

Meeting Notice

March 2017

Of the Rittenhouse Astronomical Society

The Society invites members, guests and the interested public to our upcoming meeting (students encouraged to attend.) FREE / Open to the general public, no admit fee. Membership not required.

GUEST PRESENTER:

**Peter Detterline ~ Planetarium Director (Boyetown Schools)
Educator, Astronomer, Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers**

Topic Title:

Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassadors Program

WHERE:

**THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
222 20TH STREET & THE PARKWAY
PHILADELPHIA PA**

WHAT: Peter Detterline, was selected along with a group of educators, amateur astronomers and planetarium personnel to travel to Chile as part of the ACEAP (Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassadors Program). He toured the major observatories — the Atacama Large Millimeter-submillimeter Array (ALMA), Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO), the Southern Astrophysical Observatory (SOAR) and Gemini South. In his presentation he will highlight his experiences in Chile, providing insight into how modern astronomy is accomplished, and what it is like to be at some of the greatest observatories in the world. While we often talk about breakthrough discoveries through better telescopes and technology, modern astronomy is really a human endeavor. The same factors that draw professionals to the area also make Chile a great place for amateur astronomers to learn about the southern skies. See what's up in astronomy's most inviting country.

WHEN: **Wednesday March 8, 2017; 7:00 PM ~ AGENDA**

7:00 - Doors Open	7:55 - Celestial Soundscapes ~ D. McCormick
7:15 - Call to Order	8:00 - Tech Break
7:20 - Planet Report ~ D. Vaccca	8:05 - Guest Presenter~Peter Detterline
7:30 - Sky Tonight ~ T. Williams	8:55 - Observatory Viewing (Weather Permitting/Directed Mixer Poor Weather Alternative)
7:50 - President's Address	

Web Portal: www.RASPhilly.org

FaceBook: RittenhouseAstronomy

Mailing Address:

Website: <http://www.RittenhouseAstronomicalSociety.org>
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RITTENHOUSE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
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Peter Detterline: Peter is an avid astronomer whose interests cover a wide range of the astronomical spectrum. He teaches astronomy as Director of the Boyertown Planetarium, and runs a dual credit astronomy class at the school. He is a professor of astronomy at Montgomery County Community College and has worked with the Tzec Maun Foundation providing state-of-the-art Internet telescopes in New Mexico and Australia for student use. He founded the Mars Society and is responsible for the design, construction, implementation and documentation of the Musk Observatory at the Mars Desert Research Station. Peter was selected to be part of the "Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassador Program", where he visited the largest American observatories in that country. As an amateur astronomer he has traveled the globe to view solar eclipses, built his own observatory, and has completed many

observing programs including the Astronomical League's "Master Observer".



Peter Detterline
Astronomy in Chile Education
Ambassadors Program
<https://www.facebook.com/AstronomyAmbassadorsProgram>

DATES TO REMEMBER:

March 4 & 20, April 8 2017

Star Watch for **RAS Members only at Muddy Run Park**. Observatory is not open, but the site is a great dark sky location. Members encouraged to bring their interest and any observing gear. Details on our [Members Site](#). You must register on the Members site to be admitted to the park.

March 23, April 22, 2017

Public Star Watch with West Jersey Astronomical Society~ Batsto Village, Wharton State Forrest NJ

April 22, 2017

Science and Service: Program led by David Rittenhouse (Ted Williams) who will guide a tour of Davids birthplace in character. Historic Rittenhousetown