



Grand Rapids Amateur Astronomical Association

3308 Kissing Rock Ave SE Lowell, MI 49331

Public Nights at the James C. Veen Observatory

The GRAAA opens the James C. Veen Observatory to the public on the second and last Saturdays of the month (April through October), **if the skies are clear**. Please call the Starwatch number -- 897-7065 -- for updates and the status of a particular night if the weather conditions are questionable. Status messages will also be on the www.graaa.org website.

Along with the observatory telescopes, association members set up their own telescopes so that people can view the splendors of the night sky. The public can tour the facility and enjoy an audio-visual presentation about the GRAAA and the James C. Veen Observatory.

Admission for public nights are \$3 for Adults, \$2 for 17 years and younger, and free for children under 5 years of age.

Public Night Schedule for 2009

Date	Time	Featured Objects
April 25	9:00pm - 12:00am	Saturn, Deep Sky Objects
May 2	9:00pm - 12:00am	Moon, Saturn, Deep Sky Objects
May 9	9:00pm - 12:00am	Moon, Saturn
May 30	9:00pm - 12:00am	Moon, Saturn, Deep Sky Objects
June 13	9:30pm - 12:00am	Saturn, Deep Sky Objects
June 27	9:30pm - 12:00am	Moon, Saturn, Deep Sky Objects
July 11	9:30pm - 12:00am	Saturn, Deep Sky Objects
July 25	9:30pm - 12:00am	Moon, Jupiter, Saturn, Deep Sky Objects
August 8	9:00pm - 12:00am	Moon, Jupiter
August 29	9:00pm - 12:00am	Moon, Jupiter, Neptune
September 12	8:00pm - 11:00pm	Jupiter, Neptune, Deep Sky Objects
September 26	8:00pm - 11:00pm	Moon, Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune, Deep Sky Objects
October 10	8:00pm - 11:00pm	Jupiter, Uranus, Neptune, Deep Sky Objects

For more information about Public Nights, Group Tours, etc.,
please visit our site on the Internet

www.graaa.org

A map is available on the next page



There will be signs posted on the main road to the Observatory that will point to the parking area.

There is a parking lot at the bottom of the hill, and you will be directed to park in the lower lot. There is an approximately 1/4 mile walk up the road to the observatory. There are several spaces at the top of the hill for the elderly and the handicapped. Please see a parking attendant if you are unable to walk up the road.

Although the Observatory road is lighted for public nights, it is suggested you bring a flashlight.

Do I need to bring anything?

A flashlight is suggested (preferably with a red filter), as it is kept as dark as possible on the observatory grounds. Dark skies and surroundings are the only way to observe and appreciate the wonders of the Universe. If you have binoculars, bring them.

Some type of insect repellent is also suggested. The Observatory is located in a wooded area. A jacket might also be optional.

Miscellaneous

Even though the GRAAA owns and operates the Veen Observatory, it is on private property. We please ask parents to watch their children. It is dark at the observatory, and any running or horseplay could result in unforeseen injuries.

There is a restroom available on the premises, and water for those individuals needing it.

If you have any questions not covered here or online, please direct them to graaa@graaa.org