

NORTHERN PRAIRIE STAR PARTY
Tuesday, September 27 to Sunday, October 2, 2011

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND RULES AND REGULATIONS

To book a campsite, contact Roy at the Black Nugget Lake Recreation Area at 780-663-2421.
For further information, contact coordinators Susan and Rick Bramm by e-mail at npstarfest@shaw.ca.

Scheduled Events

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

Tuesday, September 27

- 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)
- 9:22 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Wednesday, September 28

- 5:31 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)
- 9:19 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Thursday, September 29

- 5:33 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)
- 9:16 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Friday, September 30

- 5:35 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 north campground shelter for conversation and “show & tell”
- 8:30 PM Evening observing (from individual or group campsites and adjacent campground fields)
- 9:14 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Saturday, October 1

- 5:37 AM Astronomical twilight begins
- 10 AM - 8:30 PM Registration at Black Nugget Lake campground office/store
- NOON – 1:30 PM Guided nature walk exploring the plants, birds and geology of Black Nugget Lake park
- 1:30 - 3 PM Lunch (on your own) and solar observing
- 3 – 3:40 PM Talk: “The Solar Cycle - Past, Present and Future” by Dr. Doug Hube, Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta Department of Physics (followed by prize draws)
- 3:45 – 4:45 PM Invited talk: “Black Holes & Revelations” by Dr. Greg Sivakoff, Associate Professor, University of Alberta Department of Physics (followed by prize draws)
- 4:50 – 5:30 PM The Whitecourt Impact Crater by Murray Paulson, RASC – Edmonton Centre member (followed by prize draws)
- 5:30 ~ 7 PM Pot luck wiener roast (wieners & buns supplied by NPSP) & group photo of NPSP participants
- 7:30 PM Evening observing (from individual or group campsites and adjacent campground fields)
- 9:11 PM Astronomical twilight ends

Sunday, October 2

- 5:39 AM Astronomical twilight begins
- Free time for park activities
- Pack up and head home

We'll be back!

Future dates for our Northern Prairie event are:
Sept. 11-16, 2012
Sept. 3 – 8, 2013

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 and televisions 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 where they may leave after dark without interfering with dark sky observations.
8. NO GREEN LASER POINTERS AFTER MIDNIGHT. Please refrain from using them after midnight. Thank you.
9. 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.
10. 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:

11. NO LOUD MUSIC OR TV. Northern Prairie Star Party is an astronomical event not a Woodstock event. Quiet please!
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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 refer to Black Nugget Lake Campground rules.

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.