

Star Parties

April 28 - September 27, 2012

Location: Prairie Grove Park, Waterloo

Directions: From Shaulis Rd. turn north onto 4th St. Prairie Grove Park will be the first turn on the right.

Astronomy Day: April 28, 7:30-10:30pm The bright winter constellations Orion (the Hunter) and Canis Major (the Great Dog) will be low in the western sky where they will be observed for the last time. The ringed planet Saturn will be in the eastern sky close beside the bright star Spica in the constellation Virgo (the Maiden). Higher up, the reddish planet Mars will be close to the bright star Regulus in the constellation Leo (the Lion) and the Moon near the twin bright stars of Gemini (the Twins). **Jason Dornbush, Science Outreach Coordinator, will be at this Star Party from 7:30 until 9:00pm, providing fun activities for children.**

May 26, 9:00-10:30pm This will be the last chance to observe brilliant Venus. It will be starting to go between the Earth and the Sun and be lost from view. The Moon, Mars, and the ringed planet Saturn will be well placed for viewing. The Big Dipper will be at its highest point in the northern sky. Viewers will use it to arc to the bright star Arcturus in the constellation Bootes (the Herdsman) and then speed on to the bright star Spica in the constellation Virgo (the Maiden).

SPECIAL EVENT! THE TRANSIT OF VENUS: June 5, 5:00pm till the sun disappears from view, South Street Parking Lot of the Grout Museum

The Black Hawk Astronomy Club and the Grout Museum will host an opportunity for viewing the transit of Venus, something that will not be seen again in this lifetime. This rare event happens when Venus lines up perfectly between the Earth and Sun and its orbital motion takes Venus across the face of the Sun. The transit begins at 5:00 p.m. and continues until the Sun drops from view. There will be activities for children and adults during the transit. If it is cloudy, view this event virtually on a 52" flat screen TV in the conference room. Astronomy Club members will be on hand to answer questions and assist with the viewing.

June 23, 9:00-10:30pm This will be the only chance to see fast-moving Mercury this summer. It will be followed by the Moon, the bright star Regulus in the constellation Leo (the Lion), Mars, and Saturn, which will be close to the bright star Spica in the constellation Virgo (the Maiden). In the eastern sky, the summer triangle of three bright stars will be rising into view and telling us that summer is at hand.

July 28, 9:00-10:30pm The Moon will be above Antares, the bright reddish heart of Scorpius (the Scorpion). This large constellation and its close neighbor, Sagittarius (the Archer), will be at their highest point and easiest to observe for the year. Saturn and Mars will also be well placed for viewing. This will be a good evening to compare the colors of Mars and Antares, whose name means "rival of Mars."

August 25, 9:00-10:30pm Viewers will take a last look at Saturn, Mars, and Spica, the brightest star of the constellation Virgo (the Maiden), that will be huddled together low in the western sky in the early evening. The "w" shaped Cassiopeia (the Queen) will be getting higher in the sky and easier to observe. Learn how to use it to find Polaris (the North Star) and Cepheus (the King). Cepheus is home to the dim star Delta Cephei that is a colorful binary star. Viewers will learn why it is probably the most important star in the sky. The Moon will be well placed for viewing.

September 22, 9:00-10:30pm On this the day of the autumnal equinox, the constellations of autumn will be well placed for viewing for the first time this year. They will include Pegasus (the Winged Horse) with its "Great Square" of four equally spaced stars and globular cluster of stars, Andromeda (the Princess) with its great galaxy, and Perseus (the Hero) with its bright "double cluster" of stars. Viewers will also observe the first quarter Moon that will be perched above the "teapot" of Sagittarius (the Archer) in the western sky.

Star Parties Additional Info

The Black Hawk Astronomy Club and the Grout Museum are delighted to sponsor star parties April - September, 2012.

The events are free and open to the public. Staff will be on hand to point out current constellations. Telescopes and binoculars will be available for viewing the night sky and activities will be provided for children. Feel free to bring your own telescope so you can share your knowledge and enthusiasm of Astronomy with others. If you know nothing about Astronomy, bring your curiosity!

Star Parties will **not** be held if it is cloudy, so please use your best judgment and check the skies before heading to the park.

Contact: Jane Ryan at 319-234-6357



GROUT
MUSEUM
DISTRICT

Touch It. See It. Feel It.

503 South St. Waterloo, IA 50701 • 319-234-6357
www.GroutMuseumDistrict.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Waterloo, Iowa
Permit No. 116

Grout Museum District
503 South St.
Waterloo, IA 50701



To current resident or:

