



December, 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 December 16th, 2025, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.

December Speaker

No speaker info received

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, November 18, 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 October meeting were approved as published in the newsletter with the following spelling corrections:

- Under future events: Inness Hotel instead of Innisfree on October 22.
- Presentation authors:
 - o Jaden Hubbard
 - o Michael Buccino
 - o West Allen
 - o Flavio Loja

Officer's Reports:

President: Jack Chastain was present.

- Election of officers next month (December).
 - o Nomination committee is Scott Ewert.

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).

Treasurer: Eric Myers was present.

- See newsletter for the current numbers.
- We received donations for recent events:
 - o \$500 from AutoCamp
 - o \$600 from Inness Hotel
- "We need to spend money!" - Eric
 - o Eric proposed buying another SeeStar telescope for the Mid-Hudson Teachers Center at SUNY New Paltz.
 - o After discussion it was tabled until the January meeting.
- Library Loan Program:
 - o Lagrange Library interested
 - Some updates to the Memo of Understanding (MoU) are under review.
- Nonprofit status:

- (No progress this month due to work commitments).

Outreach: Mike Goldstein was present.

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

Speakers: Bart Henin was present.

- 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
- April: TBD
- May: TBD
- June: Nuclear Reactions in Stars.

Membership: Steve Dittmar was present

- See newsletter.
- 96 paid members.
- Amy Bartholo and Raj Pandya are members as they represent us to SUNY.

Solar System Ambassador: Willie Yee was present.

- SSA program back in action after government shutdown.

Webmaster: Steve Dittmar was present

- Nothing new to report.

Old Business:

- **Last club star party** – went well.
- **Mohonk** event went well.
- **Saugerties High School** went well.
- **IOMN** – events at Innisfree and SUNY New Paltz went well.
- **Plattekill Girl Scouts**– Clouds so did an indoor presentation.

New Business:

- Jack called the floor open for nominations for next month's officer election.
 - Jack nominated Steve Dittmar for President; he accepted.
 - Mike Goldstein was nominated for Vice President; he accepted.
 - It was moved, seconded and passed that nominations be closed.

Upcoming Events:

- **Next Club Star Party** – 11/21, Lake Taghkanic. Rain date 11/22.
- **Orange County 4H, Otisville** – 11/22, See Mike
- **Cairo Elementary School** – 12/8, see Mike.
- **Kent (Huestis Park)**– 12/20 See Jack.
- **Red Hook School** - moved to April; dates TBD
- **Winter Club Dinner** - No one has volunteered to lead this so it is cancelled for this year.

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 the club.
- 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 15 Zoom windows open at the end of the business meeting and approximately 16 people were in the auditorium. **The next meeting is December 16th, 2025, on Zoom and in person. Check MeetUp for details and link. Zoom link will be sent to all those that RSVP.**

The presentation was by member Michael Goldstein: “Halton Arp and the Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies”.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, December 16, 2025.

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### **MHAA Treasurer’s Report for December 2025**

As of 15 December 2025 we have \$9,388.18 in our bank account, \$2,975.05 in our PayPal account, and \$76.00 in petty cash, for a net gain of \$63.24 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 will be \$16.99. We received \$98.80 in dues for 3 renewals and 1 new member.

Our bill for our liability insurance has arrived, and the cost for the next year will be \$936.00. Our coverage includes specific additional insured parties for the locations of our monthly star parties and public lectures (\$78 each). I anticipate a cost of \$50 for award pins.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Myers  
Treasurer

### **MHAA Membership Report for December 2025**

No report received

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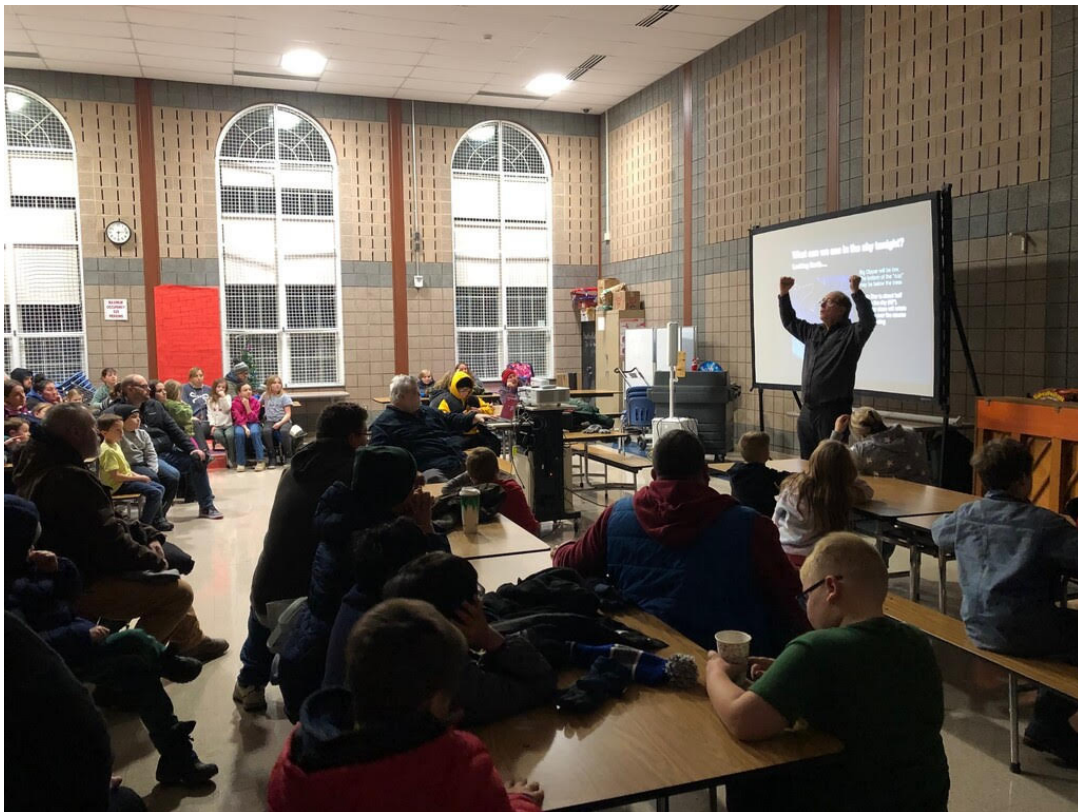


Photo of intro presentation at Cairo Durham elementary school on Monday Dec 8.

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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).