Privacy, Copyright, Fair Use, and Affiliation Policy

Privacy Policy

RAC does not sell or otherwise use for gain the name or contact information of any club member or anyone else who contacts the club. All participation is voluntary and may be halted at any time. If you do not wish to participate in the future, let us know.

Copyright and Fair Use of Materials

One of RAC's cornerstone missions is outreach to, and education of, the public regarding astronomy. As such, all copyrighted material contained herein is provided under United States Copyright Fair Use laws and regulations. According to the U.S. Copyright Office, the key factors determining fair use are:

- The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes.
- The nature of the copyrighted work [e.g. whether it is fiction or non-fiction, the latter usually being more suitable for fair use].
- The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
- The effect of the use upon the potential market for, or value of, the copyrighted work.

The website of the Legal Information Institute of Cornell University Law School states that "fair use of a copyrighted work [in accord with the criteria defined above] is not an infringement of copyright." As a nonprofit club with a mission that includes public education and outreach, RAC's reproduction of copyrighted material is done for educational purposes.

The following provide additional information concerning fair use of copyrighted material.

- U.S. Copyright Office
- Cornell University Law School
- Wikipedia Fair Use article

All original materials on www.RAClub.org are available to others for educational purposes under fair use as long as attribution is given.

Non-member images used on this website (primarily in the title bars of individual pages) are linked or adapted from copyright-free sources, including the Wikipedia Commons area, NASA, and the European Space Organization. Hover your mouse over the image for a description of the image and a source attribution. Click on the image to visit the source of the image; this allows visitors to view a large version of the image and a copyright-free statement.

Member images in the Image Gallery are the copyrighted property of individual club members and participants. Fair Use of member images is permitted if photo credit is given to the copyright owner.

Non Commercial, No Commercial Affiliations

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission will require that web authors disclose "their connection, if any, with the advertisers; and also reveal the receipt of free products and/or payments from the advertisers."

Rappahannock Astronomy Club is a nonprofit club that accepts no paid commercial advertising; thus this rule apparently does not apply. Nevertheless, a disclosure statement is included to fully state our relationship with manufacturers and merchants of astronomy gear and software mentioned on this site. Briefly, RAC is not affiliated with in any way and does not as an organization endorse products from any manufacturer, merchant, or advertiser, nor does RAC receive emolument from any manufacturer or merchant.

Examples of products are used to illustrate various levels of equipment capability, operability, and cost. Various websites that do perform reviews are linked from this website. Such use does not, in any way, constitute endorsement, either of the review sites or products reviewed; these links are provided to visitors to the RAC website strictly for information and product research purposes.

The RAC website also displays information provided from other sources by means of software artifacts, including so-called gadgets and widgets as well as other forms of inclusion by reference and/or syndication. Typically the terms of use of such artifacts require attribution in the form of an identifying statement or logo display, with link to the organization's website. Such artifacts are included on the RAC website only if they are free and publicly available to all users who comply with the relevant terms of use. RAC is in no way affiliated with any provider of such artifacts and neither receives nor provides compensation in any form with regard to such providers.

Although RAC has no formal relationship with any merchant or manufacturer, this does not preclude individual RAC members from maintaining relationships with or employment by manufacturers or merchants of astronomy-related products separate from their club membership.

RAC is affiliated with The Astronomical League, a nonprofit association of astronomy societies and clubs throughout the United States. That relationship is spelled out in the next section.

Astronomy Affiliations

RAC is affiliated with The Astronomical League (AL), which is an association of astronomy societies and clubs throughout the United States. As such, RAC members can receive the AL magazine, *The Reflector*.

RAC is also an associate member of JPL's Night Sky Network (NSN). The NSN website allows visitors to locate astronomy clubs in their area and to find dates and locations of star parties, meetings, and other events of interest. Visitors are welcome at all public RAC events. RAC was a supporting club within the International Year of Astronomy 2009.