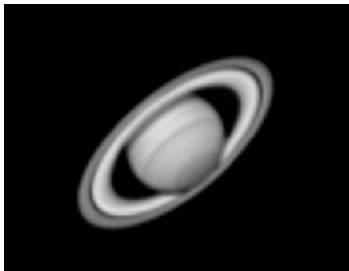


# WELCOME TO S\*T\*A\*R

S\*T\*A\*R (The Society of Telescopes, Astronomy, and Radio) is the focal point for amateur astronomy in Monmouth County, NJ, attracting members of all ages, occupations and educational backgrounds. S\*T\*A\*R's objectives are to promote the enjoyment of astronomy and to increase the level of astronomical knowledge among its members and the public. The club holds regular meetings, observing nights, field trips, and special activities such as amateur telescope making, assisting local schools, scouts, and the park system in conducting public astronomy programs



S\*T\*A\*R has promoted amateur astronomy since 1957 when it was organized by observers in Project Moonwatch, a

worldwide network of observers who tracked Sputnik to see how the earth's atmosphere affects satellite orbits. The club was incorporated in 1969.

## Meetings

S\*T\*A\*R holds its meetings on the first Thursday of the month from September to June, at 8 PM. Meetings are held at the King of Kings Lutheran Church, 250 Harmony Rd. in Middletown, at the intersection with Cherry Tree Farm Rd. S\*T\*A\*R is a registered non-profit educational amateur astronomy society. Membership is open to anyone interested in any area of astronomy. Programs generally consist of lectures and discussions by members or guest speakers on a variety of interesting topics on

astronomy. Refreshments are served during the meeting and, weather permitting, a short observing session may occur afterwards. Everybody is welcome – please come along!

## Membership Benefits

There's no better way to learn and enjoy a hobby than by joining a club. Whether you are an experienced amateur, or new to astronomy, S\*T\*A\*R has plenty to offer. S\*T\*A\*R members have varied interests spanning the entire hobby. From deep sky observing, to amateur telescope making, to astrophotography, to solar observing, you'll find it all at S\*T\*A\*R!



S\*T\*A\*R members receive the club's newsletter, the **Spectrogram** and discounts on

subscriptions to **Sky & Telescope** and **Astronomy** magazines. Members can borrow the club telescope, an 8" Dobsonian, and share our enormous 25" Obsession telescope – *one of only two in New Jersey*.

## S\*T\*A\*R Website

S\*T\*A\*R prides itself on having one of the finest websites in all amateur astronomy. Here you'll find information on club events, weather related to astronomy, amateur telescope making, astro photos, star charts, classified ads and links to just about everything astronomical.

Surely the most popular and most visited section of the website is our discussion board. Here members discuss equipment, scope building, observing plans/reports, astronomy news, getting started in astronomy and anything else related to the stars. The board is open to the public – please stop in and chat at [www.starastronomy.org](http://www.starastronomy.org).

## Activities



In addition to monthly meetings, S\*T\*A\*R special interest groups meet regularly to make telescopes, share astrophotography techniques and observe. S\*T\*A\*R members often participate in 'star parties' at local schools where children and their parents get a close up view of the wonders of the night sky. S\*T\*A\*R hosts an annual picnic for members and their families

## Getting Started in Astronomy – Don't Buy a Telescope Yet!

The best way to get started in astronomy is to read books, websites and magazines. This will help you decide what you are interested in doing, and what equipment you will need. You can start to explore the sky with a pair of binoculars that you may already own. Too many people buy low aperture, department store telescopes on very poor mounts and are quickly disappointed. Do some homework first - an excellent beginner's telescope will cost around \$300. If you come to a monthly S\*T\*A\*R observing session you can try different telescopes and learn about them from their owners. We can help you to choose a telescope you will use and treasure. S\*T\*A\*R produces an Introductory Observing Guide, free to new members, which provides a list of objects in the night sky and how to find them.



# S\*T\*A\*R Astronomy Society, Inc Membership Application Form

Memberships:

- ( ) Individual....\$25  
( ) Family.....\$35

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about S\*T\*A\*R?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: STAR Astronomy  
Society, Inc & send to us at

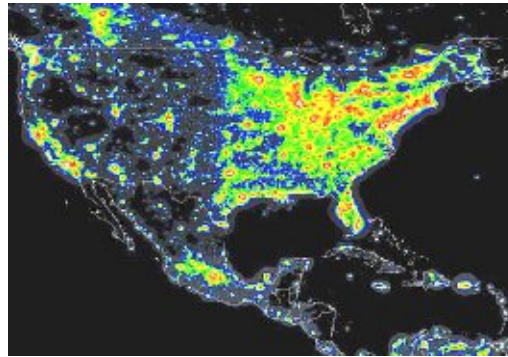
STAR Astronomy Society  
P.O. Box 863  
Red Bank, NJ, 07701

Membership year starts with the first meeting in  
September and runs for one year. Publications  
are not included in membership dues, but are  
available through S\*T\*A\*R at club discount  
rates. Subscriptions amounts must be paid in  
full before S\*T\*A\*R will enter them.

## Save the Stars!

One of our planet's most beautiful resources, the  
dark, star filled night sky, is being quickly  
destroyed by light pollution.

Look up at the night sky tonight, even if it is  
cloudy. Do you see darkness? The Milky Way?  
If you live anywhere in New Jersey you will  
probably see an ugly red glow. This glow is  
caused by poorly placed or designed lights that  
direct light into the sky rather than onto the  
ground where we need it. In the United States  
more than a billion dollars a year is wasted by  
needlessly lighting up the sky.



In addition to preventing us from enjoying the  
night sky, poor lighting produces glare,  
damaging our ability to see which makes road  
accidents more likely. Government studies have  
shown no relationship between nighttime lighting  
and crime reduction.

The good news is that light pollution can be  
prevented. There is no need to stop outdoor  
lighting, simply to use better lights. Good  
lighting fixtures cost no more to buy than poor  
ones, and cost less to run by being more  
efficient. You can find out more on the following  
web sites.

[www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)

[www.skyandtelescope.com/resources/darksky/](http://www.skyandtelescope.com/resources/darksky/)

# Journey to the S\*T\*A\*R\*S

## S\*T\*A\*R Astronomy Club



P.O. Box 863,  
Red Bank  
NJ 07701

Email: [gwarnes1@comcast.net](mailto:gwarnes1@comcast.net)

[www.starastronomy.org](http://www.starastronomy.org)