

# West Jersey Astronomical Society

---

## Meeting Minutes for November 1, 2019

**Location:** Virtua Moorestown

**Attendees:** 14

### Officers Present...

President: Steve Kutoroff

Vice President: Ray Pape

Secretary: Arnie Rosemoff

### Informal Meeting

Steve calls the meeting to order at 7:45 pm

We have a visitor Laura from Shamong, NJ. She is new to the hobby and has a new scope and will be at tomorrow's star watch with it.

Our last public star watch was clouded out (as have five of eight this year so far).

Steve reports on Astronomy on Tap Nov 20 in Trenton and Nov 22 in Philadelphia.

Tomorrow we have a public star watch at Batsto.

The upcoming Mercury Transit of the sun on Nov 11 starts about 7:30 am and will last until about 1:00 pm. We discussed using a solar filter in front of the objective to view this transit.

Val is in town and gives us a trip report from the Staunton River Star Party in North Carolina. The party is a weeklong event in a state park. He showed pictures of the facilities. The Deep Space Diner is an astronomy-themed restaurant lit in red and open all night.

Val has a tentative home for the Tony Moscicki Memorial Observatory with the Boy Scouts in Westhampton, NJ.

Joe had a snapshot showing the field around the long-period variable star, Mira. One overlay was a star hopping chart for locating Mira. Uranus was in the picture as a bonus. Also in the picture was Eta Psc, near M74, and Delta Cet near M77. He discussed the difficulties of finding these two objects in the throes of evening twilight during the Messier Marathon in March.

Joe talked about trying to view a very old and then a very young moon on October 27 and 28, but the weather didn't cooperate. There was an image of the less-old moon on October 26.

He talked about the Slooh online telescope service and compared it to actual eyepiece viewing. Joe is definitely a visual observer.

Val took nominations for the 2020 officers. The slate so far is...

President: Al Meloni

Vice President: Ray Pape

Secretary: Arnie Rosemoff

Treasurer: Wade Evans

Val then closed the nominations for tonight.

Alan took final orders for the 2020 RASC Observer's Handbook.

Joe mentioned tomorrow's launch of the Antares rocket from Wallops Island, VA, carrying a Cygnus freighter to the ISS. Odds are not in favor of visibility of this daytime launch (scheduled for 10 am) from our locality.

We are setting up for this year's Holiday Party. Tentatively set for Saturday, December 14 with an alternative date of Dec 7. We must clear it with Virtua before finalizing the date.

Steve adjourns the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Some members will continue the meeting at Passariello's in Moorestown.