

# Grand Traverse Astronomical Society 2020 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.

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

**Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic many outreach events may be canceled. Crossed out events are definitely canceled. Other events may be canceled as warranted. Check often.**

Day	Date	Time	Location	Comments
Friday	<del>April 3*</del>	<del>9-11 p.m.</del>	<del>NMC Observatory</del>	<del>Venus early, Moon, Orion Nebula</del>
Saturday	<del>April 25</del>	<del>9-11 p.m.</del>	<del>SBDNL – Dune Climb</del>	<del>Venus, Crescent Moon, Twilight</del>
Friday	May 1*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Venus, Moon (Twilight)
Saturday	May 2	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Astronomy Day, Venus, Moon (Twilight)
Sunday	<del>May 17</del>	<del>11 a.m.-4 p.m.</del>	<del>NMC Campus</del>	<del>NMC Barbecue: Sun, Meteorites, Exhibits</del>
Saturday	May 23	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Platte River Point	Crescents of Venus and Moon, plus Mercury, Twilight
Friday	June 5*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon (Twilight)
Saturday	June 20	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Binary stars, brighter DSOs (Twilight)
Saturday	June 27	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Sun, Moon (Twilight), Jupiter & Saturn after 11 p.m.
Friday	July 3*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Jupiter, Saturn very low at the end of the session from the Dome only. Twilight
Saturday	July 25	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Sun, Jupiter, Saturn, Crescent Moon, Twilight
Friday	August 7	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Summer Milky Way late, Jupiter, Saturn low from the Dome only.
Saturday	August 8	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Thoreson farm	Solar Viewing afternoon, Jupiter, Saturn DSOs, some Perseid meteors.
Tuesday	August 11	10 p.m. - 12:45 a.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Perseid Meteor Watch, Moon rise 12:28 a.m.
Friday	August 14	5-? p.m.	200 block Front St Traverse City	Friday Night Live – Sun. After hours if clear – Jupiter & Saturn
Friday	August 21	5-? p.m.	200 block Front St Traverse City	Friday Night Live – Sun. After hours if clear – Jupiter & Saturn
Saturday	August 22	☀4-6 p.m.& 9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Sun, Jupiter, Saturn, Crescent Moon early, Summer Milky Way
Friday	August 28	5-? p.m.	200 block Front St Traverse City	Friday Night Live – Sun. After hours if clear – Moon, Jupiter & Saturn
Saturday	August 29	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Jupiter, Saturn
Friday	September 4*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Jupiter, Saturn, Moon
Saturday	September 19	9-11 p.m.	SBDNL – Dune Climb	Jupiter, Saturn, summer Milky Way
Saturday	September 26	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Autumn Astronomy Day – Moon, Saturn, Jupiter

Schedule as of 04/03/20. Changes can be made at any time, so check often.

Day	Date	Time	Location	Comments
Friday	October 2*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, the Pleiades late.
Wednesday	October 21	8-10 p.m.	SBDNL-Dune Climb	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore - 50th Anniversary Star Party. Saturn, Jupiter, Moon, Pleiades, northern Milky Way.
Friday	November 1*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Crescent Moon & Saturn early, Great Andromeda Galaxy, Pleiades, northern Milky Way.
Friday	December 6*	9-11 p.m.	NMC Observatory	Moon, Great Orion Nebula, Pleiades, Double Cluster

\* 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. All are welcome to these meetings.

Annual events not yet scheduled:

- GTAS Yard Sale (May)
- La Senorita Fund Raiser (June)
- Leland Heritage Festival (September)
- Acme Fall Festival (September)
- Betsie Valley District Library (Spring and Fall)
- Traverse Area District Library (Fall)

See [www.gtaastro.org](http://www.gtaastro.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. Locations: Dune Climb on M 109 and Thoreson Farm in the Port Oneida area on South Thoreson Rd. on August 10<sup>th</sup>. See [gtaastro.org/members/](http://gtaastro.org/members/) for a map.

☀ - Sun viewing (Note that we are currently in a solar minimum, so sunspots are a rarity. However the society has two hydrogen alpha solar telescopes which allow viewing of the Sun's chromosphere and prominences which generally show activity even without sunspots being visible.)

### 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 brighter 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.

DSOs – Deep sky objects which are star clusters, nebulae (clouds of gas), galaxies

### 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,

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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.

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

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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](http://www.gtastro.org)**

**[Link to MapQuest map of the Rogers Observatory, Traverse City, MI](#) (drive entrance)**