

Public Observing Tips

Astronomical Observation is for the **whole family**. Here are a few tips to make your evening at DHO more enjoyable and educational.

1) Feel free to bring your own telescope or binoculars. Members often bring theirs and will be glad to show you how to use yours, **but we do ask that you contact the SAS Board first to make sure someone familiar with your scope type is present**. Our site is equipped with concrete pads for telescopes, as well as outside electrical hook-ups. Club scopes are available at DHO for those trained in their use.

2) Plan on arriving just after sunset. It will still be light enough to find your way, but you won't have to wait long for the real celestial show to begin at the end of astronomical twilight (this time is also excellent for finding Constellations, which are usually of the brightest stars).

3) Dress for cold nights, even in July. We're not

kidding! It can get cold at Darling Hill, even in mid-summer. Suggested attire: duck boots or other dew proof shoes, long pants, winter coat and warm hat. And bring a lawn chair if you just want to stare at the sky from a comfortable orientation.

4) **Call ahead if you are bringing a group so that we can prepare for your educational needs**. If you are bringing children, bring blankets or sleeping bags -- they love to lie on the ground and look at the sky. It's also a great idea to bring a few snacks and drinks along.

5) **Red flashlights preserve night vision**. In a pinch, cover a regular flashlight with a red balloon.

6) **Cell phones become blinding to night-adjusted eyes. If you have to answer it, please step away from observing groups**.

7) Watch those headlights! Turn your **headlights off** and your **parking lights on** when you get to the top of the driveway. People already at the observatory are "dark adapted" and appreciate your consideration. There is a "tree island" at the driveway end to block headlights. **But always drive safely. If you can't see, leave your lights on!**

SAS Public Observing and Member-

Specific Sessions

SAS Public Viewing Sessions are held on the **Friday BEFORE (with Saturday as the weather alternate)** the New Moon between April and November. Member-Specific Sessions are held on the Friday/Saturday of the New Moon and are intended for dedicated observing (non lecture/non-sky tour). When the New Moon occurs mid-week, we will have two Member Sessions on successive weekends. Directions, schedule changes, weather conditions, and sky charts are available at our website, www.syracuse-astro.org.

SAS Public/Member Schedule for 2018

Public*	Members	Description
April 13 (14)		Session 1 @ DHO
May 11 (12)		Session 2 @ DHO
June 15 (16)		Session 3 @ DHO
July 13 (14)		Session 4 @ DHO
Aug 10 (11)		Session 5 @DHO
Sept 7 (8)		Session 6 @DHO
Oct 5 (6)		Session 7 @DHO

* () = weather alternate

When to Use the Website

The website contains information about weather conditions at DHO, if/when viewing sessions are canceled (check the website by **5:00 pm the evening of announced viewings**), and when SAS members are at the Observatory. Check the [Main Website Page](#) for information.

To post your own questions, check on viewing opportunities, or subscribe to our email newsletter, consider sending queries through our web form.

www.syracuse-astro.org



Syracuse Astronomical Society
Amateur Astronomy in Central New York
www.syracuse-astro.org

2018 Brochure

www.syracuse-astro.org

The **Syracuse Astronomical Society (SAS)** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about astronomy, preserving a national heritage – the Night Sky, and exploring the splendors of our universe.

We invite you to join us. We have **Free Public Observing Nights** at our **Darling Hill Observatory** (DHO) in Vesper, NY. Public observing is held monthly from approximately April to November around the New Moon. Other sessions occur throughout the year when the Night Sky is clear and SAS members are available to go to the observatory. Check the website for more information and day-of updates.

The DHO Cave Telescope is a 16-inch Newtonian capable of showing you celestial objects in great detail. For those with telescopes and large binoculars, DHO has four concrete pads and outside-accessible outlets.

We also have several society meetings and host astronomy-related lectures throughout the year. When CNY skies do not permit observing, our website and Facebook pages are always active with astronomy-related and astrophotography discussions.

Come And Join Us!

Route 81 Directions To Darling Hill Observatory (DHO)

- * Take **Interstate 81** to the **TULLY** Exit (20 minutes from Syracuse or Cortland).
- * Turn **WEST** on **ROUTE 80** (the **Burger King Direction, NOT** the **Nice n' Easy Direction**).
- * Travel 3.3 miles to **VESPER**.
- * Turn **LEFT** onto **STRONG ROAD**.
- * Travel **SOUTH** on **STRONG ROAD** (it winds a bit) for 0.4 miles (at the poorly marked fork in the road, head up the **Big Hill to the LEFT**).
- * Drive for about 1 mile. Look for an **OPEN GATE** on the **RIGHT** with a large sign saying "**sas.**"
- * Turn **RIGHT** and drive on up the hill.
- * If it is dark, remember to turn your headlights off and use your parking lights (otherwise you will affect other observers' night vision).
- * Park in the meadow and proceed up to the observatory building.



Google Map The Trip @
www.syracuse-astro.org/dho-occ-directions/

Contact Information

www.syracuse-astro.org
www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_100618404233

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Raymond Dague, **Observatory Director**
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Board of Directors

Greg Sigworth, Dan O'Shea,
 Jeff Funk, and Dan Williams

SAS Newsletter Online!

The SAS newsletter is mailed in grayscale. Full -color and linked PDFs of the current and previous issues are available at our website for free download.

http://www.syracuse-astro.org/pdf/astronomical_chronicle.pdf

Ways to Help the SAS – Join Us!

The Syracuse Astronomical Society (SAS) is a non-profit, member-driven organization. **YOUR YEARLY MEMBERSHIP** covers building expenses, mirror recoating, equipment purchases, support costs for preparing the years' events, and grounds keeping. We urge you to join the SAS and get full use out of the DHO grounds **YOU HELP MAINTAIN** with **YOUR MEMBERSHIP**.

How else can you help? Contribute an article to the newsletter, send off your astronomy questions, send images for inclusion in our gallery and newsletter, recommend a speaker for a meeting, let others know about our viewing sessions, and tell people to turn off unnecessary lights! Most of all, **SHOW UP!**

Join The Society or Give This To Someone Else!

Annual Membership Dues

___ Individual or Family Membership	\$40
___ Youth Membership (22 & Younger)	\$5
___ Additional Donation	
Total: _____	

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Do you own a telescope? **Yes** ___ **No** ___
 Do you own binoculars? **Yes** ___ **No** ___

Please enclose a check payable to:

Syracuse Astronomical Society
c/o David Wormuth 6781
Morehouse Flats Road Jamesville,
NY 13078

For more information, please contact Dr. David Wormuth, Treasurer and Webmaster dwormuth@post.harvard.edu, beeper (315) 249-0076, send a question through the form on our website, or join our [Facebook page](#).