

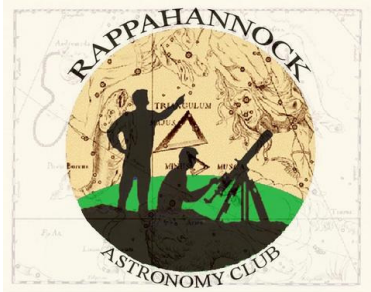
Rappahannock Astronomy Club

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://raclub.org/events.html> and on the back of this brochure. 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. If you would like RAC to conduct a star party at your school or public location, please contact RAC president Scott Busby at reconair@comcast.com or 540-288-9214.

Monthly Meetings

RAC meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Pizza Hut near Rt. 1 in Fredericksburg, 1224 Powhatan St. Guests are welcome. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. and last two to three hours depending on planned activities. Meeting open with a program on astronomy topics ranging from how to use a telescope to astrophotography. Following the program, members conduct a business session.

Mailing List

RAC has an email list for astronomy and club related messages. To subscribe, just send an email to majordomo@m31.us with the line "**subscribe raclub**" in the body of the message. You will receive an email with additional instructions. If you have problems, send an email to holliday@acm.org with the address at which you want to receive messages and you will be administratively added to the

mailing list. To send an email to everyone on the list, send to raclub@m31.us and everyone will receive your message.

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://raclub.org/join/rac_application.pdf. For more information, contact RAC president Scott Busby at 540-288-9214 or reconair@comcast.com.

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>
Back Bay Amateur Astronomers
http://groups.hamptonroads.com/pages1.cfm?page_id=3963

2009 Rappahannock Astronomy Club Star Parties

Date and Location	Sunset	Attractions		Date and Location	Sunset	Attractions
January 17 at Caledon State Park, Rt. 218 East of F'burg	5:15 PM	Venus & Uranus low in West		Backup January 24 at Caledon	5:23 PM	Venus & Uranus low in West
				24 January at Motts Run Reservoir, River Road	5:23 PM	Venus & Uranus low in West
February 21 at Caledon	5:54 PM	Saturn low in East Venus low in West		Backup February 28 at Caledon	6:01 PM	Saturn low in East Venus low in West
February 21 at Motts Run Reservoir	5:54 PM	Saturn low in East Venus low in West		March 7 at Motts Run Reservoir	6:09 PM	Moon, Saturn
March 21 at Caledon	7:21 PM	Saturn		Backup 28 March at Caledon	7:28 PM	Saturn
April 3 at Borders	7:35 PM	Moon, Saturn		April 4 at Motts Run Reservoir	7:36 PM	Moon, Saturn
April 18 at Westmoreland State Park, Rt. 3, Westmoreland Co	7:48 PM	Saturn		April 25 morning at Barnesfield; after dark at Caledon	7:55 PM	Saturn
				2 May at Borders	8:02 PM	Astronomy Day
Backup May 16 at Westmoreland	8:14 PM	Saturn		May 23 at Caledon	8:20 PM	Saturn
June 20 at Big Meadows, Skyline Drive, Shenandoah NP	8:35 PM	Saturn low in West		27 June at Caledon	8:36 PM	First quarter Moon Saturn low in West
July 18 at Caledon	8:30 PM	Saturn low in West		Backup July 25 at Caledon	8:24 PM	First quarter Moon Saturn low in West
August 15 at Caledon	8:02 PM	Mercury & Saturn at Sunset		Backup August 22 at Caledon	7:53 PM	Mercury & Saturn at Sunset
September 12 at Caledon	7:21 PM	Jupiter & Neptune low in East		September 18-19 at Big Meadows	7:10 PM	Jupiter & Neptune low in East
October 10 at Westmoreland	6:37 PM	Jupiter & Neptune in East		October 17 at Caledon	6:27 PM	Jupiter & Neptune in East
				Backup 24 October at Westmoreland	6:18 PM	Jupiter & Neptune in East
November 14 at Caledon	4:57 PM	Jupiter, Uranus & Neptune		Backup November 21 at Westmoreland	4:52 PM	Jupiter, Uranus & Neptune
December 12 at Caledon	4:48 PM	Jupiter, Uranus & Neptune		Backup December 19 at Caledon	4:51 PM	Jupiter, Uranus & Neptune