



R. A. C. NEWS

April - 2001

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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, 914-496-6320, Campbell Hall, NY
*Anthony Wayne Recreation Area, Exit 17, Palisades Interstate Pkwy
*Lake Sebago, Seven Lakes Drive, Exit 16, 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.*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ira S. Machefsky & Family 253 E. Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631 (201) 569-1558.

James Narin & Family 20 Franklin St., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07675 (201) 391-0484.

Scott Reeves 355 Fulle Dr., Valley Cottage NY 10989 (845) 353-5161.

Leslie D. Young Jr. 113 W Magnolia Ave., Maywood, NJ 07607 (201) 845-9194.

APRIL MEETINGS

April 13 & 14 Observing at Wawayanda State Park. Time to get out those telescopes out of moth balls for another season of observing.

April 19 (rain date April 26) We have been requested to do a star party for the students at Chestnut Ridge Middle School. Once again, we need about six telescopes to handle the expected crowd. The specific address and directions will be sent out on the e-mail notification list as soon as they are received. All I can tell you at this time is that the school is on Route 45, just over the NJ border along Chestnut Ridge Road. We've been there before, so some of you will recognize the school when you see it.

April 20 at 7:30PM. General membership meeting at North Rockland High School. "Pushing Glass - The History of Amateur Telescope Making" will be presented by Maryann Arrien. Program will start promptly at 8:00PM.

April - "Joy of the Universe" public star party at Anthony Wayne. Club members should arrive 30 minutes before sunset to allow time for setting up telescopes.

About Maryann Arrien

She has been an amateur astronomer since the age of six, when she *discovered* a planet with a ring around it. She received her BA degree in Astronomy from University of Arizona in Tucson in 1975. For the last decade she has been in-

volved with Stellafane and the Springfield Telescope Makers as a Public Relations rep, mirror-making instructor and past president, and now is also the NERAL chairwoman. She is also a full-time filmmaker, trained at Columbia University's Graduate School of the Arts. Maryann has worked as a professional union electrician/gaffer/lighting director in the film and television business for the last 19 years, and applies her experience of the craft to her style of "guerrilla film-making." She is also a freelance camerawoman for Cablevision's News 12 Westchester.

At the April meeting Maryann will be showing a short teaser from her upcoming one-hour documentary entitled "Pushing Glass" which is about the growth and significance of the amateur telescope making movement from the 1920's to the present. It features archival footage and coverage of all the major Star Parties as well as the Optics Workshop in Bellingham, Washington. A rough cut will be previewed at a New York film festival in early October.

In addition to "Pushing Glass" she will also be screening, this July at ALCON, an important one-hour documentary on the problem of light pollution tentatively titled "In Memory of Dark Skies." This film will explore the ramifications to the biosphere of turning night into day. It will include new information about risks to human health plus endangerment to various nocturnal species. It will, of course, also mention the loss to astronomy. Interviews with various scientists, lighting designers, and astronomers such as David Levy, plus the founders of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) are featured.

VIEWING ALTERNATIVE

Michael Pass has generously offered his spacious property located in Campbell Hall, NY, yielding panoramic views, to anyone who'd like to view Friday, April 27 (backup Sat April 28).

If interested you can contact Michael at the phone number listed on the front page.

! ASTRONOMERS NEEDED FOR PROJECT ASTRO NOVA! MEET THE BEST AUDIENCE YOU HAVE EVER HAD: OUR CHILDREN!

This is what astronomers have said about Project ASTRO NOVA: "The kids quickly warmed up to me, I settled right in." "They were great, well behaved and so full of eager questions." "The questions never stopped, the thinking never stopped, and of course, the learning never stopped." "I learned just as much as the kids." "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my fascination of this subject with some very wonderful children." "Participating in Project AS-

TRO NOVA has been a real life-changing event." "A truly stellar experience."

If you live or work in New Jersey and like to share your enthusiasm and interest in astronomy with our youth, Project ASTRO NOVA is for you!

Each school year Project ASTRO NOVA pairs 2nd to 12th grade teachers and youth leaders with volunteer astronomers. In the current school year we have 53 astronomers who are partnered with 75 enthusiastic and committed teachers. Some astronomers are paired with two teachers at the same school.

Project ASTRO NOVA prepares and helps its astronomers from start to finish. Astronomers first meet their partner teacher at the training workshop where they are engaged in effective classroom tested hands-on astronomy activities that meet the NJ State Science Standards. During the workshop partners develop a strategy for working together, in and out of the classroom, and start planning the astronomer's visits. We have scheduled workshops on *August 21-22 (Tuesday and Wednesday) and August 24-25 (Friday and Saturday)* at Raritan Valley Community College. Participating astronomers will be assigned to one of these two workshops.

Each partnership will receive a wide variety of materials and resources for use in its visits including: The Astronomical Society of the Pacific's "The Universe at Your Fingertips" activity and resource notebook, articles about recent astronomical developments, resource lists, access to audio-visual materials, tips on working with schools/groups and students, tips on addressing and working with preconceptions and learning styles, and more.

Class visits usually start in the fall and continue through the school year. Astronomers commit to make at least four visits to the same one or two classrooms or youth group. A class visit usually is 60-90 minutes. During these visits astronomers answer students' questions and lead or assist the teacher with astronomy activities. Examples of activities include: Making a Telescope, Stargazing, Exploring the Constellations, the Reason for Seasons, Modeling the Phases of the Moon, Making a Scale Model of our Solar System, Observing the Moons of Jupiter, Making a Comet, Life Cycles of Stars and the Origin of the Universe. Many of our astronomers are finding participating in Project ASTRO NOVA so rewarding and enjoyable that they make several additional visits.

Astronomers who are interested to participate in Project ASTRO NOVA should request and fill out an *Astronomer Volunteer Form*. On this form, astronomers will be asked for areas of astronomy that are of special interest to them and which grades/ages they prefer to work with. Based on this information, astronomers will be matched with compatible teachers or youth leaders near their home or work.

Astronomer Volunteer Forms and more information can be obtained from our website at <http://www.raritanval.edu/planetarium/astronova.html> or from

Project ASTRO NOVA, Raritan Valley Community College, P.O. Box 3300, Somerville, NJ 08876, (908) 231-8805, fax (908) 526-7938, or email astro@raritanval.edu.

The deadline for submission of Astronomer Volunteer Forms is April 30.

FOR SALE

Breakdown Dobsonian telescope without the optics. Designed for a 12.5" f/6 mirror, but will accommodate up to 14" f/4.5. Pre-drilled lightweight cage with unique collapsible light baffle stores inside the rocker box. Comes with eight adjustable aluminum trusses, 12/5" mirror cell, sturdy alt/azimuth dobsonian mount, wheely bars & stretchable shroud. If you are building a telescope and have the mirror, secondary, spider, and focuser - save yourself a lot of trouble. \$175 (less than the cost of my materials).
Scott Reeves (845) 353-5161.

NEAF KID'S PROGRAM NEEDS HELP

As you may or may not know, RAC introduced children's programs at the NEAF last year on a small scale. We're pleased to say that without any type of publicity, we had a decent turn-out.

This year we're doing it again, and we're doing more. We urgently need some people who will volunteer to help assist the children in their activities. If you, or perhaps a family member is interested, please contact me at my e-mail address or phone number listed on the first page.

Teenagers would be an asset.

Thanks. **Lisa Canino-Dymbort**

Love Thy Husband

A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office. After his checkup, the doctor called the wife into his office alone. He said, "Your husband is suffering from a very severe disease, combined with horrible stress. If you don't do the following, your husband will surely die."

"Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast. Be pleasant, and make sure he is in a good mood. For lunch make him a nutritious meal he can take to work. And for dinner, prepare an especially nice meal for him.

Don't burden him with chores, as this could further his stress. Don't discuss your problems with him; it will only make his stress worse. Try to relax your husband in the evening by wearing lingerie and giving him plenty of back-rubs.

Encourage him to watch some type of team sporting event on television. And most importantly, make love with your husband several times a week and satisfy his every whim."

"If you can do this for the next 10 months to a year, I think your husband will regain his health."

On the way home, the husband asked his wife, "What did the doctor say?"

"You're going to die," she replied.

Don't Forget...

A father walks into the market followed by his 10 year old son. The kid is spinning a 25 cent piece in the air and catching it between his teeth. As they walk through the market someone bumps into the boy at just the wrong moment and the coin goes straight into his mouth and lodges in his throat. He immediately starts choking and going blue in the face and his Dad starts panicking, shouting and screaming for help.

A middle-aged, fairly unnoticeable man in a gray suit is sitting at a coffee bar in the market reading his newspaper and sipping a cup of coffee. At the sound of the commotion he looks up, puts his coffee cup down on the saucer, neatly folds his newspaper and places it on the counter. He gets up from his seat and makes his unhurried way across the market. Reaching the boy (who is still standing, but only just) the man carefully takes hold of the kid's gonads and squeezes gently but firmly.

After a few seconds the boy convulses violently and coughs up the quarter, which the man catches in his free hand. Releasing the boy, the man hands the coin to the father and walks back to his seat in the coffee bar without even so much as a look back.

As soon as he is sure that his son has suffered no lasting ill effects, the father rushes over to the man and starts effusively thanking him. The man looks embarrassed and brushes off the father's thanks.

As he's about to leave, the father asks one last question: "I've never seen anybody do anything like that before - it was fantastic - what are you, a surgeon or something like that?"

"Oh, good heavens no" the man replies, "I work for the IRS"

RAC NEEDS YOUR HELP FOR NEAF

By the time you read this, NEAF is less than a month away and each passing day is bringing it even closer. Members of the RAC Advisory Committee have been working since September, planning for this, the first 2-day show in the 10-year history of NEAF. As has been the case in each of the 9 prior shows, RAC has had to rely upon its rank-and-file membership to provide the manpower to make NEAF the success it has become. This year is no exception – club members are again being asked to step forward and offer assistance where it's needed.

The table below indicates the jobs and time periods that must be filled. We hope you will examine it carefully, and select a job and time period that you will be comfortable performing. And once having done so, to contact the "Team Leader" so your name can be added to the work schedule.

JOB POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

Job Description	Day and Date	Shift Hours or Start Time	Shift Hours or Start Time	Shift Hours or Start Time	Volunteers Needed Per Shift
Put up signs	May 4 - Friday	15:00 – 16:00			1 person
Take down signs	May 6 - Sunday	18:00 – 19:00			1 person
Vendor Setup	May 4 - Friday	19:00 – 22:00			12
Vendor Breakdown	May 6 - Sunday	18:00 – 21:00			8
Ticket Sales	May 5 - Saturday	11:30 – 12:00	14:00 – 14:30	17:00 – 17:15	1 person all day
Ticket Sales	May 6 - Sunday	08:00 – 09:00	12:30 – 13:30	17:00 – 17:15	1 person all day
Raffle Ticket Booth	May 5 - Saturday		12:00 – 15:00	15:00 – 18:00	2 – 3
Raffle Ticket Booth	May 6 - Sunday	08:30 – 11:30	11:30 – 14:30	14:30 – 17:30	2 – 3
RAC Club Booth	May 5 - Saturday		12:00 – 15:00	15:00 – 18:00	2 – 3
RAC Club Booth	May 6 - Sunday	08:30 – 11:30	11:30 – 14:30	14:30 – 17:30	2 – 3
ATM Security	May 5 - Saturday	12:00 – 15:00	15:00 – 18:00		1
ATM Security	May 6 - Sunday	08:30 – 11:30	11:30 – 14:30	14:30 – 17:30	1
Dining Room Attendant	May 5 - Saturday	08:30 – 11:30	11:30 – 14:30	14:30 – 17:30	1
Dining Room Attendant	May 6 - Sunday	08:30 – 11:30	11:30 – 14:30	14:30 – 17:30	1
Theater Usher	May 6 - Sunday	08:35	10:10	11:30	1
		13:30	14:50	16:20	1

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Erecting Signs	Place signs to direct vehicular traffic at strategic campus locations. Affix indoor signs to walls / windows leading from Field House to Theater. Obtain all signs from Don Urban and return them to him.
Vendor Setup	Help exhibitors move merchandise from their vehicles to their booths.
Vendor Breakdown	Help exhibitors move merchandise from their booths to their vehicles.
Ticket Sales	Assist student ticket sellers at start of each day, fill in for them when they are on breaks, bring money and unsold tickets downstairs to RAC Club Booth at end of day. Lock door to ticket booths.
Raffle Ticket Booth	Sell raffle tickets to attendees. Safeguard money and any prizes on display in the booth.
ATM Security	Make sure people stay behind the rope barrier around the telescope display and that they do not touch the telescopes without permission from the owner.
RAC Club Booth	Distribute brochures, answer questions about RAC, accept payment for membership fees or any items that are sold, keep records of all monetary transactions.
Dining Room Attendant	Remove trash from tables, clean up spills, when garbage bags are filled remove to dumpster and replace with a fresh bag. It is not necessary to stay in the area continually during your shift. Just check things out 2 or 3 times each hour.
Theater Ushers	Make sure speakers have cold water and cups at the podium. Make announcement at start of each talk about college rule prohibiting food and drink in theater. Do not permit people to sit on stairs. Direct standees to the cafeteria where talks are being shown on closed circuit TV.

TEAM LEADERS

Job Description	Team Leader	Phone	E-mail
Put up / take down signs	Don Urban	201-768-6575	DonUrban@RocklandAstronomy.com
Vendor Setup	Bill Thys	201-797-9553	BillThys@aol.com
Vendor Breakdown	Alan Traino	973-427-2020	Alan3203@sprynet.com
Ticket Sales	Don Urban	201-768-6575	DonUrban@RocklandAstronomy.com
Raffle Ticket Booth	Mark Hettinger	201-768-5720	MLMKSHET@aol.com
RAC Club Booth	Dr. Jack Rosen	845-358-0368	Deepsky3@Juno.com
ATM Security	Mike Pass	845-496-6320	ironhorse@frontiernet.net
Dining Room Attendants	Frank Bifulco	845-354-3965	frankbif@earthlink.net
Theater Ushers	David Dymbort	908-835-8995	Ddymbort@Yahoo.com