

Grand Traverse Astronomical Society 2018 Star Party and Event Schedule

Northwestern Michigan College's Joseph H. Rogers Observatory, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and other locations.

Note: This schedule is subject to change so check often. Previous events will be removed.

At this time only NMC Observatory events are firm. The dates and locations for the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (SBDNL) have been submitted to them for approval. Placeholders for other events are shown based on last year's schedule, which is why many dates are shown with question marks.

Outdoor events will be canceled due to cloudy or inclement weather.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Comments
Thursday	February 1	5:30-7:30 p.m.	Greenspire School	(Time correction) Exhibits, making comets, observing if clear
Friday	February 2*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Bright Moon, Orion Nebula
Friday	March 2*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Bright Moon, Orion Nebula
Friday	April 6*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Venus early, Orion Nebula
Saturday	April 14?	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL- Platte River Point	Venus til after 10, Orion Nebula after 9:30 (twilight)
Saturday	April 21	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Astronomy Day, Venus early, Moon, Jupiter late from dome
Friday	May 4*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Venus, Moon, Jupiter after 10 p.m.
Thu,Fri,Sat	May ?	9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	1473 Birmley Rd Traverse City, MI	Annual yard sale
Saturday	May 19	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Twilight, Moon, Jupiter
Sunday	May 20	11 a.m.-4 p.m.	NMC Campus	NMC Barbecue: Sun, Meteorites, Exhibits
Saturday	May 26?	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Venus, 93% gibbous Moon, Jupiter
Friday	June 1*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Twilight, Jupiter, Binary stars
Tuesday	June ?	11 a.m.-10 p.m.	La Senorita Rest. Garfield Ave.	GTAS Fundraiser.
Saturday	June 16	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Twilight, Venus, Moon, Jupiter, Saturn late from dome
Saturday	June 23	☀4-6 pm & 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Solar Viewing afternoon, Venus, 85% Moon
Friday	July 6*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Twilight, Venus, Moon, Jupiter, Saturn
Saturday	July 21	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Twilight, Venus, Bright Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars late
Saturday	July 14	☀4-6 pm & 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL - Dune Climb	Solar Viewing afternoon, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn,
Friday	August 3	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Venus early, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars late
Friday	August 10	5-11 p.m.	200 block Front St Traverse City	Friday Night Live
Saturday	August 11	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL-Thoreson or Dechow farm	Solar Viewing afternoon, Venus early, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars late and Meteors Dark after 10 p.m. (Milky Way)
Friday	August 17?	5:30 p.m. to ?	200 block Front St Traverse City	Friday Night Live: Sun, Moon after 9 p.m.
Saturday	August 18	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, Mars
Friday	August 24	5:30 p.m. to ?	200 block Front St Traverse City	Friday Night Live, Jupiter early, Saturn, Moon late
Friday	September 7*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Jupiter early, Saturn, Mars, summer Milky

Schedule as of 01/17/18. Changes can be made at any time, so check often.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Comments
				Way
Saturday	September 8?	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL Dune Climb	Mars, Saturn, summer Milky Way and deep sky objects after 9:30
Saturday	September 15?	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Fishtown, Leland MI	Leland Heritage Festival: Sun
Saturday	September 15	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Jupiter early, Moon, Saturn, Mars
Saturday	September 29?	10 a.m.-4 p.m.	Flintfields Horse Pk Bates Rd, Acme	Acme Fall Festival: Sun
Friday	October 5*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Mars Saturn
Saturday	October 20	8 p.m. -?	200 block Front St Traverse City	International Observe the Moon Night
Sunday	October 21	8-10 p.m.	SBDNL-Dune Climb	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore 48th Anniversary Star Party
Friday	November 2*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Saturn early, Mars, Great Andromeda Galaxy, Great Orion Nebula
Friday	December 7*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Mars, Great Andromeda Galaxy, Great Orion Nebula

* On these dates the viewing session is preceded by a meeting and program by the GTAS at 8 p.m. Normally meetings are on the first Friday of the month, except August where there is a star party only. All are welcome to these meetings.

See www.gtastro.org for updated outreach events around the area.

Also go to the society's FaceBook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/GT-Astro/302863949922366>

Explanation Key

SBDNL – Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Dates with question mark have not yet been approved by the park.

☀ - Sun viewing

Conditions:

Dark - Dark skies. Deep Sky Objects (DSOs: star clusters, nebulae and galaxies) visible depending on the season.

Twilight - Twilight lasts through out the viewing period. Some Deep Sky Objects may be visible near the end of the viewing period.

Objects other than planets:

Orion Nebula - A stellar nursery 1,800 light years away. The best and closest such object. Visible on winter evenings.

Summer Milky Way - Many Deep Sky Objects are visible in our galaxy. The Milky Way is best seen on August and September evenings with the moon out of the sky. This also means dark skies.

In Case of Inclement Weather:

NMC Rogers Observatory star parties:

- If it is cloudy, a tour and slide show will be presented.
- Winter viewing may be canceled due to inclement weather, especially a heavy snow the day of the event which would make the hill impassable.

Other star parties will be canceled.

Festival events will have exhibits only if observing is not possible.

Fees:

The GTAS does not collect fees, however we do accept donations. In some venues we cannot solicit donations, such as at NMC or Sleeping Bear Dunes who collect their own fees. If we can solicit donations we will have our donation jars out if you'd like to contribute. We also accept donations of used telescopes which we either can use for star parties or resell at our annual yard sale.

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The GTAS is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) educational organization subsisting on membership dues, and donations, which are tax deductible.

For more information on events at the Rogers Observatory call (231)995-2300

**For more information on events sponsored by the GTAS go to www.gtastro.org
[Link to MapQuest map of the Rogers Observatory, Traverse City, MI](#) (drive entrance)**

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