

# The TEXAS STAR PARTY



## 2018 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**  
**San Antonio Astronomical Society**  
And the many volunteers who participate

The  
TEXAS STAR PARTY  
is organized and operated by  
Texas Star Party, Inc.,  
an IRS 501 (c) 3 Non-profit Corporation  
and is co-sponsored by  
The SW Region of the Astronomical League  
Website: [texasstarparty.org](http://texasstarparty.org)

\*In Memory of Don Garland\*

## TEXAS STAR PARTY PROGRAM

### Sunday, May 6

2:00 PM Ranch Check-in Opens  
9:00 PM Front Gate closes / Dark-out

### Monday, May 7

1:00-5:00 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)  
4:00-5:00 Orientation to TSP (Meeting Hall)  
9:00 PM Front Gate closes / Dark-out

### Tuesday, May 8 (SCIENCE FICTION DAY!)

8:00 AM Birding excursion – Lodge north  
Of Upper Field. Bring binoculars!

1:00 PM McDonald Bus departs

1:00 PM – Emergency Network Drill at  
W5RSP REPEATER 442.8+, pl 110.9 – all  
licensed Hams invited to participate.

At the Meeting Hall:

2:00-4:00 PM Eclipsathon-Attendees share  
2017 eclipse experiences

4:00 PM – Eclipse meet-up, eclipse stuff,  
Sci-Fi costumes & Sci-Fi book swap

4:30-5:30 PM TSP Registration

7:00 PM Movie: *StarTrek II "The Wrath of  
Khan"*, courtesy of TSP Ladies- all welcome

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

### Wednesday, May 9

Afternoon MC: Bill Flanagan  
1:30–2:55 *TSP Advanced Observing  
Program: Edward Emerson  
Barnard: the Man, the Science,  
the Times.* Larry Mitchell  
3:00–3:25 *The Discovery of Amalthea's  
Moon* – Dick Campbell

3:30–3:55 *Origin of the Elements:Stellar  
Nucleosynthesis* – Molly Wakeling  
4:00-4:30 *Scientific Travel - Education and  
Outreach: Kosovo* Pranvera Hyseni  
4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)  
6:30 Interfaith Worship Service  
(outside next to Pool Building)  
Jason Fry, Minister

7:30 PM Evening Speaker: **Richard S  
Wright** – “*Adventures of an Accidental  
Astronomer*”  
9 PM or 30 minutes after meeting:  
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

### Thursday, May 10 (Hawaiian Shirt Day!)

Afternoon MC: Richard Nugent  
1:30-1:55 *DSLR Astrophotography*  
Steve Grimsley  
2:00-2:25 *Parking Lot Astronomy in  
the City* - Genevieve de Messieres  
2:30-2:55 *NASA's Night Sky Network  
Program* – David Prosper  
3:00-3:25 *Three Nights with 2.7 Meter  
Harlan Smith Telescope*  
Robert Reeves  
3:30-3:55 *Planning Perfect Observing;  
Avoiding Fear of Missing Out*  
Paul Krizak  
4:00-4:30 *The Hyperbole of Hyperbolas;  
Fascinating Orbital Trajectories*  
Rodney Rocha  
4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

7:30 PM Evening Speaker – **Randy Shivak**  
“*Solar Imaging and Processing*”  
9 PM or 30 minutes after meeting:  
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

### Friday, May 11

9:00 AM Swap Meet - (Outside of Lodge  
Building by upper field)  
1:10 PM Group Photo-Outside Mtg Hall

1:20 PM McDonald Bus departs  
1:30 PM Museum of Big Bend Tour departs  
(car pool meet at Ranch office)  
2:00 PM Annual Meeting: SW Region  
of the Astronomical League  
4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

7:30 PM Speaker – **Alex McConahay**  
“*Which Way Is Up? Musings about Motion  
and Direction in the Universe*”  
Awards and Great Texas Giveaway I  
9 PM or 30 minutes after meeting:  
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

### Saturday, May 12

1:00 PM McDonald Bus departs  
Afternoon MC: Kirk Kendrick  
1:30-1:55 *Birding at TSP*  
Darrell Lee  
2:00-2:25 *Mystic Creek Observatory*  
Jim Duke  
2:30- 2:55 *How to Design and Build a  
Lightweight Compact Telescope*  
Alan Scott  
3:00-3:25 *Glass & Astronomy*  
Will Young  
3:30-3:55 *Next Generation Technologies  
Used in Astronomy Today*  
Stefan Gillard  
4:00-4:30 *Amateur Telescope Making  
(ATM) Review*  
Bob Logue & Keith Venables  
4:30-5:30 TSP Registration at  
Meeting Hall  
7:30 PM Evening Speaker – **Richard Berry**  
“*Future Shock: The Impact of  
Imaging On Amateur Astronomy.*”  
Awards and Great Texas Giveaway II  
9 PM or 45 minutes after meeting:  
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

### Sunday, May 13

**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 4:00AM

## ATM Entries

### Astrophoto & Drawing Entries Observing Programs

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

#### Deadlines for entries are:

ATM Entries	<b>5:30PM Wednesday</b>
Astrophotos	<b>5:30PM Thursday</b>
Astro Art	<b>5:30PM Thursday</b>
Judging for ATM	<b>1-5PM Thursday</b>
Judging for Astrophotos	<b>2:00PM Friday</b>
Judging for Astro Art	<b>2:00PM Friday</b>

## 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 2018 SKY

Sunset 8:40PM  
Sunrise 7:05AM

Mon Moonrise	2:22 AM
Tue	3:02 AM
Wed	3:39 AM
Thu	4:15 AM
Fri	4:50 AM
Sat	5:25 AM
Sun	6:02 AM

## 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 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 \$14.

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 9PM, 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 Pavilion located just north of the Central field bathhouse. Hours are **10:00AM to Noon, and 1:30PM to 5:00PM.**

## WEATHER SATELLITE IMAGES

The TSP weather info display is available for viewing near the Ranch Office, and at the radio building next to the tall antenna tower.

## >>>> 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 6-Watt light bulbs, and up to 90-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.

## Map-My-Scope

Let others know your scope location, using the ID tag from the power box that you plug into, or that is nearby your scope. Logon to the TSP website to see a list of where others are located! Maps of power lines are posted throughout the Ranch.