



R. A. C. NEWS

May - 2002



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

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Membership Services, Treasurer, Special Events, PIP Liaison
Don Urban, 201-768-3295, 73 Haring St, Closter, NJ 07624
DonUrban@RocklandAstronomy.com

Newsletter Editor
Lisa Canino-Dymbort, 908-835-8995, 1 Edgemere Terrace,
Washington, NJ 07882. Lcanino@juno.com

Webmaster
Dan Roman, 201-385-7675, N2mfc@injersey.com

Assistant Webmasters
Peter Aurelio, 914-235-2207, paurelio@iscnet.net
Keith Murdock, 845-753-5625, Keith_Murdock@hotmail.com

NEAF (Northeast Astronomy Forum & Telescope Show) Chairman
Alan Traino, 973-423-3017, Alan3203@sprynet.com

SSP (Summer Star Party) Organizer
Don Urban, 201-768-3295, 73 Haring St, Closter, NJ 07624
DonUrban@RocklandAstronomy.com

Astrophotography
Tom Massey, 201-447-2908, Cmassey@k2tmk2tm@aol.com
Bill Thys, 973-881-8372, billthys@aol.com
Dominick Morelli, 845-623-5633, morelli1@worldnet.att.net

CCD Imaging
Jim Burnell, 845-986-3332, Burnell@Frontiernet.net
Dominick Morelli, 845-623-5633, morelli1@worldnet.att.net

Telescope Making
Jim Burnell, 845-986-3332, Burnell@Frontiernet.net
Mike Pass, 845-496-6320, ironhors@frontiernet.net

Wawayanda Observing Coordinator
NY -- Frank Bifulco, 845-354-3965, frankbif@earthlink.net
NJ -- Alan Traino, 973-423-3017, alan3203@sprynet.com

Mid-Hudson Observing Coordinator
Mies Hora, 845-429-0923, mies@ultimatesymbol.com

Children's Programs
Ed Siemenn, 845-783-3442, edsiemenn@hotmail.com
Lisa Canino-Dymbort, 908-835-8995, Lcanino@juno.com
Audrey Salvatore, 845-928-6697, nebula@frontiernet.net

Model Rocketry
Mark Hettinger, 201-768-5720, mlmkshett@aol.com

Equipment Manager
Ed Siemenn, 845-783-3442, edsiemenn@hotmail.com

Advisors
Al Nagler, 845-354-2552
Dr. Jack Rosen, Deepsky3@juno.com

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

MAY MEETINGS

Friday 5/3 and 5/4 – Observing at Wawayanda
Tuesday 5/7 – NEAF volunteers meeting at Challenger Center
Friday 5/10 – Regular club meeting at Challenger Center. Video, Steven Hawking's Universe – “The Theory of Everything” will be shown.
Saturday 5/11 – “Joy of the Universe” public star party at Anthony Wayne. Rescheduled from May 18 due to conflict with NEAF. “Up All Night” observing at Lake Tahgkanic.
Wednesday 5/15 – NEAF volunteers meeting at Challenger Center
Saturday 5/18 and Sunday 5/19 – NEAF at Rockland Community College
Saturday 5/31 – Observing at Wawayanda

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mario F. DiBono 23-09 150th St., Whitestone, NY 11357
Clifford Campo 21 Winding Trail, Chester, NY 10918 (845) 783-0797.
William T. Fry 512 Laroe Rd., Chester NY 10918 (845) 469-3502
Alfred Marchand & Family 46 Hawley Rd., Savoy, MA 01256

A FOND FAREWELL

There is bad news and good news for me today.
The bad news is that I have to move back to my country very soon. The good news is that I will join a club in my country, Japan. I expect to become a correspondent of RAC in Japan. Let me write from over there.
I really appreciate the existence of the club and the efforts of people who run it. I could only join the banquet once, and I became much more interested in looking into night skies after speaking with very kind and intellectual people. I was looking forward to joining observations.
I wish you and other RAC members the best of luck observing the sky.
Regards,

Nobuo Ibaraki in Tenafly

A BUSY MONTH AHEAD

Warm days and cool nights have now replaced the cold of winter and, just like the budding trees and flowers, amateur astronomers are dusting cobwebs off their telescopes in anticipation of once again greeting old friends – celestial and otherwise. It's like this each May. So much is offered that it's hard to find the time to fit everything into our daily schedules. So much in fact, that there are conflicting events where choices will have to be made.

One of these takes place on May 11, when you will have to decide between dark-sky observing at Lake Tahgkanic and catering to the public at Anthony Wayne for our monthly "Joy of the Universe" star party. I'm sure we will have a good representation of club members at both locations.

With the NEAF (Northeast Astronomy Forum & Telescope Show) taking place on the 18th and 19th, and getting bigger each year, we want to ensure that everything runs smoothly. For this reason we have, for the first time, scheduled two pre-show meetings at which volunteers will receive specific instructions and guidelines that will make their jobs easier and less stressful. And to make sure everyone is able to attend at least one of these meetings, we've scheduled them on two different days of the week. The first is on Tuesday the 7th and the second is on Wednesday the 15th. So, if you have already signed up – or wish to join us – please do make an effort to attend either or both of these important meetings. Both will be held at the Challenger Center on Route 59 in Suffern at 8:00PM.

Besides NEAF, May offers numerous scheduled observing opportunities. In addition to Tahgkanic and Anthony Wayne, sessions will be held at Wawayanda State Park on the 3rd, 4th, and 31st.

Finally, for our members who enjoy astronomy from the comfort of a soft seat and subdued lighting, we have scheduled another Steven Hawking video presentation in the theater at the Challenger Center. "The Theory of Everything" will be shown on Friday the 10th beginning at 7:30PM.

PAPERLESS PERMIT FOR WAWAYANDA

After waiting more than three months for the issuance of our permit for Wawayanda, we have been assured that RAC members may continue to observe there without the requirement of possessing a physical copy of a permit. It appears that, due to a reorganization of the NJ Dept. of Parks and Facilities, our permit application was lost. If it is subsequently found, we will receive the actual paper permit. Until then, enjoy!

CHALLENGER CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Six RAC members, with telescopes, were present on Sunday afternoon, April 14th for the annual open house at LHVCC. What a nice experience! At least 300 people – children and adults – dropped by for a tour of the facility and the opportunity to look through our telescopes at the Sun with its sunspots and solar prominences. In just the last seven days since, RAC has picked up four new members and their families!

MAYBE WE SHOULD CHARGE MORE . . .

for attending our annual Summer Star Party in Massachusetts. Let me explain. RAC was asked to and did make a donation to a private school in Rockland County that was holding a fund-raising auction. Our donation consisted of a free week at SSP and a free 12-month membership. From what I've been told, there was a spirited bidding war, and the winning bid of \$350.00 far exceeded the actual value of \$210.00!

SPEAKING OF SSP . . .

Better start sending in your reservations now. Nineteen have already been processed, and campsites are now being assigned on a first come, first served basis. Once again, the dates of SSP-2002 are Friday, August 2nd to Sunday, August 11th. If you get your newsletter via US Mail, all the details are included. For our "electronic newsletter" members, information and a registration / reservation form can be found on the club web site www.rocklandastronomy.com. Just click on "Special Events" and navigate to the page for SSP.

RAC HAS A NEW WEBMASTER AND SERVER

Effective immediately, Dan Roman (n2mfc@verizon.net or n2mfc@bellatlantic.net) is our official Webmaster, after having spent the last six to eight months designing our new web site. The site is physically housed on a server under the control of club member Peter Aurelio in Westchester County. I'm told that a number of new features will be available to club members, including a private message posting bulletin board (NO MORE YAHOO, THANK GOD) and that unlimited e-mail addresses using the domain name of RocklandAstronomy.com are available. Members desiring a johndoe@rocklandastronomy.com email address should send their requests to either Dan or Peter (paurelio@lscnet.net).

RAC would like to thank Steve Scott, our previous and first Webmaster, for his time and effort over the last five years. Note to Steve – Please submit an invoice for your out-of-pocket expenses.

