

NOVAC



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Clouds, from page 1

But, back to my observation. The cloud was uniformly white. There were no spiral arms, no stripes, no central star. Observing with my naked eye, I got the impression that it was a multiple system. The clouds were probably gravitationally associated, because they appeared to be moving together in space.

Does anyone know of a good H₂O filter? Cloudy skies! ★

NASM/Einstein Planetarium Public Observing

Join Sean O'Brien, staff astronomer of the Albert Einstein Planetarium, and other local amateur astronomers, for public telescopic observing under dark, star-filled skies, away from city lights. The evening begins with a short night sky orientation at dusk, followed by telescopic observing of various astronomical objects, ending at 11 pm.

Sky Meadows State Park is west of Washington, D.C. on US Route 17 North, 1 mile south of US Route 50, or 7 miles north of Interstate 66, Exit 23. The park contact phone number is 540-592-3556. There is a \$4 parking fee per car. Dress warmly. In case of clouds or rain, an amateur astronomer will lead a short alternate program.

2003 Schedule—Sky Meadows State Park, Paris, VA

July 19	2 days before Last Quarter Moon
August 10	4 days after Last Quarter Moon. Same night as NOVAC MOS
September 13	3 days after Full Moon. NOVAC Stargaze September 20
October 18	Last Quarter Moon. Same night as NOVAC MOS
November 8	Full Moon—Total Lunar Eclipse!

Editor's note: This is a fun program for NOVAC members to help out with. Sky Meadows park has great skies, and the public is always very receptive. Plus, NOVAC members who bring their telescopes to share may stay until 1 am.

2003 Year-Long Star Party at Spruce Knob

by John Nusbaum

The official 2003 dates for the Year-Long Star Party at Spruce Knob are:

2003 Schedule—Spruce Knob, WV

July 31–August 3	Thursday–Sunday nights
August 28–31	Thursday–Sunday nights
September 25–28	Thursday–Sunday nights
October 23–26	Thursday–Sunday nights

The cost of reserving the facilities for this event was more than double the cost of last year. This event was made possible this year through the financial and organizational support of the NOVAC board and its members and through over \$1,000 in additional pledges of support by both NOVAC and non-NOVAC members.

For complete information about the Year-Long Star Party (YLSP), go to the YLSP website at www.novac.com/spruce/.