



R. A. C. NEWS

JANUARY - 2001

www.rocklandastronomy.com
Message Line (201) 768-3295



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Observing and Meeting Locations

North Rockland High School Planetarium, Thiells, NY
Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY
Iron Horse Farm, Mike Pass, 845-496-6320, Campbell Hall, NY
*Anthony Wayne Recreation Area, Exit 17, Palisades Interstate Pkwy
*Silvermine Ski Area, Exit 18, Palisades Interstate Pkwy
*Wawayanda State Park, 973-853-4462, Highland Lakes, NJ
Tahgkanic State Park, Taconic State Parkway, Ancram, NY

- *Special permits are required to observe.*

JANUARY MEETING

Date: Friday, January 19

Time: 8:00PM

Place: Planetarium, North Rockland High School

"Sundials - The Solar Timekeepers"

Bill Greenlee, an electrical engineer by education and resident of Stony Point, NY, will introduce many of the sundial's most interesting historical points, describe the differences among the basic types of sundials and explain dial dependence on season of the year and other factors affecting appearance and accuracy. Bill will exhibit some of his own working dial designs and describe the graphical and PC based techniques he employs to design them. Following this, Bill will welcome Q & A's and will offer a follow-up clinic to anyone interested in the details of PC based dial design or tips for evaluating dials which you may encounter or consider in the future.

Biographical Sketch - William E. Greenlee

Bill is a Project Management Engineer for a Pearl River telecommunications firm. He spent the first twenty years of his professional life as an active duty Naval Flight Officer where he served in various shipboard and flying assignments. Also a graduate of the US Navy Test Pilot School, he has over 2600 flight crew hours in carrier-based aircraft.

His interest in solar timekeeping originates from training and operational experience in maritime and aircraft navigation in many parts of the world. In the interest of advancing the public's awareness and understanding of sundials, Bill has published magazine articles and made presentations on sundials to science classes at local public schools. Bill is a member of the North American Sundial Society.

ON THE HORIZON

Later in the spring I have invited Maryann Arrien, a past president of the Springfield Telescope Makers, to present her video on the history of the telescope making movement in the US. I am hoping the club will be interested in donating to the funding she needs to finish up this project. It is a significant work and quite fascinating. She previewed it at Stellafane this year to an enthusiastic audience.

Jim Burnell, Program Director

NEAF-2001 UPDATE

The RAC Advisory Committee has been hard at work since September working to finalize plans for the 10th Anniversary Edition of the Northeast Astronomy Forum & Telescope Show. Everything is progressing smoothly at this time, with only a few minor details to be worked out.

NEAF will again be held at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY. The dates are Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6. Hours on Saturday are Noon to 6:00PM. Sunday hours are 8:30AM to 5:30PM. Exhibitor demonstrations and vendor sales will be conducted both days, whereas speaker lectures will only take place on Sunday.

An added feature on Saturday is a two-part CCD Imaging Workshop conducted by Richard Berry, former editor of Astronomy Magazine. Attendance at these workshops, due to limited seating, will be by advanced registration only. Details for registration may be found on our club web page.

A full slate of six great speakers has been selected. They include **David Eicher**, Senior Editor of Astronomy Magazine; **Tim Puckett**, from Puckett Observatory in Ellijay, GA; **Bob Berman**, Author and writer from Saugerties, NY; **Gary Seronik**, Associate Editor of Sky & Telescope Magazine; **Dr. H. John Wood**, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center; and **Dr. Alex Filippenko**, University of Berkeley, CA.

In addition to vendors and speakers, there will be activities for children at the "Kids' Corner", STARLAB planetarium shows conducted by Ron Woodland from Worthington, MA, Solar observing (weather permitting) conducted by representatives of Coronado Instruments, a display of home-made telescopes by the Springfield Telescope Makers, representatives of more than a dozen area clubs, on-site catered food service, and dozens of valuable door prizes and raffle prizes.

Admission fees of \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students will be charged each day, but RAC members who volunteer to perform various jobs will receive free admission tickets. To offer your services, please contact NEAF Chairman Alan Traino. You will find his phone number and e-mail address on the Advisory Committee list on page 1.

Don Urban

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The proposal to increase RAC membership dues was defeated at the January meeting. To offset the increased day-to-day cost of administrative expenses, it has been decided to transfer, as needed, funds from the NEAF account to the general treasury account. Members who have already paid their dues under the proposed fee schedule may have the overpayment applied to a future magazine subscription renewal.

Don Urban

OBSERVING PERMITS

Our permit to observe at Wawayanda State Park has been applied for and should be received by the end of January. At that time it will be posted to our web page from which it can be downloaded and printed on your computer. If you need a copy mailed to you, please contact me after February 1. The 2000 permit may be used until the new one is available.

Don Urban

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Peter S. Doss, 25 Bridge Street, Nyack, NY 10960
845-353-4561

Sharon DeVries, 242 Vittorio Court., Park Ridge, NJ 07656
201-391-2939

Glenn Ruhl, 5 Harvest Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812
203-312-0416

RAC ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday, February 10 has been selected as the date of our club's annual dinner. Please refer to the full-page article in this issue for complete details.

RAC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

RAC maintains four different checking accounts for accounting purposes. December 1 balances in each account are shown below.

General Account	\$ 369.11	Summit Bank
NEAF Account	\$9,594.04	Commerce Bank
SSP Account	\$ 412.97	Panasia Bank, NA
RAC Childrens Fund	\$3,550.00	Summit Bank
Total	\$13,557.12	

Don Urban, Treasurer

A QUICK NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: CALLING ALL MEMBERS

A few members have been consistently and diligently sending articles of interest for our newsletter. Their commitment to RAC is greatly appreciated.

WE NEED MORE!



If anyone has an interesting article, whether it is astronomy related or not, please forward it to me for future publication. See page 1 for my e-mail address and new home address. Thank you.

Lisa Canino-Dymbort, Editor



ROCKLAND ASTRONOMY CLUB - (201) 768-3295

January 2001

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7	Sunrise 07:21 Set 16:45 Moonset 04:47 Rise 14:45	1 Sunrise 07:21 Set 16:39 Moonrise 11:29 Set 23:16 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 Sunrise 07:21 Set 16:40 Moonrise 11:35 Set --- ☉ PQ	3 Sunrise 07:21 Set 16:41 Moonset 00:17 Rise 12:21	4 Sunrise 07:21 Set 16:42 Moonset 01:20 Rise 12:50 QUADRANTID METEORS BEFORE DAWN	5 Sunrise 07:21 Set 16:43 Moonset 02:26 Rise 13:22 WAA PROGRAM AT ANDRUS PLANE TARIUM	6 Sunrise 07:21 Set 16:44 Moonset 03:36 Rise 14:00
8	Sunrise 07:21 Set 16:46 Moonset 05:59 Rise 15:40		9 Sunrise 07:20 Set 16:47 Moonset 07:05 Rise 16:45 O FM	10 Sunrise 07:20 Set 16:48 Moonset 08:05 Rise 17:57	11 Sunrise 07:20 Set 16:49 Moonset 08:55 Rise 19:13	12 Sunrise 07:20 Set 16:50 Moonset 09:38 Rise 20:28	13 Sunrise 07:19 Set 16:51 Moonset 10:14 Rise 21:41
14	Sunrise 07:19 Set 16:52 Moonset 10:46 Rise 22:50	15 Sunrise 07:19 Set 16:53 Moonset 11:15 Rise 23:57  <i>Martin Luther King, Jr.</i>	16 Sunrise 07:18 Set 16:55 Moonset 11:49 Rise --- ☉ LQ	17 Sunrise 07:18 Set 16:56 Moonset 01:02 Set 12:13	18 Sunrise 07:17 Set 16:57 Moonset 02:05 Set 12:43	19 Sunrise 07:17 Set 16:58 Moonset 03:07 Set 13:17 See newsletter for program description  8:00pm General Membership Meeting at NRHS	20 Sunrise 07:16 Set 16:59 Moonset 04:07 Set 13:55 WAWAY ANDA OBSERVING
21	Sunrise 07:15 Set 17:00 Moonset 05:04 Set 14:38	22 Sunrise 07:15 Set 17:02 Moonset 05:57 Set 15:26	23 Sunrise 07:14 Set 17:03 Moonset 06:54 Set 16:18	24 Sunrise 07:13 Set 17:04 Moonset 07:25 Set 17:13 ● NM	25 Sunrise 07:13 Set 17:05 Moonset 08:03 Set 18:11	26 Sunrise 07:12 Set 17:06 Moonset 08:36 Set 19:10	27 Sunrise 07:11 Set 17:08 Moonset 09:05 Set 20:09
28	Sunrise 07:10 Set 17:09 Moonset 09:32 Set 21:08	29 Sunrise 07:09 Set 17:10 Moonset 09:58 Set 22:08	30 Sunrise 07:08 Set 17:11 Moonset 10:24 Set 23:09	31 Sunrise 07:07 Set 17:13 Moonset 10:50 Set ---	PRIME OBSERVING WINDOW		
PRIME OBSERVING WINDOW							
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Here's your personal invitation to attend the
Annual Dinner Banquet
Of the
Rockland Astronomy Club

On
Saturday, February 10, 2001
7:00pm to 11:00pm
At
Fricke's Old Hook Inn
422 Old Hook Road (County Rt. 502)
Emerson, NJ

Bill of fare:

Cash Bar at 7:00pm, Dinner at 8:00pm

Oven fresh rolls with creamery butter - Relish trays - Fresh fruit cocktail supreme

House salad - Choice of soup (Chicken rice - Onion - Minestrone) or Ziti with meat sauce

Choice of Entree

Top sirloin of beef, Au Jus - Broiled filet of Lemon Sole - Stuffed boneless breast of chicken

Choice of potato and vegetable

Desert and beverage

Cost is only \$20.00 per person!

We encourage all of our new members and their guests to join us on this festive occasion. It will be a great opportunity to introduce yourself and meet the people whose names you have heard or seen published in the newsletter. To afford ourselves maximum time to schmooze, we have decided to not have a formal program with a speaker.

If you plan to attend, please **RSVP** no later than Saturday, February 3 (sooner, if possible) by mailing your check payable to "RAC" to Don Urban, 73 Haring Street, Closter, NJ 07624. Please cut & include the information below the dashed line with your check.

Your name _____ # of people attending _____

Entrée (check appropriate) ___Beef ___Fish ___Fowl ___Vegetarian

I need directions from: ___Rockland County via PIP ___Bergen County, NJ

ROCKLAND ASTRONOMY CLUB

2001 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PRIME OBSERVING PERIODS – DARK MOON

<u>Date of Last Quarter Moon</u>	<u>Date of New Moon</u>	<u>Four Days After New Moon</u>
Tuesday, January 16	Wednesday, January 24	Sunday, January 28
Wednesday, February 14	Friday, February 23	Tuesday, February 27
Friday, March 16	Saturday, March 24	Wednesday, March 28
Sunday, April 15	Monday, April 23	Friday, April 27
Monday, May 14	Tuesday, May 22	Saturday, May 26
Wednesday, June 13	Thursday, June 21	Sunday, June 24
Friday, July 13	Friday, July 20	Tuesday, July 24
Saturday, August 11	Saturday, August 18	Wednesday, August 22
Monday, September 10	Monday, September 17	Friday, September 21
Tuesday, October 9	Tuesday, October 16	Saturday, October 20
Thursday, November 8	Thursday, November 15	Monday, November 19
Friday, December 7	Friday, December 14	Tuesday, December 18

SPECIAL *CLUB EVENTS AND REGIONAL STAR PARTIES

<p>*Saturday, February 10 Monday, February 19 to Sunday, February 15 Friday – Saturday, April 20 – 21 Delaware</p> <p>*Saturday & Sunday, May 5 & 6 Saturday, May 12</p> <p>*Saturday, May 19 Sunday, May 20 – Sunday, May 27 Party Memorial Day Weekend CA</p> <p>*Saturday, June 15 Friday – Saturday, June 22 – 23</p> <p>*Saturday, July 21</p> <p>*Friday -- Sunday, August 10 – 19</p> <p>*Saturday, September 8</p> <p>*Saturday, September 15 Friday – Saturday, September 14 – 15 Party Friday – Saturday, October 12 – 13 Party Saturday, November 3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">RAC Annual Dinner Banquet Winter Star Party in Florida Keys Delmarva Star Party,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Northeast Astronomy Forum & Telescope Show StarConn-2001, Middletown, CT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">“Up All Night” Observing at Tahgkanic State Park Texas Star</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Riverside Telescope Makers Convention, Big Bear,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">“Up All Night” Observing at Tahgkanic State Park NJ Starquest, Hope, NJ</p> <p style="text-align: right;">“Up All Night” Observing at Tahgkanic State Park RAC Summer Star Party at Shady Pines RAC Annual Picnic at Iron Horse Farm</p> <p style="text-align: right;">“Up All Night” Observing at Tahgkanic State Park Connecticut Star</p> <p style="text-align: right;">South Jersey Star</p> <p style="text-align: right;">NJ Astro Conference Showcase, Cranford, NJ</p>
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"JOY OF THE UNIVERSE" - PUBLIC STAR PARTIES

All events are held at Anthony Wayne Recreation Area, Exit 17 on the Palisades Interstate Parkway

Saturday, April 28	Saturday, May 26	Saturday, June 23
Saturday, July 28	Saturday, August 25	Saturday, September 22
Saturday, October 20	Saturday, November 17 – Leonid Meteors at Silvermine	

The above dates and locations are tentative. Events will be canceled if skies are not clear, or site is not available for our use. Each event begins 30 minutes before sunset.

FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

Observing at Wawayanda State Park and Taghkanic State Park

Members are reminded that they may observe from these locations any night of the year, providing one person in the group has a copy of the permit in his or her possession. Permits for Wawayanda are issued each February. Permits for Taghkanic are issued in June. NO PUBLIC EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT THESE LOCATIONS.