



# ASTRAL PROJECTIONS

Volume 21 Issue 2

February 2010

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

Meetings are in the Solar Lounge beginning at 7:00 PM. The Solar Lounge is located in the Ocean County College Center building #15 across from the Planetarium. The relocation of the meeting is due to the renovation of the planetarium building.

## Telescope Workshop January 8<sup>th</sup> 2010.

### Meeting Schedule

**February 12<sup>th</sup>** “NSN Sharing the Universe” – Guest speaker

**Time:** 7:00PM – 10:00 PM

**Location:** Ocean County Collage Technology Bld. # 13 Lecture Hall.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** “Reviewing the NSN Toolkits”

**Time:** 7:00PM – 10:00PM

**Location:** Ocean County Collage “Collage Center Solar Lounge” Bld. # 15



We once again held our annual Telescope Workshop on January 8<sup>th</sup> and although the turnout was a little disappointing, those who did brave the cold temperatures and came to the workshop looking for information and help with their telescopes had a good time meeting ASTRA members and left with a better understanding on the setup and use of their equipment. Thanks to everyone who helped with this event.

ASTRA’s Full 2010 schedule and Astronomy Day activities are located on page 4. These are tentative plans and your comments and suggestions are welcome.

**NEW ASTRA Hotline**

If you do not have access to our website message boards, you can call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 for the latest information on star parties and other observing plans. If you have a question about the club or astronomy in general leave a message and we’ll get back to you.

## ASTRA Club Telescopes

A.S.T.R.A. owns two Dobsonian type telescopes of 6 inches and 8 inches in aperture and two refractors one 80mm Celestron w/Altaz mount and one 120mm Orion AstroView w/equatorial mount. After suitable training, club members may borrow these telescopes for a month at a time. Contact John Endreson at: [Webmaster@astra-nj.org](mailto:Webmaster@astra-nj.org) or call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 if you are interested in using one of our scopes.

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### ASTRA Library of Books & DVD's

The following books and DVD's are available to borrow for one month at a time. Request for these items must be made prior to our regular meeting and returned the following meeting. Please e-mail your request for these items to John Endreson [webmaster@astra-nj.org](mailto:webmaster@astra-nj.org) or call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493

#### BOOKS

- 1) **The Far Side of the Moon** by Charles J. Byrne.
- 2) **Night Watch** by Terence Dickinson
- 3) **New Atlas of the Moon** by Serge Brunier (Author), Thierry Legault (Photographer).
- 4) **Encyclopedia of space** by National Geographic
- 5) **The Real Mars** by Michael Hanion
- 6) **Don't Know Much about the Universe** by Kenneth C. Davis's

#### DVD's

- 1) **Parts 1&2 Understanding the Universe What's New in Astronomy 2003** Taught by: Professor Alex Filippenko. Each part has 8 lectures, 45 minutes per lecture.
- 2) **Parts 1 to 5 Understanding the Universe An Introduction to Astronomy** Taught by: Professor Alex Filippenko each part has 8 lectures, 45 minutes per lecture.
- 3) **COSMOS**  
In his "ship of the imagination," Carl Sagan guides us to the farthest reaches of space and takes us back into the history of scientific inquiry in the course of 13 fascinating hours.

For a complete list of books and DVD's, visit our website.

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## Items for Sale

**Meade Super-wide 13.8mm 1 1/4 in. eyepiece for sale.**  
This is an original Japanese made series 4000 eyepiece with a 70 degree field. Excellent condition. Originally \$125, sell for \$50.  
Contact: Phil Zollner at 732-905-0889 or [pazap@juno.com](mailto:pazap@juno.com)

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



You can see some samples at ASTRA meetings. To order by mail:  
Shelter Cove Embroidery Co. 1333 Bay Ave Toms River, NJ  
08753 call 732-506-7700 or E-mail [astra-wear@estitches.com](mailto:astra-wear@estitches.com)

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## February 2010 Celestial Events

**3<sup>rd</sup> Night:** Spica is about 4 deg. upper left of the Moon low in the East-Southeast around midnight. Also above them is Saturn.

**5<sup>th</sup> Last –Quarter Moon**  
(6:48pm EST).

**7<sup>th</sup> Dawn:** Antares is 3 or 4 deg. lower left of the waning crescent Moon.

**11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> Dawn:** A challenging binocular views occur very low in the East-Southeast a half hour before sunrise on these mornings. Mercury is 7 deg. lower left of the thin crescent Moon on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and 4 deg. right of the very thin crescent Moon on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**13<sup>th</sup> New Moon** (9:51pm EST).

**14<sup>th</sup> Dusk:** 15 minutes after sunset, we have an opportunity to see a very thin Moon very low just 5 deg. to the right of Venus and Jupiter.

**15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> Dusk:** Venus and Jupiter are within 2 deg. of each other just after sunset. They're closest (1/2 deg.) on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**16<sup>th</sup> Evening:** Asteroid Vesta passes between Gamma Leonis and 40 Leonis.

**21<sup>st</sup> First-Quarter Moon**  
(7:42pm EST)

**25<sup>th</sup> Evening:** Look for Mars next to the gibbous Moon.

**28 Full Moon** (11:38pm EST).

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# Whats up this month?

## ASTRA Public Outreach & Star Parties Schedule

**February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.** Coyle Field Dark Sky Observing. Members often observe on weekend nights closest to the New Moon.

Although ASTRA members observe at Coyle Field it is not an official ASTRA observing location; therefore you should observe at your own risk. Members will post online when they are going to observe so check the Message Boards for the latest information also call the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 for updated messages.



Astronomical League National Headquarters  
9201 Ward Parkway; Suite 100  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
1-816-333-7759 or [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org)

The *REFLECTOR* is published in March, June, September and December. If you do not receive your copy of the REFLECTOR magazine, contact Astronomical League Coordinator (Alcor) Ro Spedalieri (Treasurer@astra-nj.org) or the ASTRA Hotline 609-971 8493 and leave a message.



ASTRA is recognized as having one of the best public outreach programs in the country as recognized by Astronomy magazines "Out of this World" public outreach program contest 2 years ago thanks to the support of our members. For more information go to <http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov> or contact Ro Spedalieri (Treasurer@astra-nj.org) or the ASTRA Hotline 609-971 8493 and leave a message.

## Astronomy Day April 24, 2010, 10AM to 3PM

Activities from last year

(Names can be changed, activities can be added or taken away)

1. Asteroid Impact – Vinny
2. Comet – Gene
3. Slide Presentation – Mack
4. Glove Box – John Endreson
5. Solar Observing – Gloria – Coronado
6. Telescopes – Bob Salvatore
7. Questar telescope – Richard Fink
8. Binoculars – Bob, Phil
9. Star globe, books, binoculars, computer program – Sarah
10. View Space – Rich Gamba
11. Save the Planetarium – Rich Gamba
12. Star Lab + Portable Projector – Gloria
13. Tattoos, coloring table, kids activities – Peggy, Hannah
14. Night Sky Network or public outreach – Ro
15. Fabric of Space – Bill Murphy
16. Quarter Scale – Don Cooper
17. Kids books + raffle
18. Planetarium Gift Shop – Gloria
19. Refreshments – Gloria
20. Flyer? Gloria to print? Rich and Peggy to get to schools?
21. Advertising
22. Regular Signs – Sarah
23. Direction signs

Astronomy Night Observing – 8 PM until . . .

### ASTRA TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2010

(Comments and Suggestions are Welcome)

- Jan 8\* Telescope Workshop  
Feb 12\* NSN Sharing The Universe – guest speaker  
Mar 12\* NSN Kits, Astronomy Day discussions  
Mar 20 Saturday - Spring Starwatch - Public star party at OCC. (Moon 5 days after New Moon)  
Apr 9\* Equipment/Book Show and Tell – all  
April 17/18 North East Astronomy Forum  
April 24 Saturday - Astronomy Day. Exhibits and Public Star Party at OCC.  
May 14\* Planetary Nebulae – Richard Mackiewicz  
Jun 11\* Open  
Jul 9\* Famous Astronomers 5– Bob Sal  
Jul 16 Friday - Summer Starwatch - Public star party at OCC. (Moon 5 days after New Moon)  
Aug 13 No Meeting.  
Aug 14 Saturday - Perseid Picnic.  
Sep 10\* Open  
Sep 18 Saturday - Autumn Starwatch - Public star party at OCC. (Moon 3 days after First Quarter)  
Oct 8\* Astrophotography – Phil Zollner  
Nov 12\* Open  
Dec 10\* Awards, Star Party Roundup  
\* Regular Meeting

### Astronomical Items for Sale, or Help Wanted Advertisements:

If you have an item to Sell, or need help with an astronomical problem (a question, or Telescope setup) contact the President [President@astra-nj.org](mailto:President@astra-nj.org) or the ASTRA Hotline 609-971-8493 to announce it at a meeting and send the advertisement to the newsletter (See Newsletter below).

**Newsletter:** E-mail material (Meeting reports, Observing reports) to [Newsletter@astra-nj.org](mailto:Newsletter@astra-nj.org)

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President** – Bob Salvatore,  
[President@astra-nj.org](mailto:President@astra-nj.org);

**Vice President-Secretary** – John Endreson, [VP@astra-nj.org](mailto:VP@astra-nj.org);

**Treasurer** - Ro Spedaliere,  
[Treasurer@astra-nj.org](mailto:Treasurer@astra-nj.org);

**Newsletter Editor** – John Endreson, [Newsletter@astra-nj.org](mailto:Newsletter@astra-nj.org);

**Webmaster** - John Endreson,  
[Webmaster@astra-nj.org](mailto:Webmaster@astra-nj.org).

Check us out on Facebook, search for ( ASTRA New Jersey ) and look for our logo.





## *ASTRA Membership Sign-up*

Thank you for your interest in the Astronomical Society of the Toms River Area (ASTRA). In order to join the club all you need to do is fill out the form below and send it with your dues to:

**Robert J. Novins Planetarium  
ATTN: ASTRA  
Ocean County College  
Toms River NJ 08754-2001**

***PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ASTRA.*** You can also pay at the next meeting. If you do, please bring this form with you. Hope we will see you there!

Annual dues- \$ 25.00 (January to December): (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)  
\$ 15.00 from (July to December):

New membership-\$ 30.00 (January to December): (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)  
\$ 20.00 from (July to December):

Telescope fund assessment of ( \$ 5.00 ) a *one-time* assessment  
required of all new membership optional for continuing members)  (\$ 5.00 )

**TOTAL AMOUNT PAID (as determined by the above schedule):** (\$ \_\_\_\_\_)

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you wish to receive a paper copy of our Newsletter.

Check here if you wish to receive an e-mail copy of our Newsletter.

E-MAIL ADDRESS (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you!***