

Amateur Astronomer Supporter Guideline Sheet

General Comments: Join dozens of your fellow amateur astronomers to support the largest astronomy event in the region by showing the heavens off to the public and other astronomers. Our primary aim is to have fun by learning about Astronomy and Space Sciences, educating others through talks and star parties, and sharing our resources with others

-Attend a special higher-level in-depth Supporter Only presentation by our featured speaker on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 pm at the Kensington Metropark Nature Center Classroom.

-Don't be too concerned about being inexperienced. We all have questions that we can't answer.

-If you are having trouble finding and object, ask for help from someone nearby. They will help you. We've all been there.

New Location This Year: Maple Beach is on the northwestern side of Kent Lake (not Martindale Beach). Enter the park from the Kensington Rd entrance (exit 151); Maple beach is on the Right Hand side of the road 3-4 miles after the entrance, after the nature center. Park admission is free for those with a Metropark pass; otherwise \$ 4 per car per night. Pull up on the beach front road to the pavilion and look for others loading scopes onto golf carts. (See map at End)

Parking/loading unloading: Kensington Metropark officials will provide curbside pickup and return of your equipment with golf carts. Pickup is between 5-8pm and the return trips after 11:00pm. Astronomers may remain and pack up later at their own discretion but they must exit that park before 2am when the gates are chained. If you must drive on the sidewalks for the drop off or pick up of your equipment, you must have another person walk ahead of your vehicle for pedestrian safety. Do not drive on the grass, as there are sprinkler heads adjacent to the upper sidewalks. Vehicles are allowed on sidewalks only during drop off and pick up. Otherwise they must be parked in the parking lots. Drop off and pickup parking spots are in front of the Metropark trailer and are temporary, limited to a few minutes per vehicle. Blocking fire hydrants or fire lanes will result in the usual, somewhat costly, law enforcement activities.

Set Up Starting Time: 5:00-8:00 pm each evening - Activities start at 6:00 pm, Public viewing through telescopes is completed at 12:00 pm.

Raffle Registration: Did we mention that there was a raffle of Astro Equipment, books, eyepieces, etc intended for those who provide scope views for the public? To be eligible, one needs to register (once) in the pavilion at the Ford Club table on either Friday or Saturday. The drawing will be held in the pavilion at midnight on Saturday. We will send the prizes home with your local club officers if you are not present at the raffle. See raffle details below. Club officers are requested to email membership lists to Bob McFarland Stargzer@wowway.com before 9/5.

Raffle Items and Donors:

(Info not available at this time)

The GLAAC pavilion program:

Copies of the program can be found at the pavilion. There is a new talk every half hour and they last for about 20 minutes. A few of the talks have fascinating demonstrations like the "Comet Making" and "How Cold is space?" talks. Always have someone watch your equipment when you are not present—just in case.

The Observing Program (We put Astronomy in Astronomy at the Beach):

This is why you came, to help children and families see things for the first time that they may have only read about in books. It's OK to gush with enthusiasm, and its OK to not have an answer to every conceivable question. Ask other astronomers nearby if you have a question or cannot find an object. Share what you know and what you like about the hobby.

There are 3 parts to this portion of the program: Solar observing using special filters form 6 pm till sunset; the Skytour scavenger hunt for youth 3-17 years, and general observing.

What to Bring:

- Your telescope, eyepieces, solar filter.
- Warm clothes, bug spray
- Star maps for locating the Skytour objects
- A chair
- A small ladder or step stool for the younger and shorter
- Some power will be available on the observing fields. However, astronomers should bring their own portable power or extension cord to be sure
- A flashlight with a red gell for taking down in the dark.
- Bring a friend along or buddy up with a nearby astronomer to watch your equipment while you take a break or observe through others' equipment. Astronomers recognize how a person's equipment should be respected, others may not and young children may not always be well supervised.

Snacks: Cranks concession is open from 6-11pm with coffee, hamburgers, hot dogs, & pizza.

Skytour Scavenger Hunt:

The object is to show the kids an object that they have not seen before in the scope, say a few sentences about the object, and initial on their scavenger hunt worksheet. Youth continually need to be reminded "Did you bring your skytour worksheet to be signed off?" A pen that lights up dimly helps a lot. It also helps to remind them to hold on to the ladder, not on the telescope, every time they approach the scope, unless you really want to find the object again every 30 seconds.

I personally recommend having 1-2 objects that you can find well and sticking with them for most of the evening. The table below should help focus on the bright objects and still allow astronomers to have sufficient choices. All objects should be 20 degrees above the horizon or higher at 10 pm. Learn how far away they are, whether they are inside or outside of the solar system, the Milky Way, or the local group, and a few facts and figures about how large it is, who first figured out what it was, etc. Then when it gets to be 10:00 and some tearful little tyke comes up to you saying they haven't seen a single globular cluster, and they won't get their prize if they don't find one right away, you can point your scope at the one in Hercules and be the hero of the day. But don't get into the hero thing too deeply, the next kid will have peanut butter on both hands and grab your Nagler and focuser before you have time to gasp. This story may only be an urban myth, but ... Moral of the story: have a rag handy and use your cheapest EP's.

Skytour Object	Constellation	Compass Point	Magnitude
Planet			
Jupiter	Sagittarius	S	-2.4
Mercury	Virgo	W	0.1
Venus -at sunset	Virgo	W	-3.9
Mars -at sunset	Virgo	W	1.7
Neptune	Capricorn - 1/2 way to Aquarius	SSE	7.8
Uranus	Aquarius - 1/2 way to Pisces	SE	5.7
Nebula- Emission			
M-16 Eagle	Serpens	S	6.0
M-8 Lagoon	Sagittarius	S	5.0
M-17 Swan or Omega	Sagittarius	S	6.0
M-20 Trifid	Sagittarius	S	6.3
Nebula- Planetary			
M-57 Ring	Lyra	Overhead	9.0
M-27 Dumbbell	Vulpecula	Overhead	7.3
NGC-7293 Helix	Aquarius	SE	6.3
NGC-6543 Cats Eye	Draco	N	8.3

M-76 Little Dumbbell	Persius	NE	11.0
NGC-7662 Blue Snowball	Andromeda	E	8.6
NGC-6572	Ophiuchus	SW	9.0
Galaxies			
M-31 Andromeda	Andromeda	E	3.4
M-33 Pinwheel	Triangulum	E	5.7
M-51 Whirlpool	Canes Venatici	NW	8.4
M-81; M-82	Ursa Major	N	6.9; 8.4
M-102	Draco	NW	9.9
M-63 Sunflower	Canes Venatici	NW	8.6
NGC-6822 Bernard's	Sagittarius	S	8.8
Open Clusters			
NGC-869, -884 Double	Persius	NE	5.3; 6.1
NGC-457 ET Cluster	Cassiopeia	NE	6.4
M-52	Cassiopeia	NE	6.9
M-103	Cassiopeia	NE	7.4
M-7	Scorpius	S	3.3
M-23	Sagittarius	S	5.5
M-11 Wild Duck	Scutum	S	5.8
M-21	Sagittarius	S	5.9
M-29	Cygnus	Overhead	6.6
M-25	Sagittarius	S	4.6
Globular Clusters			
M-2	Aquarius	SE	6.2
M-15	Pegasus	SE	6.4
M-22	Sagittarius	S	5.1
M-4	Scorpius	SSW	5.9
M-13	Hercules	Overhead	5.9
M-3	Canes Venatici	WNW	6.4
M-5	Serpens	WSW	5.8
Colored Binary Stars**			
Star	Common Name	Colors	Magnitude
beta Cygni	Alberio	gold, blue-white	3.1, 5.1
nu Cassiopeiae		white, purple	3.4, 7.5
alpha Herculis	Rasalgethi	orange, blue-green	3.5v, 5.4
ro Herculis		blue-/white, pale green	4.6, 5.6
95 Herculis		light green, cherry red	5.0, 5.1
nu Persei		orange, deep blue	3.8, 8.5
gamma Andromedae	Almaak	orange, emerald green	2.3, 4.8
epsilon Bootis	Izar	orange, sea green	2.5, 4.9
xi Bootis		orange, purple	4.7, 7.0
zeta Coronae Borealis		blue-white, dark blue	5.1, 6.0
39 Ophiuchi		pale orange, blue	5.4, 6.9
zeta Lyrae		topaz yellow, green	4.3, 5.9
gamma Delphini		yellow, light emerald	4.5, 5.5

**Colored Stars from "Seeing the Deep Sky" by Fred Schaaf (Wiley)

GLAAC Raffle Rules

Winner qualifications are as follows:

A. GLAAC Club Members:

- Must be a verifiable member in good standing with any of the supporting GLAAC clubs and support the event through one of the following:
 1. Set up a 'scope and share their sky views with the public for at least two hours. In the event of rain, the 'scope should be set up in the pavilion or,
 2. Be an event presenter or
 3. Attend at least two meetings of the planning committee as a club representative or
 4. Provide supporting activities such as mastering a web page, securing a featured speaker, maintain the GLAAC budget, man a club table, etc.

OR

B. GLAAC Sponsoring donors or Employees of the Sponsoring Donors who attend and support the event.

All Raffle Participants:

- Participants must register at either the FAAC club table before 10:30 pm the night they qualify. Acquiring a ticket is the responsibility of the participant.
- Only one ticket per telescope set up and a maximum of one ticket per person or family for the whole event.
- A single drawing from the collected tickets from both nights will be held at 12:00 pm on Saturday evening at the pavilion. **Winner qualifications will be verified by current club rosters provided by GLAAC representatives.** If not, another ticket will be drawn.
- Winners do not have to be present to win. However, they are responsible for collecting their prize from the GLAAC planners.
-

Detailed Map to GLAAC at Maple Beach

