

THE MAINE STATE STAR PARTY 2019



Maine's Astronomy Convention

Friday/Saturday August 23/24, 2019

Cobscook Bay State Park, Edmunds, Maine

Hosted by the *Downeast Amateur Astronomers*

www.downeastaa.com

Washington County's own Astronomy Club

Friday August 23 (can arrive anytime after 1 p.m.) Set up camping gear, telescope

Friday evening observing if clear

Saturday August 24 Solar observing throughout the day (weather permitting) several solar telescopes will be set up for viewing

1:00 p.m. Astronomy Jeopardy (winner will get prize donated by Downeast Amateur Astronomers)

3:00 p.m. (Guest Speaker)

Wade Smith, Amateur Astronomer, telescope builder and PVSF member will talk on his latest project "The Barrel Telescope". Wade will show his latest telescope project that he built....a 12.5 inch Newtonian Reflector he made out of a good ol' Maine potato barrel.

Saturday evening observing! (Weather permitting)

For more info, contact Charlie Sawyer at 207-214-4511 or e-mail at csawyer7@roadrunner.com



Water fountain near by as well as Park toilets. Showers also available in park. Each individual/party bring your own food. There is a small grocery store about 4 miles west on Rt. 1

*Bring your scope
And bring your tent
We all know
It's time well spent*

Charlie Sawyer
csawyer7@roadrunner.com
207-214-4511

Mark the dates of Friday August 23 Saturday August 24 on your calendar for the MAINE STATE STAR PARTY 2019. I hope you all can attend this year. Some things to mention:

- 1. Once again the camping is free for campers who stay on the star party site. Anyone who comes to the park for the event but chooses to get his or her own campsite in the park would have to pay for the site.**
- 2. The star party site is usually for tents but anyone with a camper can find room to park it there. Let me know if this is you and I can make sure I let the park know who will be coming in with a camper and is planning to stay on the site.**
- 3. There is a water fountain on the star party site location and latrines near by. A small grocery store is about 4 miles to the west. Each individual/group brings your own food. The closest restaurant is about 15 miles east or 20 miles west.**
- 4. Cobscook Bay State Park is about 90 miles downeast on Rt 1 from Bangor. You could also travel down Rt 9 and turn right to Machias in Wesley and then head east on Rt 1 for another 20 miles.**

If anyone has any questions you can e-mail me or call me at 207-214-4511. I have already put my order in for perfect weather for that weekend; let us make the attendance equally great! One final note. The main thing that would possibly cancel this is obviously bad weather such as a hurricane or severe rain. I always watch the weather very closely before the event so I could certainly send out any announcements days before the event to let anyone know who has to travel a great distance. However, we know the weather is going to be great!

The Maine State Star party has had a prestigious offering of speakers including:

- 2010 "The History of the Apollo Missions", Gordon Smith, NASA technician
- 2011 "Medium Format Film Astro-Photography", Jim Cormier, Amateur Astronomer
- 2012 "Astronomy outreach in Nepal", Riwaj Pokhrel, PhD Candidate, Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics
- 2013 "Supernova Hunting", Doug Rich, credited with discovering more than 23 supernovae "Double Stars" with Charlie Sawyer, President, Downeast Amateur Astronomers "Meteors" with Joe Rosebush, Amateur Astronomer
- 2014 "What if the Moon Didn't Exist?", Dr. Neil F. Comins, Ph.D. Prof, Physics & Astronomy The University of Maine "My 20 year journey grinding mirrors and building a telescope" Peter Serada, Amateur Astronomer
- 2015 "Mysteries of the Universe" Lauren Woolsey, PhD candidate Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics: "Measuring the speed of solar flares", John Stetson, Maine astronomer and teacher
- 2016 "The mission of the new Emera Astronomy Center", Shawn Laatsch, Director, The University of Maine
- 2017 "Library Telescope Program", Marc Stowbridge, President of the New Hampshire Astronomical Society and founder of the original Library Telescope Program
- 2018 "Binocular Viewing", James Cormier, lifetime observer and award winning astro-photographer
- 2019 "The Potato Barrel Telescope", Wade Smith, amateur astronomer and telescope builder