

Enchanted Skies Star Party <http://enchantedskies.org>

October 14-17, 2009 | Socorro, New Mexico, USA

*More events may be scheduled in the future.
Subject to change without notice, so check back before making final plans!*

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

- 1:00 p.m.**, Welcome to the 16th annual Enchanted Skies Star Party, Etscorn Campus Observatory & El Camino Real International Heritage Center.
- 1:15 p.m.**, Presentation: "Solar System Ambassador," Kevin Koski, Etscorn Campus Observatory.
- 3:00 p.m.**, **Mandatory** Meeting for all participants planning to go to South Baldy, Etscorn Campus Observatory.
- 5:00 p.m.**, Observing at 10,000 Feet -- atop Socorro County's South Baldy peak. Convoy leaves Etscorn Campus Observatory. See our 'About' page for more information.
- 8:00 p.m.**, Observing at El Camino Real Dark Sky Site, Observing at the Etscorn Campus Observatory.

Thursday, October 15, 2009

- 1:00 p.m.**, Insider's Tour of the National Science Foundation's Very Large Array Radio Telescope. Tour begins at the VLA site, 50 miles West of Socorro.
- 2:30 p.m.**, Lecture: "Alien Fauna of New Mexico," Dave Thomas, New Mexicans for Science and Reason, Etscorn Campus Observatory.
- 3:45 p.m.**, Lecture: "Relativity for Regular Folks," Dave Thomas, New Mexicans for Science and Reason, Etscorn Campus Observatory.
- 5:30 p.m.**, Depart Socorro for Field Trip and Tour to U.S. Air Force GEODSS deep-space surveillance facility at White Sands Missile Range. From Socorro, we proceed to San Antonio, NM, then convoy through Stallion Gate to the GEODSS site. Return to Socorro by ~10:00 p.m.

NOTE: Participants taking this tour must provide their names and Social Security numbers in advance upon registering for the star party.
- 8:00 p.m.**, Observing at El Camino Real Dark Sky Site, Observing at the Etscorn Campus Observatory.

Friday, October 16, 2009

- 1:00 p.m.**, Lecture: "Frontiere Science," Dail Frail, NRAO, Etscorn Campus Observatory.
- 2:00 p.m.**, Lecture: "Introduction to Galaxies," Jason Speights, NMT Physics, Etscorn Campus Observatory.
- 3:00 p.m.**, **WORKSHOP**: "Telescope Engineering," Barry Spletzer.
- 07:00 p.m.**, **Keynote Lecture**: NASA Astronaut Dr. John Grunsfeld, STS - 125 Hubble Space Telescope Servicing Mission Specialist. New Mexico Tech's Fidel Center Ballroom
- 8:30 p.m.**, Observing at El Camino Real Dark Sky Site, Observing at the Etscorn Campus Observatory.
- 8:30 p.m.**, Lecture: "Beginning Amateur Astronomy," Jason Speights, NMT Physics, Etscorn Campus Observatory.
- 9:00 p.m.**, Bill Spargo Memorial Lecture: "Learning the Constellations," G.B. Cornucopia, U.S. National Park Service.

Saturday, October 17, 2009

- 1:00 p.m.**, Lecture: "A General History of the El Camino Real," Paul Harden, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, El Camino Real International Heritage Center
- 3:00 p.m.**, Lecture: Secret Rainbows: How do we know what stars and nebululae are made of? A combination lecture and hands on workshop about the nature of light. Lisa Foley, IRIS/PASSCAL.
- 5:00 p.m.**, Dinner is Served! Saturday Night chuck-wagon dinner at El Camino Real International Heritage Center. Southwestern music fitting of a chuck-wagon dinner will be performed live by Doug Figgs.
- 7:00 p.m.**, Campfire Lecture: "Sky Stories of Ancient America," G. B. Cornucopia, U.S. National Park Service, El Camino Real International Heritage Center.

Stay for observing at the El Camino Real International Heritage Center after the Campfire Lecture!

Throughout the Star Party:

- Nightly observing from the Etscorn Campus Observatory (just outside Socorro)
- Nightly observing from the El Camino Real International Heritage Center (~ 30 miles south of Socorro)
- Drawings for numerous door prizes, including Thursday-night Early-Bird drawings for early arrivals.
- Solar observing.