

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 dark sky 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 but leave your parking lights on when you get to the top of the driveway. People already at the observatory are "dark adapted" and will 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 typically 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 we may have two Member Sessions on weekends. Directions, schedule changes, weather conditions, and sky charts are available at our website, www.syracuse-astro.org.

SAS Public/Member Schedule for 2019

Date*	Location	Description
4/5/19 (6)	DHO	Public Observing
5/3/19 (4)	DHO	Public Observing
5/31/19 (6/1)	DHO	Public Observing
6/28/19 (29)	DHO	Public Observing
7/26/19 (27)	DHO	Public Observing
8/30/19 (31)	DHO	Public Observing
9/27/19 (28)	DHO	Public Observing
10/25/19 (26)	DHO	Public Observing

*() = weather alternate

When to Use the Website

The website contains information about weather conditions at DHO, if/when viewing sessions are cancelled (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.

www.syracuse-astro.org



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

2019 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, just a few minutes from downtown Syracuse. 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 their own telescopes or large binoculars, DHO has four concrete pads, outside-accessible outlets, and a dark sky that will open up viewing opportunities that are not available in suburban skies.

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.



Using google maps (maps.google.com) you can type in the plus code "QRW8+6H Vesper, Tully, NY"

Contact Information

www.syracuse-astro.org

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/syracuseastronomicalsociety/>

infosyracuseastro@gmail.com

Sean McClain, SAS President

Raymond Dague, Observatory Director

Jeff Higgins, Secretary

David Wormuth, Treasurer and Webmaster

Board of Directors

Mike Brady, Stephen Capp, Anthony Krishock, Dan O'Shea, Jonas Rodriguez, Greg Sigworth

Join The Society or Give This To Someone Else!

To Join the SAS, simply fill out the form below and send the form and a check payable to Syracuse Astronomical Society to:

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

Annual Membership Dues

___ Individual or Family Membership	\$40
___ Youth Membership (22 & Younger)	\$5
___ Tax Deductible Donation	_____
___ Total Enclosed Amount	_____

Do you own a telescope? Yes___ No___
Do you own binoculars? Yes___ No___

Some Reasons to Join the SAS...

1. Support access to observational science in our region
2. Learn how to get started in Astronomy
3. Learn what equipment you'll need to achieve your astronomy goals
4. Meet like-minded people
5. Gain access to a dark-sky site minutes from Syracuse with views of the Milky-Way
6. Gain access to a world class observatory
7. Take part in lectures such as how to view deep space objects, what equipment is needed to get started in astrophotography, methods for locating exoplanets, astronomy year in review, and more.

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!