

The Springfield

"Sharing the Wonders of the Night Sky"

Since 1934



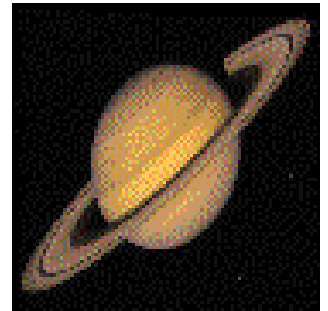
Stars Club



Website <http://www.reflector.org>



Club Meetings at the Springfield Science Museum



Calendar of Events

July – December 2009




NOTE: ALL INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT PRESS TIME. SOME EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

 Friday-Sunday, July 24-26. "The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Astronomer's Conjunction" in Northfield, MA.

The Conjunction features a weekend under the stars at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center. The Saturday morning program will feature a roundtable discussion on "Astronomy Outreach in IYA 2009." Guest speakers include Bob Crellin, Glenn Chaple, Jim Zebrowski and Phil Harrington. Thomas Levenson will give the Saturday evening talk, "Newton and the Counterfeiter: The Unknown Detective Career of the World's Greatest Scientist." For more information, contact **Richard Sanderson** at [rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org](mailto:rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org) or visit the Conjunction website at <http://www.philharrington.net/astroconjunction>.

★ Tuesday, July 28, 8:30 PM. "The First Annual Tanglewood on Parade" Star Party at Tanglewood, Lenox, MA.

Don't miss this special event! Take part in this unique combination of music and astronomy as John Williams conducts a live orchestra followed by stargazing, weather permitting. Alan Rifkin and Hofstra University Astronomy Outreach Program Coordinator Donald Lubowich organized this event. Stars Club members are needed to help set up telescopes for the thousands of people who are expected to attend. Help make it a success! For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Alan Rifkin.

 Thursday-Sunday, August 13-16. "The 74<sup>th</sup> Stellafane Meeting" on Breezy Hill in Springfield, VT.

Join fellow Stars Club members for the trip to Breezy Hill in Springfield, VT for the annual Stellafane Convention. This year's convention will celebrate four hundred years since Galileo's first astronomical observations. Events include mirror grinding demonstrations, a series of speakers, the popular Saturday morning swap tables and the optical and mechanical competitions for amateur telescopes. Apollo XII astronaut **Alan Bean** will give Saturday evening's Keynote Talk. For more information, including registration details, visit the Stellafane website at <http://www.stellafane.org>.

 Friday-Sunday, August 21-23. "The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Arunah Hill Days" at Arunah Hill – Cummington, MA.

Enjoy the splendor of the summer sky from the 2004-foot elevation of the Arunah Hill Natural Science Center! This event features something for everyone, with great speakers, solar observing, nature trails, rustic camping, model rocketry, timber framing, planetarium shows and the traditional Astronomy Association horseshoe-throwing contest. For more information, visit Arunah Hill's website at <http://www.arunah.org> or contact Arunah Hill president **Ed Faits** by email at [efaits@comcast.net](mailto:efaits@comcast.net).

† Saturday, August 29, 3:00 PM. "The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Stars Club Summer Picnic and Star Party," Buckland, MA.

Once again this year, we'll gather at the **Gemini Observatory** for an afternoon of food and fun, followed by an evening of observing if skies are clear. Don't miss this highlight of the Stars Club's many annual events. As in recent years, the picnic will be held rain or shine. All Stars Club members and their families are invited to attend. The cost is \$10 per person (children 5 and under free) and will be collected at the picnic. For more information and directions, see the insert to this newsletter.

★ Friday, September 4, 7:30 PM. "Stars Over Springfield" Public Astronomy Program at the Science Museum.

"Stars Over Springfield" begins its 2009-2010 season as **Mike Kozicki** presents "Jupiter: A Giant Among Giants." Jupiter is ideally placed in the night sky for observation during September. Learn about this largest of the planets and its array of moons. This popular monthly observing program, co-hosted by the Stars Club and the Springfield Science Museum, takes place in the Museum's Tolman Auditorium. The Museum's 20-inch rooftop telescope will then be opened to the public, weather permitting. In case of cloudy weather, a planetarium show will be substituted for the observing portion of the program. Admission is \$3 per adult and \$2 per child. Group rates are available for schools, scouts and other organizations. As always, Stars Club members are needed to help out to make "Stars Over Springfield" a success.

 Tuesday, September 22, 7:30 PM. Monthly Club Meeting in the Museum's Tolman Auditorium.

The Stars Club begins its 76<sup>th</sup> year as **Kevin Collins** presents "*A Firsthand Account of the Launch of STS-125.*" Kevin was in Florida on May 11<sup>th</sup> for the launch of Atlantis and will share his experience and speak about the final mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope. Kevin is an active member and vice-president of the Amherst Area Amateur Astronomers Association. As is the case with all Stars Club monthly meetings held at the Science Museum, the public is cordially invited to attend free of charge.

★ Friday, October 2, 7:30 PM. "Stars Over Springfield" Public Astronomy Program at the Science Museum.

Join **Ed Faits** as he presents "*Through the Solar System and Beyond: A Stargazer's View of the Night Sky.*" Ed is a past president of the Stars Club and is currently the president of the Arunah Hill Natural Science Center in Cummington, MA. Afterwards, the Museum's 20-inch telescope will be opened to the public to view Jupiter, weather permitting. In case of clouds, a show will be presented in the Museum's Seymour Planetarium in place of using the telescope.

 Tuesday, October 27, 7:30 PM. Monthly Club Meeting in the Museum's Tolman Auditorium.

Join the Stars Club in welcoming special guest speaker **James van Luik**, Professor Emeritus at Columbia University, who will present "*Cosmic Theories of Everything: GUTs and TOEs.*" Professor van Luik's rich academic career has seen extensive travel in Europe where he earned advanced degrees from the University of Paris and Oxford. From his rich experience he has acquired an impressive acquaintance with several giants of science, enabling him to convey the essence of their profound ideas and accomplishments.

★ Friday, November 6, 7:30 PM. "Stars Over Springfield" Public Astronomy Program at the Science Museum.

Join **Richard Sanderson** as he presents "*The Nights of Raining Fire: The Great Leonid Meteor Storms.*" The Leonid Meteor Shower takes place each November, and although no storm is expected this year, the event has produced some historic displays. The best of these occurred in 1833 and 1966, with a memorable display occurring most recently in 2001. Afterwards, the Museum's rooftop telescope will be open to view the night sky, weather permitting. In case of clouds, a planetarium show will be presented.

 Tuesday, November 24, 7:30 PM. Monthly Club Meeting in the Museum's Tolman Auditorium.

At the November meeting three years ago, we tried a new idea – a "movie night" – in place of a speaker, and it turned out to be a successful event. Back by popular demand, join us for "*Movie Night IV: The Tradition Continues.*" This year, we'll be taking suggestions for movies at the September and October club meetings, so if you have an astronomical movie in mind, please share it with the club. *Note: The annual Stars Club election for the 2010 club officers and directors will also be held at this meeting.*

★ Friday, December 4, 7:30 PM. "Stars Over Springfield" Public Astronomy Program at the Science Museum.

In the final "Stars Over Springfield" of 2009, former Stars Club president **Jack Megas** will present "*The Beautiful Winter Sky,*" a look at the upcoming season's stars and constellations and the mythology behind them. Afterwards, the museum's 20-inch rooftop telescope will be opened to the public, weather permitting. In case of clouds, a planetarium show will be presented instead.

 Tuesday, December 22, 7:30 PM. Holiday Party & Members Night in the Museum's Tolman Auditorium.

Join us to celebrate the Holidays, the Winter Solstice and the end of the year at our annual **Members Night**. All members are encouraged to give a brief (ten minute) presentation about their latest project, greatest observing experience or anything else related to astronomy. Also, be sure to bring along a plate of some holiday goodies to share with the rest of the club.

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**Inclement Weather-** If weather conditions cause meeting cancellation, the announcement will be made on WMAS, AM-1450.

### *The Stars Club Executive Committee for 2009*

The Springfield Stars Club, P.O. Box 2793, Springfield, MA 01101

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**

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