as published in the newsletter were passed unanimously.

### **Officer's Reports:**

**President:** Jack Chastain was present.

- 2 meetings until election of officers (December).
  - o Nomination committee is Scott Ewert.
- We held two club star parties since the last meeting.
  - o There has been too much white light and it's not all from newbies.
  - o Please dim your computer screens or use a red screen application.
  - o Eric will be bringing red tape for flashlights, etc.
- Do we want to do a winter dinner party? We need a leader to pull it together.
  - o Jack will look for volunteers on Slack.

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

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

**Publicity:** Tim Denman was present.

- Nothing to report.

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

- (No report).

**Outreach:** Mike Goldstein was present.

- We have a request from Cairo Elementary School for a star party.
  - o December 8 (rain date December 9), 6-8 PM

**Speakers:** Bart Henin was present.

- 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 : Theodore Van Tassal: "AI and Solar Weather"
- March: Astrophotography

**Membership:** Steve Dittmar was present

- See newsletter.

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

- SSA program under suspension due to federal budget cuts.

**Webmaster:** Steve Dittmar was present

- Uneventful.
- Issues with MeetUp links from our web pages.

**Treasurer:** Eric Myers was present.

- See newsletter for the current numbers.
- Nonprofit status:
  - We need a 501(c)(3) Letter to get discounts on Google applications.
  - We meet all of the criteria, just need to submit an application to the IRS.
  - 1023EZ form and \$275 application fee.
  - It was moved, seconded and passed to approve up to \$300 for the application for proof of 501(c)(3) status.
- We need to send thank you letters to recent telescope donors.
  - Need to know Fair Market Value (FMV) for each.
- Library Loan Program:
  - We have 2 SeeStar telescopes for this program.
    - We loan a telescope to the library to loan to a patron for a fixed amount of time.
  - Lagrange Library interested
    - Unfortunately people are changing so we may need to bring them up to date.
    - A Memo of Understanding (MoU) is under review.

**Old Business:**

- **Last club star party** – went well.
- **Mohonk** event went well.
- **Walkway over the Hudson** – Weather was OK.
- **IOMN** – events at Innisfree and SUNY New Paltz went well.
- **AutoCamp event** – 2 MHAA members attended.
  - Client loved it.
- **Berger Hill** – cancelled due to clouds.
- **Woodchuck Lodge** – went well.

**New Business:**

- (None reported)

**Events:**

- **Innisfree** – 10/22, See Jack
- **Saugerties High School** – 10/24, See Jack
- **Plattekill Girl Scouts** – 10/28, See Rick Versace.
- **Kent** – 11/15
- **Next Club Star Party** – 11/21, Lake Taghkanic. Rain date 11/22.

**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 16 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 17 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is November 18<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.**

There were four presentations by SUNY students introduced by Eric Myers under the general title “Can You Do Real Science with a SeeStar telescope?”:

- “Spectroscopy with a SeeStar S50” by Jayden Hubbard.
- “Photometry with a SeeStar S50” by Michael Buelino.
- “Making an HR Diagram Using Data Taken By a SeeStar S50” by West Allen.
- “SeeStar-guided Amateur Astronomy of Celestial Bodies” by Flavio Oha.
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Submitted by James Rockrohr, November 16, 2025.

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MHAA Treasurer’s Report for November 2025

As of 16 November 2025 we have \$9,387.41 in our bank account, \$2,937.58 in our PayPal account, and \$51.00 in petty cash, for a net gain of \$1,194.98 since 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 \$147.60 in dues for 5 renewals and one new member.

This month we received \$500.00 for a private event at Innes Hotel and Resort in Accord, NY, even though the sky ended up being cloudy. We received \$600 for a star party on October 16th at AutoCamp in the Town of Saugerties.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Myers
Treasurer

MHAA Membership Report for November 2025

Club Membership: 103 total

Members	Students	Honorary from SUNY New Paltz
96	5	2

Social Network Engagement

Slack	Meetup	Groups.io	Facebook	Instagram	YouTube
30 active of 149	2980	120	1269	251	397

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.