

Staunton River Star Party

The Staunton River Star Party (SRSP) is fairly new, but has seen continued increase in attendance by its host club, the Chapel Hill Astronomical and Observational Society (CHAOS). The event is held twice a year, once in the Fall (October) and once in the Spring (March) with the Fall event being their largest. SRSP offers a 6 day (Tuesday – Sunday) and a 3 day (Friday – Sunday) sign up.

The October 2013 SRSP saw good attendance with almost 150 enthusiasts with a wide array of scopes ranging from refractors to 14" SCTs mounted in specialized trailers to 30" Dobs. The event is hosted at the Staunton River State Park in Southern Virginia, which is in a Blue sky area. The large field has an unobstructed view 360 degrees around and provides power hook ups and internet connectivity. The park also has a heated/cooled building adjacent to the field with restrooms and an activity room as well as a concession building that is open most of the night to provide snacks, food, and beverages.

The event hosts programs on Friday and Saturday with guest speakers, vendors, a swap meet and a raffle. The host organization, CHAOS has formed a very good partnership with the park and has even gotten the local town involved to work on preserving their dark skies. The field accommodates everything from tents to RV's. Attendees are allowed to park next to their equipment and are given ample space. The park itself is large with an adjoining lake with boat access. The park is very kid friendly and offers a lot to explore in the daylight hours.

<http://www.chaosastro.com/starparty/>

Pictures:







