

The TEXAS STAR PARTY



2019 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
Prude Ranch Ph. 432.426.3201

TSP PROGRAM

Sunday, April 28

2:00-5:30 PM Ranch Check-in Opens
3:00 PM: Dark-out helpers meet at Pandora's Box
9:00 PM Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Monday, April 29

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, April 30

(Science Fiction Day! See below*)

8:00 AM Birding excursion – Lodge north Of Upper Field. Bring binoculars!
1:00 PM McDonald Bus departs
2:00 PM, Emergency Drill Tuesday W5TSP Repeater (442.8+, pl 110.9-) Daily Net
4:00 – 5:00* PM – *The Gathering: Sci-Fi book swap & costumes at the Meeting Hall*
4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)
7:00 PM Movie, "Them!" Classic 1954 film, (in which giant atomic mutant ants take over LA), courtesy of TSP Ladies
9 PM or 30 minutes after meeting:
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Wednesday, May 1

Afternoon MC: Bill Flanagan

1:30–2:55 *20 Years of the Advanced Observing Program* - Larry Mitchell
3:00–3:40 *NASA's "Sofia" – A Telescope in the Sky (pictures & video)* - Will Young
3:45–4:25 *Observing the Most Distant Galaxies in the NGC/IC Catalog* – Jimi Lowrey

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

6:30 Interfaith Worship Service
(outside Meeting Hall, next to pool)
Jason Fry, Minister

7:30 PM Evening Speaker:
Rachel Freed: "*Astronomy for Inspiring an Understanding of Science*"

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

Thursday, May 2 (Hawaiian Shirt Day!)

Afternoon MC: Richard Nugent

1:30-2:15 *Finding Your Voice In Our Astronomy Hobby* – Mike Hotka
2:15-2:55 *Using Our Eyes (and Our Heads) in Astronomy* – David Wickholm
3:00-3:40 *Astrophotography – "Quick and Dirty" Techniques that Get Great Results* – Jim Pollock
3:45 – 4:30 *One Sky, Two Worlds, One People* – Robert Reeves

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

7:30 PM Evening Speaker:
Amanda Bayless: "*Black Holes Don't Suck*"

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

Friday, May 3

9:00 AM Swap Meet (Outside of Lodge Building by upper field)
1:10 PM Group Photo
(Grassy area near Meeting Hall)
1:20 PM McDonald Bus departs
1:30 PM Museum of Big Bend Tour departs
(car pool outside Meeting Hall)
2:00 PM Annual Meeting: SW Region of the Astronomical League
4:30-5:30 TSP Registration (Meeting Hall)

7:30 PM Evening Speaker:
Chuck Wood: "*The Most Fascinating Object in the Night Sky*"

Awards and Great Texas Giveaway I
9 PM or 30 minutes after meeting:
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Saturday, May 4

1:00 PM McDonald Bus departs
Afternoon MC: Mike Jahrig

1:30-1:55 *An Unusual Occultation – Or Was It a Grazing Occultation?* – Richard Nugent
2:00 – 2:40 *New Concepts for the Traditional Dobsonian* – Ed Allen
2:45 – 3:10 *Resources to Fight Light Pollution in the Age of LEDs*
--Debbie Moran
3:15-3:55 *The Heavens Declare*
– Ed LaBelle
4:00-4:30 *Amateur Telescope Making (ATM) Review* - Keith Venables & ATM Panel
4:30-5:30 TSP Registration at Meeting Hall
7:30 PM Evening Speaker:
Babek Tafreshi: "*The World at Night*"

Awards and Great Texas Giveaway II
9 PM or 45 minutes after meeting:
Front Gate closes / Dark-out

Sunday, May 5

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 & Astro Art will be on display in the Meeting Hall. Vote for the **People's Choice Award!**

Deadlines for entries are:

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

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 2019 SKY

Sunset is at 8:31 PM

Sunrise is at 7:14 AM.

Sunday April 28	Moon Rise	3:58 AM
Monday Morning	Moon Rise	4:33AM
Tuesday Morning	Moon Rise	5:06AM
Wednesday Morning	Moon Rise	5:37AM
Thursday Morning	Moon Rise	6:09AM
Thursday Evening	Moon Set	7:38PM
Friday Evening	Moon Set	8:36PM
Saturday Evening	Moon Set	9:36PM

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 Friday and 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 other 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, at the radio building next to the tall antenna tower, and at a TV located in the upper field lodge.

>>>> 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.

5. 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. Coleman stoves are permitted during daylight. See website regarding power bans in tents.

- 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 20% 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.