

The TEXAS STAR PARTY



2010 PROGRAM

THANK YOU

The TSP and TSP attendees thank those who made this year's TEXAS STAR PARTY possible:

**Austin Astronomical Society
Fort Bend Astronomy Club
Fort Worth Astronomical Society
Houston Astronomical Society
Texas Astronomical Society**

And the many **volunteers** who participated

The
TEXAS STAR PARTY
is organized and operated by
Texas Star Party, Inc,
a Texas Non-profit Corporation
and is co-sponsored by
The SW Region of the Astronomical League

**In Memory of
John Robert Prude**

TEXAS STAR PARTY PROGRAM

Sunday, May 9

9:00 PM Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Monday, May 10

1:00-5:00 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

9:00 PM Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Tuesday, May 11

1:00 PM McDonald Bus departs
Vendor Presentations

Afternoon MC: Dana Lambert

2:00 *Astronomy To Go*
Bob Summerfield

2:30 *ATIK Cameras*
Warren Keller

3:00 *Camera Concepts*
Jeff Norwood

4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

7:00 PM TSP Ladies Night-at-the-Movies
- (everyone welcome)
*"Stardust" (2007) starring Claire Danes,
Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sienna
Miller, Charlie Cox*

9:00 PM Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Wednesday, May 12

Afternoon MC: Dennis Webb

1:30 *Wheelchair-Accessible Telescope*
Bill Wren, Ft Davis, TX

1:45 *TSP Advanced Observing
Program – Observing Super-Thin
Galaxies*

Larry Mitchell, Houston, TX

2:45 *Galaxy Groups and Clusters*
Alvin Huey, Folsom, CA

3:30 *Some Long-Range Notable*

Observing Events

Paul Derrick, Waco, TX

4:00 *Observing Stellar Evolution*

Bill Pellerin, Houston, TX

4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

7:30 PM Evening Speaker

From Texas to Tethys:

Tectonics Around the Solar System

By Dan M Davis, Professor,
Stony Brook University New York

30 minutes after meeting:
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Thursday, May 13

Afternoon MC: Bill Flanagan

1:30 *Finding Near-Earth Asteroids*
Rik Hill, Tucson, AZ

2:30 *Deep-Sky Imaging Tips*
Phil Jones, Frisco, TX

3:00 *Astronomical Sketching*
Scot Mitchell, Houston, TX

3:30 *An Outdoor Lighting Control
Roundtable*

Bill Wren, Ft Davis, TX

Benjamin Jones, Helotes, TX

4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

7:30 PM Evening Speaker

Pluto and Planets X: Is Pluto a Planet?

And Why Does It Matter?

By Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ,
Vatican City State

30 minutes after meeting:
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Friday, May 14

1:10 PM Group Photo

(Grassy area near Meeting Hall)

1:20 PM McDonald Bus departs

2:00 PM Annual Meeting: SW Region
Of the Astronomical League

3:30 PM Swap Meet

(Outside of Vendor Building)

4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

7:30 PM Evening Speaker

Twenty Five Years of Turning Left:

Are We There Yet?

By Dan Davis and Brother Guy

Awards and Great Texas Giveaway I

30 minutes after meeting:
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Saturday, May 15

1:00 PM McDonald Bus departs

Afternoon MC: Scott Mitchell

1:30 *Name That Constellation*
Allen Gilchrist, Houston, TX

2:00 *Observing Tips and Techniques*
Mike Hotka, Broomfield, CO

2:30 *"Go-To" Binoculars*
Tom Mote, San Antonio, TX

3:00 *The Birth of ATM in the USA*
Keith Venables, Camberley, UK

3:30 *ATM Review*
Buster Wilson, Houston, TX

4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

7:30 PM Evening Speaker

Meteorites: Keys to Understanding the Solar
System...Texas Style

By Dolores Hill, University of Arizona,
Lunar and Planetary Lab

Awards and Great Texas Giveaway II

45 minutes after meeting:
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Sunday, May 16

10:00 AM Ranch Check-out Time

RANCH MEALS

The Prude Ranch provides a spacious and decorative dining room for comfortable meals with friends. Lunch and Dinner are included with covered housing. Otherwise **sign up** at Ranch Office for individual meals **1 day in advance**.

Breakfast	**Cancelled**
Lunch	11:30AM to 1:00PM
Dinner	5:30PM to 7:00PM
Snack Bar	10:00PM to 3:30AM

ATM Entries

Astrophoto & Drawing Entries Observing Programs

Obtain entry blanks at the Registration Table. Photos & drawings will be on display in the Meeting Hall. Vote for the **People's Choice Award!**

Deadlines for entries are:

ATM Entries	5:30PM Wednesday
Astrophoto	5:30PM Thursday
Drawing	5:30PM Thursday
Observing Entries	1:00PM Saturday
Judging for astrophotos	2:00PM Friday
Judging for ATM	1-5PM Thursday

Prude Ranch Location

Upper field	30° 36' 38.72" 103° 57' 08.06"
Middle field	30° 36' 33.47" 103° 57' 03.41"
Lower field	30° 36' 24.02" 103° 57' 05.20"
Elevation	5051' MSL (From Google Earth)

THE TSP 2010 SKY

Sunset is at 8:42PM. Twilight ends at 10:12PM
Sunrise is at 7:03AM. Twilight starts at 5:31AM

Monday Morning	Moon Rise	4:42AM
Tuesday Morning	Moon Rise	5:13AM
Wednesday Morning	Moon Rise	5:48AM
Thursday Evening	Moon Set	8:23PM
Friday Evening	Moon Set	9:46PM
Saturday Evening	Moon Set	10:47PM

GREAT TEXAS GIVEAWAY I & II

The GTG will start on Friday night after the lecture. Some door prizes will be given, including several GRAND PRIZES. On Saturday night, the remaining door prizes will be given away. The winners of all door prizes (except Grand Prizes) on either night will be eligible for all the GRAND PRIZES on Saturday night. The "full" TSP Registration Fee includes ONE door prize ticket (i.e. one per family). Your name will be written on the ticket at the registration desk. Drop the ticket in the Ticket Box at the meeting hall on either Friday or Saturday night. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN. Lost tickets will NOT be replaced!**

MCDONALD OBSERVATORY TOURS

Visit McDonald Observatory and see the large professional 82", 107" and 362" telescopes. The special 1:30PM technical tour is limited to 50 people per day. A Prude Ranch bus (limit 35 people) is available. See the sign-up sheets in the food line for schedule and prices.

You must reserve your place by purchasing your tour (and optional bus) ticket at the Ranch Office (not at McDonald). Cost is \$13.

You can do your own self-guided tour any time, or take a public guided tour most afternoons.

NUISANCES

Loud music and other noisy activities are not permitted. Playing music through speakers is not allowed between 12 Midnight and 10 AM.

Dogs are no longer allowed during TSP. Boarding is available in Ft. Davis by calling 432/426-3086.

Please pick up your cigarette butts from the fields and throw them away. **No smoking indoors.**

No cigar or pipe smoking allowed on **any** observing field after sunset.

The southernmost 1/2 of the upper observing field and tent area is now a non smoking area after sunset. Marked by double white lines.

FOR LATE ARRIVALS AND NON-RANCH GUESTS

The **front gate** will be **closed at 9:00PM** (or 30 minutes after the night meeting) to restrict traffic and minimize disturbance to observers. If you plan to arrive at night, expect to park your car outside the front gate and walk-in. **Driving on the Ranch at night is prohibited** unless sky conditions prevent observing activity. See "Lighting Restrictions" for details. If you plan to leave the Ranch after 9:00PM, park your car **OUTSIDE** the gate before dark, so that you may leave and not disturb anyone in doing so.

VENDOR DISPLAYS

Vendors are located in the "lodge" building at the north end of the large Upper observing field. This is also the location of the Swap Meet. Vendor hours are **10:00AM to Noon, and 1:30PM to 5:00PM**. Swap Meet is Friday at 3:30.

WEATHER SATELLITE IMAGES

The TSP weather info display is available for viewing near the Ranch Office, at the radio building next to the tall antenna tower, and at a TV kiosk located on the Upper observing field. The TV signal is available on cable channel 58.

>>>> NOTICE <<<<

YOU MAY BE FINED \$50, or permanently banned from TSP if you drive on the Ranch when the Lighting Controls are in effect!! Driving in darkness is DANGEROUS and can injure or kill people, and damage telescopes and other property, which isn't yours to risk.

**DO NOT DRIVE ON THE
RANCH AT NIGHT!**
Normal Headlights are justified in true medical emergencies.

ELECTRICITY USE RULES

Due to heavy demands in the telescope fields, we are limiting the use of electricity by providing top priority to telescope equipment. The following rules are in the effect at all times.

1. Only telescope equipment, anti-dew gear, drive correctors, up to 25-Watt light bulbs, and up to 75-Watt laptop computers may be connected to TSP power outlets.
2. PERSONAL COMPUTERS and appliances such as hot plates, coffee pots, fans, heaters and refrigerators are NOT to be connected to TSP power outlets.
3. Use LOW-HEAT setting on hair dryers. Avoid running yours when another is being used nearby.
4. These rules do not apply to personal RV-site electric connections. Computer users should obtain an RV site or make arrangements with a nearby RV site user.

Personal computer screens should be set on LOW intensity, and shielded so that no light escapes onto the field, nor disturb other observers.

LIGHTING RESTRICTIONS

- Vehicle headlights, parking, tail, brake and interior lights must remain extinguished.
- All RV, trailer and camper lights must be turned off unless proper shielding is installed on all windows or doors to prevent light from escaping.
- Coleman-type lanterns, campfires and outdoor lighting are NOT permitted.
- All flashlights must be equipped with red filters and should be pointed toward the ground at your feet. Red cellophane or fingernail polish is useful.

In the event that you must give off some light, give a yell! A precious photo or image could be saved with some warning from a caring neighbor.

The lighting ban will be in effect when the sky is more than 10% clear. If it is raining, the ban will be lifted. If it is cloudy with the potential for clearing or there are some holes in the clouds, please keep lights to a minimum to protect other people's dark adaptation. Drive only if you must and use normal headlights.

Exceptions to the ban may be provided to certain persons or vehicles ONLY by consent of the TSP staff. The Prude Ranch staff may drive occasionally at night on Ranch business.