

Meeting Notice April 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.

WHO:

GUEST PRESENTER:

Dr. Derrick Pitts ~ Chief Astronomer; The Franklin Institute

Topic Title:

**Philadelphia Science Festival Pep Rally
for City Wide Telescope Night**

WHERE:

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

WHAT: Dr. Derrick Pitts is currently the Chief Astronomer and Director of the Fels Planetarium at The Franklin Institute. He's also been a NASA Solar System Ambassador since 2009 and serves as the "Astrobiology Ambassador" for the NASA/MIRS/UNCF Special Program Corporation's Astrobiology Partnership Program. One of his newest honors is an appointment to the outreach advisory board for the world's largest telescope, the new Thirty-Meter-Telescope at Mauna Kea in Hawaii. Derrick plans to update us on his new telescope plans and to prepare for City Wide Telescope Night this April 28th.

WHEN: **Wednesday April 12, 2017; 7:00 PM ~ AGENDA**

7:00 - Doors Open	8:00 - Presenter Dr. Derrick Pitts
7:15 - Call to Order	8:45 - William Herschel Documentary
7:20 - Planet Report ~ D. Vaccca	Premier
7:30 - Muddy Run Update ~ T. Williams	
7:55 - Tech Break	

Web Portal: www.RASPhilly.org

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

FaceBook: RittenhouseAstronomy

Contact: Info: 215-633-0604 ttuu@comcast.net

Mailing Address:

RITTENHOUSE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 283
FEASTERVILLE, PA 19053-0283

Dr. Derrick Pitts: appears regularly in the media as a science content expert including appearances on the "Colbert Report" on Comedy Central and "The Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson" on CBS. For more than two decades, Derrick has hosted award-winning astronomy radio programs for Philadelphia's two public radio stations and created signature astronomy television programming for PBS. One of the highlights of Derrick's career was meeting President Obama and his family when he was invited to participate in the first-ever White House Star Party.

Derrick has received numerous awards including an honorary Doctor of Science Degree from La Salle University, and serves on the Board of Trustees for his

alma mater St. Lawrence University, and his motto is "Eat, breathe, do science. Sleep later."



His twitter handle is @CoolAstronomer

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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](#).

April 10, 2017
William Tennant High School
Additional Alternate Monthly Meeting at Centennial School District Planetarium 5:00 PM.: William Herschel Documentary

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

April 28, 2017
City Wide Telescope Night: 30 sites around the Philadelphia area to participate.