



Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association

May, 2015

Website: www.midhudsonastro.org

Yahoo Group: MHAstro

President : Willie Yee
Secretary: Jim Rockrohr
Newsletter Editor: Rick Versace
Publicity: Paul Chauvet
Parks Liaison:

Vice President: Candace Wall
Treasurer: Ken Bailey
Membership Coordinator: Caryn Sobel
Webmaster: Paul Chauvet
College Liaison: Dr. Amy Forestell

Directors: Karl Loatman, Steve Carey, Joe McCagne, and Dave Lindemann

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Mid Hudson Astronomical Association, April 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Willie Yee in the Coykendall Auditorium at SUNY, New Paltz, NY.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the last meeting as published in the newsletter be approved. The motion passed.

Officer's Reports:

Membership: Caryn Sobel was not present.

Treasurer: Ken Bailey present. See his report in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report for the month of April, 2015

Date: 16 May, 2015

Bank Balance:	\$1768.81
Outstanding Checks:	\$ 0
Outstanding Deposits:	\$ 0
Ending Bank Balance:	\$1768.81
Checkbook Balance:	\$1768.81
Balance with Bank: Yes	

Ending balance total: \$1768.81

Notes: There are no outstanding checks or deposits at this time. We are working on a problem with a check from Olana. They sent us a check and somehow, it got returned as a closed account. Our bank says "Their bank...", their bank says "Our bank...", etc. We're working on getting it resolved. Also found a problem with past tax filings. It has been resolved.

Respectfully submitted: Ken Bailey
Treasurer

Outreach: Candace Wall reported on upcoming events:

- **Haviland School:** April 24
- **International Astronomy Day:** April 25 – Willie coordinating; will be at Hasbrouck Park from 1-4 and the Smolen Planetarium starting at 7:30 (weather permitting, of course).
- **Boy Scouts at Lake Taghkanic:** April 24-25 – Looking for telescopes to help with astronomy badges.
- **Earth Day:** April 26 – Huguenot Church in New Paltz, Willie Yee coordinating; daytime solar viewing. Could use help with crowd control.
- **Avalon Outreach:** May 14, 8 PM – (Adult residence near Dutchess County Airport) Willie coordinating.
- **Walkill Land Trust:** May 15 – Tom Rankin coordinating.
- **Rhinebeck Relay for Life (American Cancer Society):** May 30-31 at Dutchess County Fairgrounds. Candace is coordinating and has a team set up for MHAA if you would like to attend. There is no cost. We can go on 5/29 to reconnoiter the area. Eric Myers will set up the Solar System Model.
- **Saugerties High School:** October 23.
- **Saugerties Science Fair:** November 13.

Publicity: Paul Chauvet was not present.

Webmaster: Paul Chauvet was not present.

Upcoming programs: Candace Wall:

- Bob Berman in May.

Old Business:

- NEAF – April 18-19. Many members attended.
- Club telescopes and resources:
 - o 13 inch dob mirror to be recoated. Jack Chastain still working on arranging it.
 - o 100 mm Celestron AP is available; see Willie.
 - o 8" SCT with table top mount is available for member use. See Willie.
 - o Full asset list is posted on the website.
- Awards presented to Ken Bailey: Polar Bear award for braving the cold to observe this winter, and a Night Sky Network award for Outreach participation.

New Business:

- (None)

Visitors/New Members:

3 new visitors introduced themselves. They heard about us through MeetUp, ad in local paper, and googling for astronomy clubs. There was a total of about 32 people in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM. Next meeting is on May 19th.

The program that followed included "Why There is Something Rather than Nothing" by Willie Yee and "Black Holes and Red Harrings" by Prof. Tarun Biswas of the SUNY New Paltz Physics Department.

Submitted by James Rockrohr, May 17, 2015.

From the President:

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An Astronomical Glossary

On April 1st of this year, I published the (Un)official Cloudy Nights Astronomical Glossary. It was taken mostly from a thread of humorous definitions contributed by Cloudy Nights users. I edited and formatted them, and they are available in their First Edition entirety on the Cloudy Nights site <http://www.cloudynights.com/page/articles/cat/articles/the-unofficial-cloudy-nights-astronomical-glo-r2971>

A somewhat arbitrary selection, best read in small amounts, about the time it takes to go potty:

5 minute exposure: What invariably leads to frostbite on one's nether regions after nature calls while at the exclusive dark sky site in Northern Alaska.

Absolutely Perfect Skies at an amazing dark site: Perfect time for your telescope to break down and to find out your binoculars are out of collimation.

Astrophotography: Foreign language curse phrase uttered after hours of struggling with nothing to show for it.

Baffle tube: The dumbfounded feeling one gets after watching modern television.

Betelguese: Goopy stuff that gets on your mirror/lens/corrector plate after a large insect lands there.

Big Bang: Result of a Gas Giant, q.v.

Big Dipper: An improperly balanced Dobsonian.

Binoviewers: 1) Just to confuse the cyclops among us. 2) What she says when you mention buying it.

Bolide: What streaks overhead just as you bend down to pick up something and/or step into the john.

CaK scope: Device for determining if the viewer is younger than 30 years.

Cassegrain: Two mirrors placed in a precise configuration that allows you to burn money faster than ever before.

Chromatic aberration: Someone put a dent in your '57 Chevy.

Cloudy Nights:like there's any other kind....

Cloudy Nights Classifieds: A place full of stuff you had no idea you ~needed~ yet end up buying five minutes later.

Coronal Mass Ejection: Too much Mexican beer last night.

Dobsonian: A cheap telescope that cons you into buying eyepieces that each cost more than the telescope itself.

Double star: Brad and Angelina; alternatively, whoever Jen is mixed up with these days.

ED: The type of glass used in a slightly flaccid refractor

Emission nebula: What you walk into when following a gas giant.

Exit Pupil: One who is expelled from school.

Eyepiece case: 1) An individual who owns many and yet covets many more eyepieces. 2) Either a) has empty holes, indicating the need for more eyepieces, or b) has no empty holes, indicating the need for another or a larger eyepiece case.

Field stop: 1) That wall you run into just past the goal post. 2) That dangd fence that someone always puts around an otherwise perfectly good dark observing site.

Finder: What you have to do when she's lost.

Focuser: 1) Knob you constantly fiddle with when viewing objects 2) device used to change the blurriness of an object from one side to the other

Gas Giant: One who can clear a room quicker than lightning. (Dogs and cats have also been known to be such).

GOTO: Goes Off Target Often.

Inferior conjunction: That guy/gal you used to be married to/dated you would just as soon forget.

Large dob: 1) Instrument for collecting atmospheric dust samples. 2) A compensatory purchase that is often made by the owner of an ED (q.v.) instrument.

Lens cap: Small round device that is used to identify observing site in daylight.

Light Bucket: The container in which one stocks various forms of low calorie beer.

Martian Opposition: Those who whine about spending money on space exploration.

Naked eye observing: 1) The act of enjoying the stars while reclining one's hot tub, and enjoying an adult beverage. 2) Nudist optometrist.

Opposition: 1) a period of severe turbulence in our upper atmosphere caused by another planet's proximity to Earth. 2) When your slow motion knob runs into your mount.

OTA: Protective device that prevents damage to your mount when it gets knocked over. See also: crumple zone.

Outreach: 1) Trying to keep people away from your telescope. 2) How far you can stretch to catch a falling eyepiece.

Periodic error: 1) I keep buying inadequate stuff. 2) My girlfriend is pregnant.

Photoelectric effect: The tendency for your camera to run out of batteries just when you want to use it.

Pyrex: a type of glass used to make cheap bakingware, but which is a magnitude more expensive than other substrates when used for mirrors.

Redneck mirror cooling fan: Wait until a windy night and point you scope in the wind.

Redneck observatory: Camper with the top cut off.

Rolloff Roof: What you might do if you fall asleep watching a meteor shower from the top of your house.

Star Chart: You buy these in Hollywood to find the homes of celebrities.

Star test: An elaborate way to generate anxiety over perfectly useable optics.

Telescope: 1) Optical device used in vain to see where one's money has just gone. 2) A hole in the air, surrounded by metal and glass, into which one pours money. 3) (*Children's definition*) A long tube with a lens at one end, and my daddy at the other.

Universal Time: What causes you to go outside and set up to see an astronomical event and realize you forgot to subtract and it is really six hours later or earlier.

Uranus: Oh, never mind.

Vindematrix: Selected for the door prize at a German science fiction DVD convention.

Yew Tube: Old English method for building Newtonian reflectors.

Dr. Willie Yee
MHAA President

Astrophotography Exhibition at Pound Ridge Library – May 23rd to July 3rd 2015

Pound Ridge Library will be having an exhibition of the astrophotography of Scott Nammacher, a Westchester based amateur astrophotographer. The exhibition opens May 23rd and extends to July 3rd in the library's Exhibition Hall. It is called "Treasures of the Northern and Southern Night Skies."

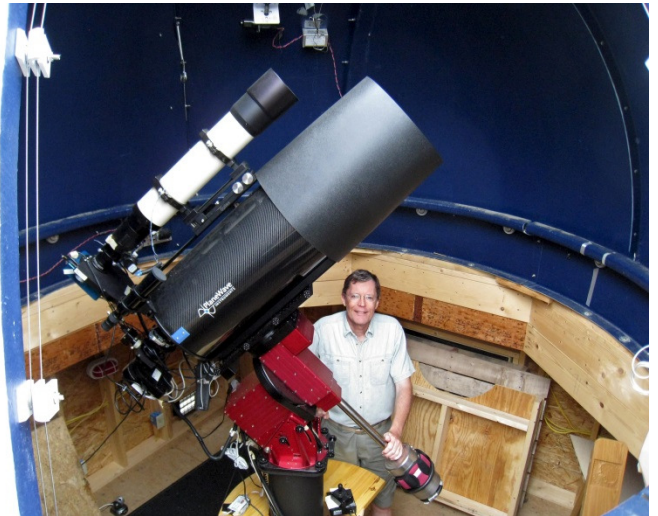
There will be an opening reception on Saturday, May 23rd, from 3 pm to 5 pm. Come meet the photographer and see the wonders of the night time skies.

Mr. Nammacher will show his photographs, taken from two remotely operated observatories (one in Australia and the other in New Mexico) and his up-state observatory, Starmere Observatory. He has been photographing nebulae, galaxies, along with cloud and gas regions, and more local solar system targets since the early 2000s. He became more seriously involved after he designed and built an observatory near Catskill, NY in 2008. He has shown earlier works at locations in the Hudson Valley area. The Pound Ridge show will contain many new photos taken in the last several years.

His photographs are printed using a unique process involving printing on coated aluminum, which enhances the color and vibrancy of the printed pictures. His website is starmere.smugmug.com.

Pound Ridge Library information: 271 Westchester Ave., Pound Ridge, NY 10576
 Phone: 914-764-5085 Marilyn Tinter, Director
 Website: www.poundridgelibrary.org

Artist Information: Website: Starmere.smugmug.com
 Email: snammacher@msn.com



2015 Star Party Schedule

Date	Time	Sunset	End Civil Twilight	Nearest New Moon
January 16th	7:30 PM	4:51 PM	5:22 PM	January 20th
February 13th	7:30 PM	5:26 PM	5:55 PM	February 18th
March 20th	8:00 PM	7:08 PM	7:36 PM	March 20th
April 17th	8:30 PM	7:39 PM	8:08 PM	April 18th
May 15th	8:30 PM	8:09 PM	8:41 PM	May 17th
June 19th	8:30 PM	8:34 PM	9:09 PM	June 16th
July 17th	8:30 PM	8:28 PM	9:01 PM	July 15th
August 14th	8:30 PM	7:58 PM	8:28 PM	August 14th
September 11th	8:00 PM	7:13 PM	7:41 PM	September 12th
October 9th	7:30 PM	6:25 PM	6:52 PM	October 12th
November 13th	7:30 PM	4:37 PM	5:07 PM	November 11th
December 11th	7:30 PM	4:25 PM	4:56 PM	December 11th

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 3rd 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.