

# Announcements

## 2003 Year-Long Star Party at Spruce Knob

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

### 2003 Schedule—Spruce Knob, WV

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/](http://www.novac.com/spruce/).

## 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

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.

## Sky & Telescope subscriptions

Starting in September, NOVAC members who subscribe to *Sky & Telescope* as part of their club dues will see their subscription rate rise to \$32.95. If you have recently renewed your membership, you won't see the rate change until your next renewal.

## Loaner scope update

NOVAC has several telescopes and binoculars for club members to borrow for one month at a time. A few of these scopes have moved to the care of new custodians since the last Member's Handbook was mailed. To arrange pick up, contact the instrument's custodian at the phone number or e-mail address given below.

At the time of checkout, you must show your observing pass and leave a \$100 security deposit in the form of a check payable to Northern Virginia Astronomy Club. Deposit checks are held by the custodian until the scope is returned. Don't be shy about borrowing! Some of the scopes go unused for several months in a row.

Instrument	Custodian
Celestron SP-C6 6" Newtonian (Equatorial)	Mike Mills 703-333-5075 <a href="mailto:mjmills@fpcc.net">mjmills@fpcc.net</a>
6" f/5 Newtonian (Dobsonian)	Alex Hazzouri 703-264-5875 <a href="mailto:Alex@balloonyideas.com">Alex@balloonyideas.com</a>
Meade 6" f/8 Newtonian (Dob.)	Rob McKinney 703-924-5883 <a href="mailto:RobCMcKinney@aol.com">RobCMcKinney@aol.com</a>
Discovery 10" f/6 Newtonian (Dob.)	Alex Lim 703-222-0419 <a href="mailto:alexander.lim@wcom.com">alexander.lim@wcom.com</a>
8" Celestron SCT	John Deriso 703-476-3543 <a href="mailto:seaotter@bellatlantic.net">seaotter@bellatlantic.net</a>
SolarMax H- $\alpha$ filter w/ 70 mm refractor	Wolfgang Schubert 703-321-9617
Binoculars (10x50, 12x50, or 8x40) (no deposit)	John Deriso 703-476-3543 <a href="mailto:seaotter@bellatlantic.net">seaotter@bellatlantic.net</a>
Laser collimator (no deposit)	Pete Johnson 703-830-7513 <a href="mailto:pjohnson19@cox.net">pjohnson19@cox.net</a>