



# Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

## August, 2017

Website: [www.midhudsonastro.org](http://www.midhudsonastro.org)

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

**President :** Willie Yee  
**Secretary:** Jim Rockrohr  
**Newsletter Editor:** Rick Versace  
**Publicity:** Paul Chauvet  
**Speakers:** Paul Granich

**Vice President:** Jack Chastain  
**Treasurer:** Karen Tulchinsky  
**Membership Coordinator:** Caryn Sobel  
**Webmaster:** Paul Chauvet  
**Outreach:** (open)  
**College Liaison:** Dr. Amy Forestell

**Board of Directors:** Joe Macagne, Karl Loatman, Steve Carey

### Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, July 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by President Willie Yee in Lecture Center Room 104 at SUNY, New Paltz, NY.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the latest newsletter.

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

**Membership:** Caryn Sobel was not present.

**Treasurer:** Karen Tulchinski was present. See the latest report as published in the newsletter.

### Treasurer's Report for the month of July, 2017

Date: 13 August, 2017

Bank Balance:	\$2643.90
Outstanding Checks:	\$ 0.00
Outstanding Deposits:	\$ 24.95

Ending Bank Balance: \$2668.85  
Checkbook Balance: \$2668.85  
Balance with Bank: Yes

Ending balance total: \$2668.85

Notes: Outstanding deposit is for membership paid via PayPal.

Respectfully submitted: Ken Bailey for Karen Tulchinsky  
Treasurer

**Publicity:** Paul Chauvet was not present. Send him info on public events.

**Webmaster:** Paul Chauvet was not present. No issues known.

**Outreach:**

- **Solar Eclipse** – August 21. We have had several requests for programs around the solar eclipse, but no one will be here to lead them. Raj will have a program at SUNY.
- **Olana** – October 21. Willie coordinating.
- **Observe the Moon Night at SUNY New Paltz** – October 28, time TBD.
- **Observe the Moon Night** – October 28. Coordinated by Jack and Ken at a private farm. Details TBD.
- **Pine Plains Library** – date TBD. Solar viewing and presentations. Ken Bailey coordinating.
- **Sam's Point** – Date TBD

**Upcoming programs:** The following information was shared:

- August: A talk about the upcoming solar eclipse by our own Tom Crepet.

**Old Business:**

- (none)

**New Business:**

- (none)

**Observing Reports:**

- **Adriance Library on July 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Adriance Library Solar Observing on July 15<sup>th</sup>:** very little turnout.

**Visitors/New Members:**

There were about 21 people in attendance at the end of the business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 7:40 PM. The next meeting is on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

The presentation that followed at 8:00 PM was "meteorites: Key to the Early Solar System" by Dr. Heather Watson of Union College.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

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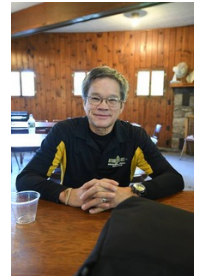
From the President:

## ADIRONDACK ASTRONOMY RETREAT 2017

David Levy, the famed comet finder (remember Shoemaker-Levy 9 that smashed into

Jupiter? *That David Levy*) has led the Adirondack Astronomy Retreat near Plattsburg since 2004. It has become a

somewhat exclusive event because the camp where it is held will only serve 40 participants, and repeaters get first dibs. Repeaters are so frequent that this year there was only one new participant. Also, there was only one four-day session (recent years have had two).



This year was not so great for observing. One night was completely clouded out. Two nights allowed and hour or two of viewing, and the last night (the one where you would just as soon go to bed early because you have to drive home the next day), was clear.

There were a few presentations during the days, and I did some magic during the cloudy evenings. The big

daytime event, however, was the trip to Star Trek The Original Series Set Tour, in Ticondoroga, about an hour's drive south. The Set Tour is comprised of the sets originally set up to film the fan series Star Trek New Voyages, but now completed a laid out on the floor plan of the 1966 Desilu Stage 9 studio. They are not permanently lit and set up

for touring. Once inside the set in the hallways of the original Enterprise (NCC-1701 "no bloody A, B, C, or D") it is an immersive experience. About half the AAR group went for this experience.



The future of AAR is unclear at this point. David and Wendee announced that next year will be the last year that they will lead the AAR. Discussions are underway whether some other folks will take over after that.

Dr. Willie K. Yee  
President

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## The 2017 Solar Eclipse Across America

By Teagan Wall

On August 21st, the sky will darken, the temperature will drop and all fifty United States will be able to see the Moon pass—at least partially—in front of the Sun. It's a solar eclipse!

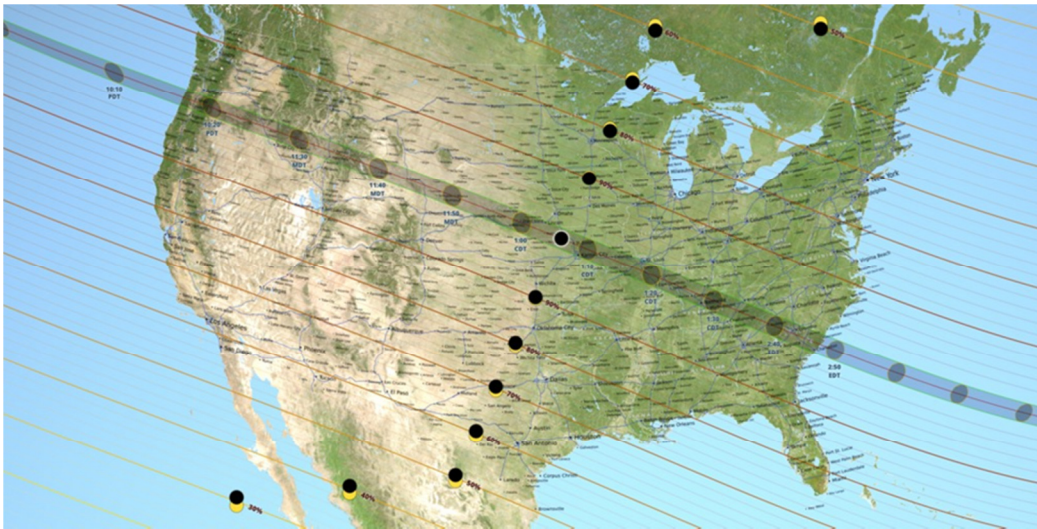
A solar eclipse happens when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, casting its shadow on Earth. Sometimes the Moon only covers up part of the Sun. That is called a partial solar eclipse. When the Moon covers up the Sun completely, it's called a total solar eclipse. As our planet rotates, the Moon's shadow moves across Earth's surface. The path of the inner part of this shadow, where the Moon totally covers the Sun, is called the path of totality.

The path of totality on August 21 stretches from Oregon to South Carolina. If you happen to be in that path, you will be able to experience a total solar eclipse! If you're in any of the 50 United States during this time, you can see a partial solar eclipse.

No matter where you'll be for the eclipse, remember that SAFETY is very important. Never look at the Sun when any part of it is exposed, like during a partial eclipse! It can hurt your eyes very badly. If you want to view the eclipse, you can buy special eclipse glasses. Go the [NASA 2017 Eclipse Safety](#) website to learn more about what glasses to buy.

If you are in the path of the total eclipse, you may look directly at the eclipse only when the Moon has completely covered the Sun. This is called totality, and it lasts a very short time. You must be sure to put your eclipse glasses back on before the Sun peeks out from behind the Moon.

You won't be the only one watching this event! NASA scientists will use this eclipse to study our Sun. During a total solar eclipse, we can see the Sun's atmosphere, called the corona. Usually the Sun is so bright that we can't see the corona. However, when the Moon blocks out most of the Sun's light, we can get a glimpse of the corona.



A map of the United States showing the path of totality for the August 21, 2017 total solar eclipse.  
Image credit: NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio

During a total solar eclipse, we can see the Sun's atmosphere, called the corona. Usually the Sun is so bright that we can't see the corona. However, when the Moon blocks out most of the Sun's light, we can get a glimpse of the corona.

The surface of the Sun is about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, but the corona is much hotter. It's about 2 million degrees Fahrenheit! The eclipse gives NASA researchers the chance to learn more about why the corona is so hot. In fact, while the eclipse will only last about

two to three minutes in one place, scientists have found a way to have more time to study it.

NASA will use two research jets to chase the eclipse as it crosses the country. The jets will fly very high, and spend seven minutes in the shadow of the Moon. Researchers are using jets to help look for small explosions on the Sun, called nanoflares. These nanoflares may help to explain the corona's extreme heat.

Whether you're watching with eclipse glasses from the ground, or in a NASA jet from the sky, the 2017 eclipse should be quite a show! It's a fun reminder of our place in the solar system, and how much we still have to learn.

To learn about what eclipse glasses to buy and other eclipse safety guidelines, visit: <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/safety>

To learn more about solar eclipses, check out this NASA Space Place video: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/eclipse-snap>

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## 2017 Star Party Schedule

| <i>Date</i>    | <i>Time</i> | <i>Sunset</i> | <i>End Civil Twilight</i> | <i>Nearest New Moon</i> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| January 27th   | 7:30PM      | 5:05PM        | 5:35PM                    | January 27th            |
| March 3rd      | 7:30PM      | 5:49PM        | 6:17PM                    | February 26th           |
| March 24th     | 7:30PM      | 7:13PM        | 7:40PM                    | March 27th              |
| April 28th     | 8:00PM      | 7:51PM        | 8:21PM                    | April 26th              |
| May 26th       | 8:30PM      | 8:19PM        | 8:52PM                    | May 25th                |
| June 30th      | 8:30PM      | 8:34PM        | 9:09PM                    | June 23rd               |
| July 28th      | 8:30PM      | 8:18PM        | 8:49PM                    | July 23rd               |
| August 18th    | 8:30PM      | 7:51PM        | 8:20PM                    | August 21st             |
| September 22nd | 7:30PM      | 6:52PM        | 7:20PM                    | September 20th          |
| October 20th   | 7:30PM      | 6:06PM        | 6:35PM                    | October 19th            |
| November 17th  | 7:30PM      | 4:33PM        | 5:04PM                    | November 18th           |
| December 15th  | 7:30PM      | 4:26PM        | 4:48PM                    | December 18th           |

## 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:

- ♦ For the foreseeable future, all indoor meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in Coykendall Science Bldg., SUNY New Paltz (directions above) at 7:30 PM. All indoor events are FREE! All are welcome. The presentations are generally geared towards teenagers and up. For more information, call the Club Hotline.
- ♦ 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).