



R. A. C. NEWS

April - 2002

www.rocklandastronomy.com
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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
*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 required

APRIL MEETINGS

4/2 7:30pm – Advisory Committee Meeting at Challenger Center
4/5 Wawayanda Observing – Club members and guests only
4/6 Wawayanda Observing – Club members and guests only
4/12 New Moon observing at Wawayanda
4/13 New Moon observing at Wawayanda
4/17 7:30pm – Advisory Committee Meeting at Challenger Center
4/19 7:30pm – Special club meeting at Challenger Center. Facility tour and program “Steven Hawking’s Universe – Black Holes.” This meeting replaces the one normally held at North Rockland High School.
4/20 “Joy of the Universe” observing at Anthony Wayne. This is our initial public stargazing event of the year. Let’s have a great turnout!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Louis C. Leonardis 144-30 35th Ave #B-44, Flushing, NY 11354.
Jeanine M. Louttit & Family 9 Hickory Rd., Ringwood, NJ 07456 (973) 962-1537.
Leslie D Wagner & Family 630 E 19th St., Brooklyn, NY 11230 (718) 434-3965.
Allen Werner 396 Logtown Rd., Port Jervis, NY, 12771 (845) 856-8068.

A CASE OF POOR JUDGEMENT

My first order of business is to sincerely apologize to those members of the Rockland Astronomy Club who attended the club meeting on Friday, March 15 expecting to see the program “Steven Hawking’s Universe – Black Holes.” Upon reflection, I demonstrated extremely poor judgement by allowing the program to be changed at the last minute. I offer no excuse, but I do promise that future programs and events will take place exactly as they are promoted and scheduled.

Don Urban

A VERY SPECIAL EVENT

A special event has been planned for our April 19 regular club meeting. As you know, the Advisory Committee has been conducting business meetings at the Lower Hudson Valley Challenger Center on Route 59 in Ramapo (next door to Applebees). Committee members are so impressed with LHVCC that a tour of the facility has been arranged for club members. After the tour, the Steven Hawking video "Black Holes" will be shown in the LHVCC theater. I hope you will join us on this occasion.

Don Urban

CLUB VIEWING

RAC'ers...

A pretty good night this past Saturday. About a dozen or so showed up at Waywayanda, and some stayed until about 1:30 am. Decent viewing conditions and some nice deep-sky objects, despite the bitter cold.

Let me say something about the upcoming viewing season. The Rockland Astronomy has over 200 members. Yet, for many of us, we rarely see many of our fellow RAC'ers except at select events: the Winter Dinner, WSP, SSP, NEAF, or maybe the meetings at North Rockland High. It's safe to say that many of us haven't met the bulk of the people who belong to the club.

As someone who is single, I find the demands on my time pretty tough, so I can imagine how it is for those of you with families and other outside interests. The thing I stress to people, is make the effort to get out and observe. If the only time you are going to observe is when you have nothing to do that night, or when there are absolutely no demands on you from work or family, you will never go out observing. Some of the best observing ever is when you go out on a night when "you really didn't feel like it" or when someone calls and coaxes you away from another night in front of the TV.

A few suggestions for 2002:

1. Go to the "Joy of the Universe" outings that are easy to get to (right off the Palisades Interstate Parkway).
2. Go to the private RAC observing sessions -- Friday or Saturday sessions; during the summer, even some mid-week ones!
3. Make an effort to go out to Taghkanic once or twice (You'll love it!).

What I'm saying is: force yourself to go! For some of us, it's easy to go out once or twice a week. For others, it might be once or twice a month. Whatever is your speed, this is an ASTRONOMY club. With decent viewing sites less than an hour away for most club members, the observing sessions -- public as well as the "Joy of the Universe" -- should be our lifeline.

If you can't drive 3+ hours round-trip to enjoy the near-pristine conditions of Taghkanic, then settle for the decent conditions of Waywayanda. If you can't pull an all-nighter or stay out to the wee hours of the morning, then observe for a few hours only. If you don't have a

scope or can't use what you have that effectively, don't worry. Come on out and learn. Remember: the best thing about the club is the ability to go out with fellow astronomers and learn from them, view from multiple scopes at events, etc. Otherwise, we could all save a lot of time and gas mileage by just parking our scopes on our lawns, right?

Let's all try to make 2002 the best observing season yet. Taghkanic/Rhinebeck give you magnitude 6.5 skies (see Mies' testimonial on the website); Shady Pines is always great fun, and some of us are still working to get some people to attend a summer Midwestern super-dark sky location like the Nebraska Star Party (e-mail me if interested).

Clear Skies,

Frank Bifulco

FOR SALE

LX 200 EMC 8 inch telescope with tripod, ac/dc adapters, 26mm series 4000 super plossl eyepiece, 1.25" diagonal. It is in excellent condition; purchased new in 2000. "Go To" computer system works superbly. Asking \$2000.

Call 973-316-5427 or e-mail Mikebro_1@excite.com

Mike Heuler

8 inch classic cassegrain telescope. F/8 with white aluminum tube, 1.25" helical focuser, and finder scope. Comes with heavy-duty wood case that becomes the base and mounting for the telescope. It is in good condition, and I'm asking \$450 or best offer.

Call 201-441-9280

Bill Ward

THE PLEIADES

The Pleiades are located on the nape of the Bull's neck, and consist of seven stars, said to be the daughters of Atlas. Hence, this constellation is called "seven Starred." Only six of the seven stars are visible; the reason given for this is the following.

It is believed that six of the sisters consorted with gods, and one with a mortal. Three lay with Zeus: Electra, the mother of Dardanus; Maia, the mother of Hermes; and Taygete, the mother of Lacedaemon. Two lay with Poseidon: Alcyone, the mother of Hyrieus, and Celaeno, the mother of Lycus. Sterope reportedly lay with Ares and bore Oenomaus. Merope, however, lay with Sisyphus, a mortal, and so appears very faint.

The Pleiades are held in the highest honor among men, as they appear at all times of the year. According to Hipparchus, this constellation is prominent, having a rectangular shape.



ROCKLAND ASTRONOMY CLUB - (201)768-3295

April 2002

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Sunrise 05:40 Set 18:21 Moonset 08:12 Rise 23:20	2 Sunrise 05:38 Set 18:22 Moonset 08:54 Rise --- 7:30pm NEAF COMMITTEE MEETING AT LHVCC	3 Sunrise 05:36 Set 18:23 Moonset 00:26 Set 09:41	4 ☉ LQ Sunrise 05:35 Set 18:24 Moonset 01:25 Set 10:34	5 Sunrise 06:33 Set 19:25 Moonset 02:15 Set 11:32	6 Sunrise 06:31 Set 19:26 Moonset 02:57 Set 12:32
7 Sunrise 06:30 Set 19:27 Moonset 04:33 Set 14:33 <i>Dr. High Savings--set ahead 1 hour</i>	8 Sunrise 05:28 Set 19:28 Moonset 05:03 Set 15:33	9 Sunrise 05:26 Set 19:29 Moonset 05:30 Set 16:33	10 Sunrise 05:25 Set 19:30 Moonset 05:54 Set 17:32	11 Sunrise 06:23 Set 19:31 Moonset 06:16 Set 18:30	12 ● NMI Sunrise 06:22 Set 19:32 Moonset 06:58 Set 19:30	13 Sunrise 06:20 Set 19:39 Moonset 07:01 Set 20:30
PRIME OBSERVING WINDOW						
14 Sunrise 06:19 Set 19:34 Moonset 07:26 Set 21:32	15 Sunrise 06:17 Set 19:36 Moonset 07:54 Set 22:35	16 Sunrise 06:15 Set 19:37 Moonset 08:27 Set 23:39	17 Sunrise 06:14 Set 19:38 Moonset 09:07 Set --- 7:30pm ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT LHVCC	18 Sunrise 06:12 Set 19:39 Moonset 00:41 Rise 09:55	19 Sunrise 06:11 Set 19:40 SEE NEWSLETTER FOR DETAILS Moonset 01:39 Rise 10:52 7:30pm SPECIAL PROGRAM AT CHALLENGER CENTER	20 ☉ FQ Sunrise 06:09 Set 19:41 Moonset 02:31 Rise 11:56 JOY OF THE UNIVERSE AT ANTHONY WAYNE
PRIME OBSERVING WINDOW						
21 Sunrise 06:08 Set 19:42 Moonset 03:16 Rise 13:07 LYRID METEORS	22 Sunrise 06:07 Set 19:43 Moonset 03:56 Rise 14:21	23 Sunrise 06:05 Set 19:44 Moonset 04:29 Rise 15:37	24 Sunrise 06:04 Set 19:45 Moonset 04:59 Rise 16:53	25 Sunrise 06:02 Set 19:46 Moonset 05:29 Rise 18:09	26 ○ FMI Sunrise 06:01 Set 19:47 Moonset 05:58 Rise 19:26	27 Sunrise 06:00 Set 19:48 Moonset 06:30 Rise 20:43
28 Sunrise 05:58 Set 19:49 Moonset 07:04 Rise 21:38	29 Sunrise 05:57 Set 19:50 Moonset 07:44 Rise 23:09	30 Sunrise 05:55 Set 19:51 Moonset 08:30 Rise ---				

SPECIAL PROGRAM AT CHALLENGER CENTER ON APRIL 19