

NORTHERN PRAIRIE STAR PARTY
Tuesday, September 8 to Sunday, September 13, 2015

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 campground office are: \$20 per adult and \$50 for a family.

For further information, contact coordinators Susan and Rick Bramm by e-mail at npstarfest@shaw.ca.

NEW: 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”).

Scheduled Events

Unless otherwise indicated, all scheduled events begin or take place in or around the shelter in the north campground.

Tuesday, September 8

- 10 AM - 8:30 PM Registration at Black Nugget Lake campground office/store
- 8:30 PM Evening observing (from individual or group campsites and adjacent campground fields)
- 10:12 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Wednesday, September 9

- 4:48 AM Astronomical twilight begins
- 10 AM - 8:30 PM Registration at Black Nugget Lake campground office/store
- 8:30 PM Evening observing (from individual or group campsites and adjacent campground fields)
- 10:09 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Thursday, September 10

- 4:51 AM Astronomical twilight begins
- 10 AM - 8:30 PM Registration at Black Nugget Lake campground office/store
- 8:30 PM Evening observing (from individual or group campsites and adjacent campground fields)
- 10:06 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Friday, September 11

- 4:53 AM Astronomical twilight begins
- 10 AM - 8:30 PM Registration at Black Nugget Lake campground office/store
- 7:00 PM and onwards: Come to the tent near the north campground shelter for conversation and “show & tell”
- 8:30 PM Evening observing (from individual or group campsites and adjacent campground fields)
- 10:03 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Saturday, September 12

- 4:56 AM Astronomical twilight begins
- 10 AM - 8:30 PM Registration at Black Nugget Lake campground office/store
- Morning:** explore Black Nugget Lake park (on your own or meet others at the north shelter)
- 1 – 2:30 PM Solar observing and telescope set up and use demonstrations (in and around the north shelter area)
- 2:30 – 3:15 PM Sherrilyn Jahrig, Dark Sky Preserve Coordinator for the RASC, Edmonton Coordinator of the Alberta Science Network and Edmonton Centre RASC member: *An Earth with a view* (followed by prize draws) **Please bring your own camp chair or stool** to the tent near the north campground shelter.
- 3:30 – 4:15 PM David Miles, PhD student Department of Physics, University of Alberta: *Studying space weather from a sub-orbital sounding rocket* (followed by prize draws) **Please bring your own camp chair/stool** to the tent near the north campground shelter.
- 4:30 – 5:30 PM Jeff Kuhn, Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii: *Taking a census of alien life in our galactic neighborhood* (followed by prize draws) **Please bring your own camp chair or stool** to the tent.
- 5:45 ~ 6:45 PM **Pot luck** burger & hot dog roast (burgers, wieners & buns supplied by NPSF) & group photo of NPSF participants – **Bring your favourite appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert to share with others. Chairs too!**
- 7:30 PM Evening observing (from individual or group campsites and adjacent campground fields)
- 10:00 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Sunday, September 13

- 12:43 AM NEW MOON; 4:58 AM Astronomical twilight begins
- 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 NPSF are:
Sept. 27 – Oct. 2, 2016
Sept. 12 – Sept. 17, 2017

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.