

NORTHERN PRAIRIE STAR PARTY
Tuesday, September 27 to Sunday, October 2, 2016

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND RULES AND REGULATIONS

To book a campsite, contact Kate & John at the Black Nugget Lake Recreation Area at 780-663-2421. Daily rates (per unit plus GST) are: Full service \$35, Power \$30, and non-serviced sites \$25. In many cases, more than one tent or camper can occupy a numbered site; team up with friends to coordinate reserving a site. Avoid disappointment, book soon!

Event registration fees, to be paid at the big white tent by the north cook shelter: \$20 per adult and \$50 for a family.

For more information, visit the RASC web site at <http://edmontonrasc.com/2016/09/northern-prairie-star-party-2016/> OR email co-ordinators Rick & Susan Bramm at: npsp@edmontonrasc.com

Notes: Over the duration of the star party, participants are welcome to complete one or more **Observing Certificate** (four levels, from observing “with keen eyes and no optical aid” to “uncommonly observed objects for advanced observers”).

New for this year is a **mini-bimarathon** interweaving five laps around a short cross-country course (each lap is 700 meters in length) with observing 10 specified Messier objects.

Scheduled Events

Unless otherwise indicated, all scheduled events begin or take place in the big white tent near the cook shelter in the north campground. We will have some chairs, but please bring your camp chair or stool if you have one.

Tuesday, September 27

10 AM - 8:30 PM: Campsite check-in at Black Nugget Lake office/store.

7:21 PM: Sunset **8 PM:** Evening observing set up **9:20 PM:** Astronomical twilight ends

Wednesday, September 28

5:32 AM: Astronomical twilight begins **7:30 AM:** Sunrise

10 AM - 8:30 PM: Campsite check-in at Black Nugget Lake office/store. Stay quiet until noon in north part of campground

7:19 PM: Sunset **8 PM:** Evening observing set up **9:17 PM:** Astronomical twilight ends

Thursday, September 29

5:34 AM: Astronomical twilight begins **7:32 AM:** Sunrise

10 AM - 8:30 PM: Campsite check-in at Black Nugget Lake office/store. Stay quiet until noon in north part of campground

7:16 PM: Sunset **8 PM:** Evening observing set up **9:14 PM:** Astronomical twilight ends

Friday, September 30

5:36 AM: Astronomical twilight begins **7:34 AM:** Sunrise

10 AM - 8:30 PM: Campsite check-in at Black Nugget Lake office/store. Stay quiet until noon in north part of campground

3 – 5 PM: Members’ sessions on observing and astrophotography. More details in September.

5:30 PM: Cook your supper on the big BBQ in the cook shelter and have supper with other attendees and speakers

6:13 PM: NEW MOON **7:14 PM:** Sunset **8 PM:** Evening observing set up **9:12 PM:** Astronomical twilight ends

Saturday, October 1

5:38 AM: Astronomical twilight begins **7:36 AM:** Sunrise

10 AM - 8:30 PM: Campsite check-in at Black Nugget Lake office/store. Stay quiet until noon in north part of campground

Morning: explore Black Nugget Lake park

12:30 – 2 PM: Solar observing and telescope set up and use demonstrations (in and around the north shelter area)

2 – 3 PM Luca Vanzella, long-time amateur astronomer and RASC-Edmonton Centre executive member: **Hunting carbon stars:** The joys and challenges of looking for, and finding, these ruddy red objects in the sky.

3 – 4 PM Jay Anderson, meteorologist and a long-time RASC member: **So you want to be an eclipse chaser? Get real:** How to succeed in finding a clear sky for the August 21, 2017 North American solar eclipse.

4 – 5 PM Dr. David Levy, comet discoverer, astronomy science writer and educator: **My life as a comet searcher:** As discoverer of 22 comets and celebrated speaker, broadcaster and writer, Dr. Levy will present highlights of his findings.

5:30 ~ 7 PM **Pot-luck BBQ** (burgers, wieners & buns supplied by NPSP) & group photo of NPSP participants – **Please bring your favourite appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert to share with others. Chairs too!**

7:12 PM: Sunset **8 PM:** Evening observing set up **9:09 PM:** Astronomical twilight ends

Sunday, October 2

5:40 AM: Astronomical twilight begins **7:39 AM:** Sunrise

Morning: Free time for park activities and pack up and head home

Noon: deadline to submit Observing Certificate records to Susan or Rick Bramm at the tent near the north campground shelter.

We'll be back!

Future dates for NPSP are:

Sept. 19 – Sept. 24, 2017

Sept. 4 – Sept. 9, 2018

Please review the Rules and Regulations on the back of this page.

Rules and Regulations

Our basic ground rule is the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

For the North Campground (in the vicinity of sites 80-112), the following restrictions apply:

1. NO WHITE LIGHTS. All flashlights must produce red light. Red LED flashlights, red bulb flashlights or white flashlights covered with several layers of red cellophane are acceptable. NO LANTERNS PLEASE. NO FLASH PICTURES.
2. NO WHITE LIGHTS. Driving around the main observing/camping fields after dark is permitted only in an emergency. Headlights should remain off or should be covered by red filter material. (IF IT'S A TRUE EMERGENCY - JUST GO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE HEADLIGHTS.)
3. NO WHITE LIGHTS. Interior dome or vehicle lights must be disabled or colored red. Don't forget your trunk light!
4. NO WHITE LIGHTS. Camper, trailer or motor-home running lights, porch lights and interior lights must be disabled or colored red. Trailer or motor-home windows shall be covered to prevent light escaping into observing areas.
5. NO BRIGHT LIGHTS. Please shield all computer monitors, televisions, cellphones and tablets with red cellophane and/or use night vision mode. Use dim red lights.
6. NO EXTRANEIOUS LIGHTS. Please point flashlights down while walking.
7. NO EXTRANEIOUS LIGHTS. The cars of non-camping attendees will be parked in a special area, with headlights pointing away from the viewing area so they may leave after dark without interfering with dark sky observations.
8. DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE SLOWLY to minimize the amount of dust that is disturbed.
9. NO GREEN LASER POINTERS AFTER MIDNIGHT. Please refrain from using them after midnight. Thank you.
10. NO CAMPFIRES NEAR THE OBSERVING AREAS. Not only are they a source of unwanted light, but the smoke and heat degrades viewing, as well as coating optical surfaces with unwanted soot. No exceptions!
11. PETS. We have pets at home, too. However, we discourage your bringing pets. However, if you must bring a pet, it must be leashed and contained at all times. Remember, we'll all be walking around in the dark. Northern Prairie Star Party reserves the right to restrict pets from certain areas.

For both north (sites 80-112) and south (single/group sites 1-42) areas, the following apply:

12. NO LOUD MUSIC OR TV. Northern Prairie Star Party is an astronomical event not Big Valley Jamboree. Quiet please!
13. ALCOHOL. Most astronomers discourage its use because of the effect it has on the sensitivity of eyes. Northern Prairie Star Party will not tolerate the abuse of alcohol or the use of illegal substances and any behavior they might cause which is inconsistent with community standards.
14. PERSONAL CONDUCT. Northern Prairie Star Party is a family event. Loud, aggressive and/or profane speech is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Aggressive behavior will not be tolerated regardless of the reason behind it or who first initiated it. Please refer to the final item in this list.
15. QUIET UNTIL NOON. Those observing the night skies may stay up until 5 AM and sleeping until noon, so please try to be as quiet as possible.
16. SPEAK QUIETLY if you observe well into the morning. Remember that, for various reasons, many others don't. Parents, please be thoughtful for other participants and keep a check on the voices of happy (or otherwise) children.
17. THEFTS. Thefts have occurred at other star parties all over North America. Protect your property. Northern Prairie Star Party personnel will assist the local authorities in the prosecution of anyone caught stealing.
18. LIABILITY. The RASC and the organizers of Northern Prairie Star Party accept NO responsibility or liability for damage or injury to your equipment or you.
19. WARNING. The RASC and the organizers of Northern Prairie Star Party and/or the proprietors of Black Nugget Lake Campground reserve the right to eject any person not willing to comply with these standards.

For both south (single/group sites 1-42) and north (sites 80-112) areas, please also refer to Black Nugget Lake Campground rules. Leave your campsite tidy and free of garbage.

The above rules and regulations are copied and edited with permission from those of the Laurel Highlands Star Cruise, <http://home.comcast.net/~lhstarcruise/rules.htm>, with a few additions from the Mt. Kobau event.