

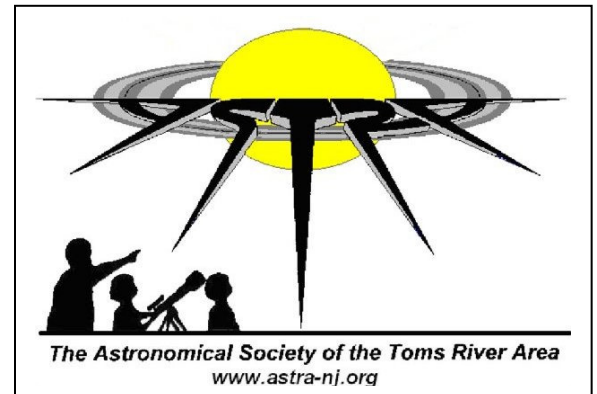
# ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

**June 2008**

[www.ASTRA-NJ.org](http://www.ASTRA-NJ.org)

\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE \*\*\*\*

Beginning in March 2008 and until further notice, the monthly ASTRA meetings will be held in the Solar Lounge beginning at 8:00 PM. The Solar Lounge is located in the Ocean County College Center building across from the Planetarium. The relocation of the meeting is due to the impending renovation of the planetarium building to begin in 2008.



With a paid-up family membership for 2008, when you attend a monthly meeting, each family may enter their name into a free random drawing for a door prize to be given away during the meeting.

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## 2008 Meeting Schedule

**June 13<sup>th</sup> - Astronomers in History;** Presentation by Bob Salvatore.

**July 11<sup>th</sup> - Astrology a Pseudoscience;** Speaker George Hamilton a former director of the Franklin Institute. George Hamilton taught Physics and Astronomy for 34 years. Working with a number of Planetariums for 22 years he was also the Vice President of the Franklin Institute Science Museum for 9 years. As a guest of our current member Rich Mackowitz, he will give a presentation on Astrology a Pseudoscience. He has been listed in Who's Who in the World, America and the East. Having been involved in Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society, (MAPS) a few of you may already know him. Due to travel arrangements, he will start his presentation at the beginning of our meeting, 8PM. Please come early so you will not miss anything.

**August 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> - ASTRA Member Picnic: 3:00 PM;** Picnic at the Gamba's House

**September 12<sup>th</sup> - Celestial Navigation;** Presentation by Sarah Waters

**October 10<sup>th</sup> - The Glorious Universe;** Slide presentation by Rich Mack

**November 14<sup>th</sup> -** Subject TBA by Teresa

**December 12<sup>th</sup> - Election Results, and Awards;** Presented by Sarah Waters.

**Program TBA**

**Dues for 2009;** Ro Spedalieri will collect dues for next year's membership.

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## Our Next Meeting – 8 PM – June 13, 2008

**Astronomers in History;** This month's program will be lead by Bob Salvatore. As in past years, he will be passing along information on astronomers and other scientists who have added to astronomy. Many of these people and their accomplishments have initiated informative and sometimes even comical discussions.

# Highlights of the Last Meeting

Contributed by Sarah Waters

At the May meeting we were busy preparing for Astronomy Day that was held the next day at the OCC College Center. We confirmed all the presentations that were to take place and everyone talked with their partners to tie up loose ends. After the break everyone helped move the furniture around so we didn't have to worry about it the next morning. Our junior Astronomers Kyle and Jordan were fantastic moving all the tables and chairs in the meeting room and in the cafeteria. Now that is a lot of tables and chairs.

Jordan won an Astronomy video tape set that was donated by Rich Brady. Thank you Rich, and congratulations Jordan. If you have an item you think would be a fun give away, donations are always welcome.

As always people mingled and caught up with each other. Rich Gamba gave us an update on the Planetarium project. We are all very excited that the equipment choice has been approved by the college and should be ordered soon. The Planetarium has been fully cleared out. Gloria has been relocated to another building but can be reached at the same number. Renovation plans for the building are still being worked out so we will wait for an update when it moves further. It took a lot of hard work to go from permanent closure to where the project is today. Congratulations and Thank You to everyone that made it happen.

I will not be at the June or July meetings so Rich Gamba will be running them. See you at the picnic.

## Dues are Due for 2008

To renew or join complete a membership form. For a form, see Ro Spedaliere [Treasurer@astra-nj.org](mailto:Treasurer@astra-nj.org) at a club meeting or get it from our club website. Turn it in at a club meeting or mail to the address listed on the form.

If you are not paid by the March meeting you will be dropped from membership, and you will need to join as a new member.

## Star Party Plans

For members who enjoy observing the skies, checkout the following list. ASTRA hosts several *public* and *private* star parties, coordinated by Ro Spedaliere. Many members also attend star parties put on by *other* groups held at other locations.

**Coyle Field** (*private*) See website Message Board for dates and times;

Maryland road trip - TBA

June 21 - Wells Mills County Park Star Party (*public*)

Mills County Park, Waretown

August 2 - (*public*)

Cloverdale County Park, Barnegat

August 23 - Air Cadets (*private*)

Wall Township

September – TBA (*public*)

Berkeley Pride Day, Bayville

# Astronomy Day 2008

Contributed by Sarah Waters

On May 10<sup>th</sup> we had another fun filled Astronomy Day. There was a great Public turnout and a good number of ASTRA members on hand to help out as well. Bob Salvatore set up a number of telescopes in the solar lounge for people to ask questions about. Wally had some binoculars and advice on getting started in Astronomy. Rich Fink set up a table-top telescope and also helped out a visitor with their own new telescope. Joe demonstrated the "*Fabric of Space*" which is always a hit with all the marbles. Rich Mackiewicz provided three different slide shows throughout the day.

Gene Russo, John and Ed set up the solar scopes outside, but the clouds prevented any observing. The moon crater demonstration kept them busy outside while they hoped for some sun. Gene also "cooked-up" a few Comets with some help from the audience. Our own junior Astronomer Arielle helped one of the times. Ro Spedaliere had a raffle area for the Telescope and Star-Finder donated by Gene. Thank you Gene for those great items.

Gloria and Emmet Villalobos were busy out in the hall with all the fun items to purchase from the Planetarium. They also had a table with free items to take.

In the cafeteria Maryanne Fink and Coleen took care of the drinks and food. I had a table with a computer program about the stars running, my celestial globe and a few books. My husband Rich, watched over everything while I ran around. My Mom Leigh Murphy and niece Erin ran the Coloring table providing many people with pictures and games to take home. The Tattoo table was a hit with Hannah Gamba and Kaitlyn Shive putting tattoos on people as quick as they possibly could.

The Save the Planetarium Fund, Inc. table was watched over by Rich, Peggi and Adam Gamba, displaying trinkets for the groups coming out of the Star Lab to take. They were selling plants donated by Marge and Rich Brady to raise more funds for the planetarium. They also sold "*I'm Helping to Save the Planetarium*" T-shirts and Bears to add to the \$45,000 already raised, thanks to the matching gift donor and fundraising over the last year.

The big hit of the day was the Star Lab provided by Gloria. Phil Zollner and Theresa St. Angelo ran shows all day with a full group each time. Theresa's son, Rich helped watch the entrance and direct the traffic. An astronomy student of Rich Brady spent the entire day in the dome helping with the kids and providing music with her laptop, after she helped set-up the dome in the morning.

With the clouds hanging around all day we were very uncertain about the night-time observing. Making the call to hold the night observing at the last minute, we lucked-out when the skies became crystal clear just before sunset. Rich Gamba, Bob Salavatore, Randy Walton, my brother Bill, my niece Erin and I set up our scopes for about 175 people that came back that night. Gloria and Emmet were still inside selling fun items as a few people would return to the scopes with glowing earrings and trinkets.

We all went home exhausted around 11:00 but as always it was well worth all the effort.

ASTRA members did a wonderful job!

Thank You Everyone for all your help and support in making the day a wonderful success.

## Save the Planetarium Fund, Inc.

[www.SavethePlanetarium.org](http://www.SavethePlanetarium.org)

A non-profit charity has been established to help save the Novins Planetarium at Ocean County College. The only planetarium that was open to the public in central New Jersey. This is your chance to pitch in. There will be signs to take to libraries or businesses, and business cards to give to anyone that may help at the meeting.

### 2008 June Celestial Events: supplied by J. Randolph Walton (Randy)

| Day | Date | Time (EST) | Event                            |
|-----|------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Tue | 3    | 15:23      | <b>New Moon</b>                  |
|     |      | 20:52      | Moon Set                         |
| Sat | 7    | 00:10      | Mars Sets                        |
|     |      | 00:55      | Saturn Sets                      |
|     |      | 05:31      | Sunrise                          |
|     |      | 09:37      | Moon Rise                        |
|     |      | 20:27      | Sunset                           |
|     |      | 22:40      | Jupiter Rises                    |
| Tue | 10   | 11:04      | <b>First Quarter Moon</b>        |
|     |      | 13:03      | Moon Rise                        |
| Sat | 14   | 00:30      | Saturn Sets                      |
|     |      | 05:31      | Sunrise                          |
|     |      | 17:11      | Moon Rise                        |
|     |      | 20:30      | Sunset                           |
|     |      | 20:40      | Venus Sets                       |
|     |      | 22:05      | Jupiter Rises                    |
|     |      | 23:55      | Mars Sets                        |
| Wed | 18   | 13:30      | <b>Full Moon</b>                 |
|     |      | 20:59      | Moon Rise                        |
| Fri | 20   | 20:00      | <b>Summer Solstice</b>           |
| Sat | 21   | 00:05      | Saturn Sets                      |
|     |      | 04:40      | Mercury Rises                    |
|     |      | 05:31      | Sunrise                          |
|     |      | 20:32      | Sunset                           |
|     |      | 20:50      | Venus Sets                       |
|     |      | 21:35      | Jupiter Rises                    |
|     |      | 22:51      | Moon Rise                        |
|     |      | 23:40      | Mars Sets                        |
| Sun | 22   | 22:41      | Double shadow transit on Jupiter |
| Thu | 26   | 08:10      | <b>Last Quarter Moon</b>         |
|     |      | 13:26      | Moon Set                         |
| Sat | 28   | 04:25      | Mercury Rises                    |
|     |      | 05:34      | Sunrise                          |
|     |      | 15:52      | Moon Set                         |
|     |      | 20:33      | Sunset                           |
|     |      | 20:57      | Venus Sets                       |
|     |      | 21:10      | Jupiter Rises                    |
|     |      | 23:20      | Mars Sets                        |
|     |      | 23:40      | Saturn Sets                      |

# Astronomical League

[www.AstroLeague.org](http://www.AstroLeague.org)

As an ASTRA member you have a membership in the Astronomical League, which gets you the Reflector magazine, discounts on books, and Observing Awards. If you are not getting your Reflector magazine or want to apply for an Observing Award contact the club **ALCOR**: Ro Spedalieri.

## Items for Sale

### **ASTRA-WEAR: For Embroidered and/or Printed items with the ASTRA Logo**

You can see some samples at ASTRA meetings and ordering information for all items on our website, <http://www.astra-nj.org/ASTRA-WEAR.pdf>.

**Stellarvue 4" f/6.9 Achromatic Refractor Optical Tube Assembly**, Model # 102D. Focal length 704mm. The objective is partially attenuated, meaning visible color is very minimal. I've seen traces of color only on the Moon and brightest planets and stars. Contrast is unusually high. Includes a nesting dew cap and a fully rotating JMI Crayford 2" type tailpiece. Also with a 1¼" adaptor, Stellarvue tube rings, and a soft padded Stellarvue carry case. Combined original cost over \$1075. ~~Sell for \$850~~, Now reduced to \$550.

Contact: *Phil Zollner* at 732-905-0889 or [pazap@juno.com](mailto:pazap@juno.com)

**Latest Items**; see the club website.

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***Astronomic Group Purchase, Items for Sale, or Help Wanted Advertisements:*** If you want to handle a Group Purchase, have Sale items, or need Help contact the President [President@astra-nj.org](mailto:President@astra-nj.org) to announce it at a meeting and send the advertisement to the newsletter (See *Newsletter* below).

***Education Article:*** If you have written a general interest astronomy article, please submit it to the newsletter (See *Newsletter* below). Try to keep it less than one page or it may need to be split over several months. It would be helpful if it were sent as an MS Word document attachment to an e-mail.

***Newsletter:*** E-mail material to [Newsletter@astra-nj.org](mailto:Newsletter@astra-nj.org) or mail to: Novins Planetarium, ASTRA Newsletter, Ocean County College, P.O. Box 2001, Toms River, NJ 08754-2001. If you do send something please call Randy Walton, phone 732-458-3465 as I may only check for e-mail at my local library weekly or the Planetarium only on the night of an ASTRA meeting. ***Deadline:*** Material for *ASTRAL PROJECTIONS* must be received 21 days before the next meeting.

***Astronomy Courses:*** Planetarium staff offers a number of mini-courses on astronomy. Call the OCC Department of Continuing and Professional Education, 732/255-0404, for information or to register.

***Planetarium office:*** 732/255-0343 weekdays 9 AM - 4 PM. **Hot line:** 732/255-0342. Select 6 for ASTRA. Visit the Planetarium web page at <http://ocean.edu/planet.htm> or visit our web page at <http://astra-nj.org>

***Executive Board:*** **President** - Sarah Waters, [President@astra-nj.org](mailto:President@astra-nj.org); **Vice President-Secretary** - Rich Gamba, [VP@astra-nj.org](mailto:VP@astra-nj.org); **Treasurer** - Ro Spedalieri, [Treasurer@astra-nj.org](mailto:Treasurer@astra-nj.org); **Newsletter Editor** - Randy Walton, phone 732-458-3465, [Newsletter@astra-nj.org](mailto:Newsletter@astra-nj.org), checked weekly; **Webmaster** - John Endreson, [Webmaster@astra-nj.org](mailto:Webmaster@astra-nj.org).