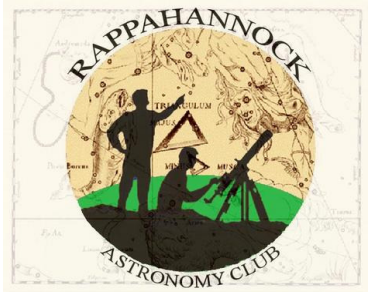


Rappahannock Astronomy Club

What is RAC?

Rappahannock Astronomy Club is a non-profit 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, come and visit with us at one of our monthly meetings or activities. Membership is open to anyone interested in astronomy regardless of one's knowledge about it. We may be contacted via our web site at <http://www.raclub.org>.



Star Parties

RAC holds a star party on one Saturday night each month. Our star party schedule may be viewed on our web site at <http://www.raclub.org/Documents/Business/RACStarParties.pdf>. Most star parties are held at Caledon State Park on VA Route 218 or at other area locations. The public is invited to come out and enjoy the beauty of the night sky through amateur telescopes. Star parties also afford a chance to look through a variety of scopes as an input to choosing the right one. Plan to arrive shortly after sunset and stay as

long as scopes are on the field. A cloudy sky forecast will cancel the star party.

Education and Outreach

Education is a primary RAC mission. RAC conducts public outreach events, setting up telescopes at schools and selected public locations in the Fredericksburg area for solar observing during the day and lunar and planetary observing at night. School lectures are also possible. If you would like RAC to conduct a star party or program at your school or facility please contact RAC president Michael Masters at grayfox65@cox.net or 540-371-3410.

Monthly Meetings

RAC meets on the second Wednesday of each month and guests are welcome. Check our web site for meeting specifics; most meetings are at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library, 1201 Caroline St. but specifics vary. Meetings start at 7:00 PM and are over by 9 PM. Meetings 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 prior to

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?

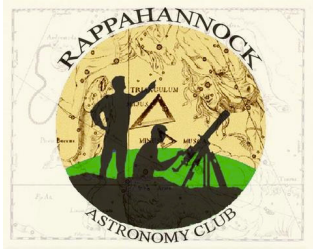
Membership is \$15 per family for one year, which includes a subscription to *The Reflector* magazine, a publication of The Astronomical League. Students may join for only \$7.50. Members are also eligible for discount subscriptions to *Astronomy* and *Sky & Telescope* magazines. A membership application may be found at <http://www.raclub.org/Documents/Business/RACApplication.pdf> and on the back of this brochure. For more information, contact RAC president Michael Masters at 540-371-3410 or grayfox65@cox.net.

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>



RAPPAHANNOCK ASTRONOMY CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in the Rappahannock Astronomy Club. RAC is a non-profit organization located in the Fredericksburg, VA area. The club is dedicated to the advancement of public interest in, and knowledge of, the science of astronomy. Members share a common interest in astronomy and related fields as well as a love of observing the night sky.

Membership is open to anyone interested in astronomy regardless of level of knowledge. Owning a telescope is not a requirement. All that is needed is a desire to expand your knowledge of astronomy. RAC serves the Fredericksburg area, including, but not limited to, the counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, and King George. RAC membership benefits are as follows:

- Opportunity to interact with and learn from people with similar interests
- Opportunity to observe under some of the darkest skies in the region
- Opportunity to look through many different types of telescopes, some quite large
- Use of club loaner telescopes and equipment on a monthly basis
(Ranging from 5-inches to 8-inches in diameter, solar telescope and digital camera)
- Access to our webpage at <http://www.raclub.org>
- Access to the club book, DVD and magazine library
- Access to our Yahoo group for club communications and alerts concerning celestial phenomena
- Eligibility for membership in the Astronomical League and subscription to The Reflector
- Eligibility for discount subscriptions to Astronomy and Sky & Telescope magazines

To join RAC, print this page, fill out, detach and return application form with a dues check. **Annual membership dues are \$15 per family. Students may join as individuals for \$7.50.** If you wish to join the Astronomical League, 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: _____

_____ Family (\$15.00/year)

Or (choose one)

_____ Student (\$7.50/year)

_____ Astro League & The Reflector (\$7.50/year additional)

_____ Total Enclosed (one check for full amount)

Mail application
and dues to:

RAC c/o
Tim Plunkett, Treasurer
10000 Grass Market Court
Fredericksburg, VA. 22408