

NORTHERN PRAIRIE STAR PARTY  
Tuesday, September 19 to Sunday, September 24, 2017

**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! Be aware of the campground's booking and cancellation policy (no later than five (5) days before date).

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/northern-prairie-star-party/> OR email co-ordinators Rick & Susan Bramm at: [npsp@edmontonrasc.com](mailto:npsp@edmontonrasc.com)

**Notes:** Over the duration of the star party, participants are welcome to complete one or more **Observing Certificate** (three 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 19

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

*7:35 PM: Sunset 8 PM: Evening observing set up 9:35 PM: Astronomical twilight ends 11:29 PM: NEW MOON*

#### Wednesday, September 20

*5:13 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:13 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

*7:33 PM: Sunset 8 PM: Evening observing set up 9:32 PM: Astronomical twilight ends*

#### Thursday, September 21

*5:15 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:15 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

*7:30 PM: Sunset 8 PM: Evening observing set up 9:29 PM: Astronomical twilight ends*

#### Friday, September 22

*5:17 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:17 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

*7:28 PM: Sunset 8 PM: Evening observing set up 9:27 PM: Astronomical twilight ends*

#### Saturday, September 23

*5:19 AM: Astronomical twilight begins 7:18 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 Noon - 1:30 PM:** Solar observing and telescope set up and use demonstrations (in and around the north shelter area)

**1:45 - 2:45 PM** Dr. Erik Rosolowsky, Associate Professor, Physics & Astronomy, University of Alberta: ***Living in our Local Group*** - *What studying two other spiral galaxies in our neighbourhood tells us about our own Milky Way*

**2:45 - 3:45 PM** RASC-Edmonton Centre member presentations: ***The 2017 Total Solar Eclipse That Was***

**3:45 - 5 PM** Dr. Peter Brown, Professor, Physics & Astronomy, University of Western Ontario and Canada Research Chair in Meteor Astronomy: ***Canadian meteorite falls over the last quarter century*** - *How detection has been enhanced and what we have learned*

**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!**

*7:25 PM: Sunset 8 PM: Evening observing set up 9:24 PM: Astronomical twilight ends*

#### Sunday, September 24

**5:21 AM:** Astronomical twilight begins *7:20 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. 4 - Sept. 9, 2018

Sept. 24 - Sept. 28, 2019

**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 (sites 90-112 & Group Site 7), 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 PHOTOGRAPHY.
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 all sites used by NPSP attendees, 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 operators of Black Nugget Lake Campground reserve the right to eject any person not willing to comply with these standards. 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.