

# West Jersey Astronomical Society

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## Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2019

**Location:** Virtua Moorestown

**Attendees:** 10

### Officers Present...

President: Steve Kutoroff

Secretary: Arnie Rosemoff

### Informal Meeting

Steve calls the meeting to order at 7:45 pm

We are in room 155C this evening as our usual meeting room is being prepared for a Virtua event the next day.

Joe talked about finding the long-period variable star, Mira (Omicron Ceti). He described his method of binocular star hopping to it starting at Aries to Eta Piscium then down eastern rope of Pisces to Alrischa, then 7° down to Mira. It varies from magnitude 2 to 10 over an 11 month (332 days) period.

We discussed the upcoming transit of the sun by Mercury on November 11, 2019. First contact is approximately 7:36 am EST in the Philadelphia area when the sun is about 9° altitude.

WAS members have been invited to the Palmyra Cove Nature Park on the evening of October 29 for an "Evening under the Autumn Sky" event.

We looked at pictures from our last meeting on October 4 which was a public outreach event at Clara Barton School and then another at Timothy Academy on Saturday, October 5.

We looked at a flyer for our upcoming Public Star Watch at Atsion field in the Wharton State Forest on Friday, October 25. Our Member Star Watch is Saturday, October 26, and is also the weather backup for the public event.

Gary started taking nominations for the 2020 club officers. The election will be held at the December 6 meeting. So far, the nominees are...

President: *vacant*

Vice President: *vacant*

Secretary: Arnie Rosemoff

Treasurer: Wade Evans

We closed the nominations the night and will resume at the next meeting.

We have our final Public Star Watch for 2019 at Batsto on November 2. There is a possible event at Fort Dix in October, but details are lacking.

Alan took orders for the RASC Observer's Handbook 2020. The next meeting on November 1 will be last opportunity to place an order.

Joe noted that Yahoo is downsizing e-group functionality and the groups may ultimately be phased out. Since we already have a members-only Google group in addition to our open Yahoo group, the need to establish a new group is not imperative. Many Yahoo groups are currently moving to groups.io. Bud offered to run group software if necessary.

Joe added a dark sky timetable (based on twilight times and moon rise/set times) to his web site; updated semi-monthly. <http://sjastro.org/>

The club Christmas party came up for discussion and our choice of dates seems to be either December 7 or 14. We will have to see which date is available at Virtua.

All dates for 2020 meetings have been set and they will all be on Friday nights (no more Thursday informal meetings).

Steve adjourns the meeting at 9:30 pm. Some members will retire to TGIF Fridays.