



Nahatlatch Valley Star Party hosted by RASC Vancouver at the Washtock Family Campground

Rules

Vehicles MUST arrive on site BEFORE dusk. Vehicles arriving after dusk will NOT be permitted on the field. Also, drive your vehicle dead slow when entering and exiting the fields to reduce dust. Airborne dust can harm telescope equipment.

Entry onto the hayfields is prohibited and that includes walking your dog. The hayfields have an organic designation for the Washtock Cattle Farm.

On your day of arrival, please register at the registration tent. We are required to take attendance and we will also be handing out free door prize tickets. If no member of the Admin Team is at the tent, please honk and one of us will walk over. Alternatively, the registration tent will be manned every day between the hours of 3 pm and 5 pm for registration, questions, and selling of merchandise.

Lighting campfires is not permitted at any time. No exceptions!

Smoking/vaping of tobacco will only be permitted in the designated area near the registration tent. Butts must be placed in the available metal receptacle. There is to be no walking around and smoking/vaping. There is to be no smoking/vaping in your campsite unless it is inside your camper/RV.

The smoking/vaping of marijuana will NOT be permitted due to previous complaints of its intrusive and unpleasant odour. If you wish to or must partake in the use of marijuana, edibles are less disturbing to your neighbours.

Pets are permitted on site but must be restrained at all times. Dogs MUST be on leash.

Generators should be muffled if possible and must only be operated between the hours of noon and 5pm.

Report medical emergencies to a RASC official.

Camping Guidelines

Bring your own water and bring more water than you think you will need. There is no drinkable water on site. Non-potable water (not safe to drink) is available at the main campground area for things like washing dishes.

There is no electricity on site. Please ensure you have enough batteries or power packs to power your devices for the length of your stay. We are pleased to offer the use of a generator. If you need a device or battery charged, please bring it to the registration tent area where the generator will be set up adjacent. Use of the generator will be free of charge but is a shared resource so kindly only charge devices that are in dire need of charging and limit your time using it. The generator will only have the capacity to charge a few devices at a time and will be available for use from 12 noon to 5 pm each day.

The campground owner will kindly provide an empty trailer in which to toss garbage, recycling, and returnables. The garbage trailer will be parked near the entrance to the event site.

If you have an RV with sani, please choose your camp site away from the pit toilets. There are limited pit toilets on site so please allow those tenting or otherwise without sani to set up camp in the vicinity of the pit toilets. RV's with sani can use the main campground's sani dump at conclusion of your stay at no extra charge. All RV sites at the main campground have sani dump so when you wish to dump, just pull into any RV site that is empty.

The evenings can be cold while the days hot. Pack appropriate clothing for all possible temperatures.

Bring plenty of sunscreen as there is NO shade on the fields. We also recommend you bring something that will give you shade ie a large umbrella, golf umbrella, or a sun shade for use during daytime hours. The sun sets behind the mountain at 6 pm at which time the event site cools down.

Be prepared for mosquitos and black flies.

Specific Rules around Lights

To help preserve observers' dark adaptation and to preserve the best conditions possible for astrophotography at our observing site, a ban on all lighting will be in effect from 9:00 PM until 4:00 AM on observable nights. Dim red lights only allowed from dusk to dawn.

This light ban includes:

- No white light flashlights – only heavily red-filtered. No Coleman lanterns or similar forms of outdoor lighting unless red light filtered.

- Vehicle lights of any kind. There is no moving of vehicles onto or from the field allowed from dusk to dawn. Please also disable or shield your vehicle's dome light and trunk light.

- Trailer and RV interior lights. Please ensure all windows are shielded or curtained. Tip – if you don't have curtains then tape aluminum foil or red cellophane over windows.

- Cell phones, tablets, laptop screens must be shielded, red filtered, or in night mode.

- No Laser Pointer use is permitted.

Note: In an emergency, if you must turn on a light, give a warning yell. Others can then take steps to protect their night vision or astro-photo efforts.

Etiquette

Be respectful: no offensive behaviour, loud music, smoking/vaping of marijuana, or excessive consumption of alcohol.

Quiet before noon -- observers sleep late!

Speak quietly if you observe well into the morning. Remember that, for various reasons, others around you may retire earlier.

This is a serious observer's star party. Parents, if you intend to bring small children along, please be thoughtful for other participants and keep a check on the voices of your children during morning hours.

Morning noise oversights include:

- Talking (except in inaudible whispers), especially if near tents.

- Clattering of your breakfast dishes.

- Starting vehicle engines and generators.

- Slamming vehicle doors and/or trunks.

- Playing music.

Many observers will be staying up until dawn and sleeping until noon. Please try to be as quiet as possible. There are no penalties other than the cool greetings you may receive from your fellow observers. Please remember that this is a community of astronomy enthusiasts. Friendly discussion will usually solve any problems.