

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

What Is RAC?

We're a nonprofit organization of amateur astronomers serving Fredericksburg, Virginia, and the surrounding area. RAC is dedicated to the advancement of public interest in, and knowledge of, the science of astronomy.

If you have even a passing interest in the night sky, attend one of our monthly meetings or activities. Membership is open to anyone interested in astronomy, regardless of his/her knowledge about it. Contact us via our website at <http://www.raclub.org>.



Star Parties

RAC holds a public star party one Saturday night each month. The star party schedule for 2016 is shown below. These star parties are held at Caledon State Park on VA Route 218. The public is invited to come out and enjoy the beauty of the night sky through amateur telescopes. If you're thinking about purchasing a telescope, you also get a chance to look through a variety of telescopes to help you choose the right one. Plan to arrive shortly after sunset and stay as long as telescopes are on the field. A cloudy sky forecast will cancel the star party, so check our website after noon on the same day to confirm that we'll be there and what time sunset is that day.

Education and Outreach

Education is a primary RAC mission. We hold public outreach events, setting up telescopes at schools and other public locations in the Fredericksburg area for solar observing during the day and lunar and planetary observing at night. We also do school presentations. If you would like RAC to conduct a star party or program at your school or facility, please contact RAC President Ron Henke at president@raclub.org.

Monthly Meetings

RAC members meet on the third Wednesday of each month, and guests are welcome. Check our website for meeting specifics—most meetings are held in the meeting room on the lower level of the Maury School, courtesy of the Central Rappahannock Heritage Center: 900 Barton Street, Suite 100, Fredericksburg, VA. Specifics may vary. Our meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and conclude by about 9 p.m. Meetings usually open with a program on astronomy topics ranging from scientific advances to astrophotography to how to use a telescope. A business session follows the program.

Yahoo Group

RAC maintains a Yahoo group for members titled **rac_group**. A key function of the group is to provide an **email list server** for club members. This is RAC's internal real-time communication channel. Other content includes a calendar of club events as well as email reminders before events, news announcements, documents and images created by club members, a buy and sell forum, and notices of upcoming night sky events. To join visit: http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/rac_group

Want to Join RAC?

Membership is \$20 per family for 1 year, which includes *The StarGazer*, our e-newsletter. Students may join for only \$7.50. Members are also eligible for discounted subscriptions to *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* magazines. You can find a membership application on the back of this sheet or at <http://www.raclub.org>. For more information, contact RAC President Ron Henke at president@raclub.org.

About Light Pollution

Please help reduce light pollution in our area so that everyone may continue to enjoy the night sky. Here's how:

- Turn off exterior lights late at night or use motion sensors on fixtures.
- Use low wattage bulbs.
- Shield outdoor floodlights.

International Dark Sky Association
<http://www.darksky.org>
Virginia Outdoor Lighting Taskforce
<http://www.volt.org>
Starry Night Lights
<http://www.starrynightlights.com>

2016

Jan 16

Feb 13

Mar 5

Apr 9

May 7

Jun 11

Jul 9

Aug-none

Sep 24

Oct 22

Nov 5

TBD

Location: Caledon State Park

Calendar of Public Star Parties and Outreach Events

Rappahannock Astronomy Club

Rappahannock Astronomy Club Membership Application

To join Rappahannock Astronomy Club, print this page, fill out the application form below, detach, and return with a dues check. Annual membership dues are \$20 per family. Students may join as individuals for \$7.50.

If you wish to also join the national organization Astronomical League and receive its magazine *The Reflector*, enclose an additional \$7.50.

Detach and Mail

If you would like to join Rappahannock Astronomy Club, please fill out the information below and send this application with club dues to the address listed. Please make the check out for the appropriate amount, payable to "RAC".

Name: _____ Street Address _____ City State Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____	Mail application and dues to: RAC c/o Tim Plunkett, Treasurer 10000 Grass Market Court Fredericksburg, VA. 22408
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- Family (\$20.00/year)
or
 Student (\$7.50/year)
 Astronomical League & *The Reflector* (optional, \$7.50/year additional)
 Total Enclosed (please send one check payable to "RAC" for full amount)

