

Become an AAAP member and help support the promotion of astronomy education in southwestern Pennsylvania. Membership dues help to support the costs of operating and maintaining both observatories.

**The AAAP has an observatory located in Deer Lakes Regional Park near Russellton, PA in the northeast corner of Allegheny County.**

### **Nicholas E. Wagman Observatory**

**Latitude: 40.627 Degrees,  
Longitude: 79.813 degrees  
Phone: 724-224-2510**

#### **2017 Star Party Schedule for Wagman Observatory**

**May 31 & Apr 1**

**May 5 & 6**

**June 2 & 3**

**July 28 & 29**

**Aug 25 & 26**

**Sept 9 (Moonrise)**

**Sept 23**

**Oct 7 & Oct 28**

**Nov 4**

Check the website [www.3ap.org](http://www.3ap.org) for driving directions to the Wagman Observatory

#### **General Tips for Driving to Star Parties**

- Drive during daylight when possible to help spot landmarks
- Drive slowly and carefully - Watch for wildlife as both observatories are located within parks.

### **About Mingo Creek Park Observatory:**

The observatory is located in Mingo Creek County Park, Nottingham Township in the northeast section of Washington County about 10 miles east of Washington, PA. The park is located off Route 88 or Route 136 with easy access off Interstate 43. Inside the park the observatory is at the end of Mansion Hill Extension Road across from the Henry Covered Bridge on the top of the hill past Shelter 10.

The observatory houses two permanently mounted telescopes and a planetarium. The refractor telescope has a Lunt solar scope for solar observing, opening up daytime activity. The Richard Y. Haddad Planetarium, with a 20 ft. digital planetarium dome displays the night sky indoors and is utilized for special presentations and astronomy lectures.

**Latitude: 40.211 degrees**

**Longitude: 80.020 degrees**

**Phone: 724-348-6150**

**For more information on AAAP activities and memberships:**

**Mail:** AAAP, P.O. Box 314, Glenshaw, PA 15116

**Email:** [aaap@3ap.org](mailto:aaap@3ap.org)

**Check the website at [www.3ap.org](http://www.3ap.org)**

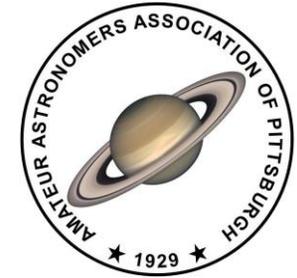
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**NOTE:** There is no running water at the observatory. There is an outdoor handicap accessible restroom. Food and beverages are not available at the observatory. Smoking is not permitted as it will foul the optics on telescopes both in the observatory and on the grounds.

# **Star Party**

**Hosted by the**

**Amateur Astronomers  
Association of Pittsburgh**



**At the**

**Mingo Creek Park Observatory**



### **2017 Star Party Schedule**

**April 21 & 22**

**May 19 & 20**

**June 23 & 24**

**July 14 & 15**

**Aug 11 & 12**

**Sept 15 & 16**

**Oct 14 & Oct 28**

**Nov 11 Bundle-up**

## What is a Star Party?

### Star Parties are:

Free to the Public! (Donations are greatly appreciated though.)

A wonderful family activity and it's educational too!

### A Star Party is an opportunity to...

- Observe various night sky objects through the telescopes with the guidance of knowledgeable amateurs to answer your questions.
- Attend a presentation in the planetarium and learn about different topics related to astronomy.
- Participate in a night sky tour given by one of our members.
- Talk with members who have set up their personal telescopes around the observatory to learn more about astronomy in general and about their particular telescopes.
- Get help with your own telescope.

### What do I bring to a Star Party?

- Bring appropriate layers for the weather. It can get cold even on summer nights. Head cover, gloves and an extra coat are always a good idea.
- Something to drink, either hot or cold, once again depending on the weather
- A blanket or folding chair to help relieve any neck or back strain
- Your curiosity and questions

## Telescopes and the Planetarium at Mingo Creek Park Observatory



### 24" Ritchey-Chretien Reflector Telescope

Enjoy stunning views of deep-sky objects like galaxies, nebula, star clusters, comets and super novae.

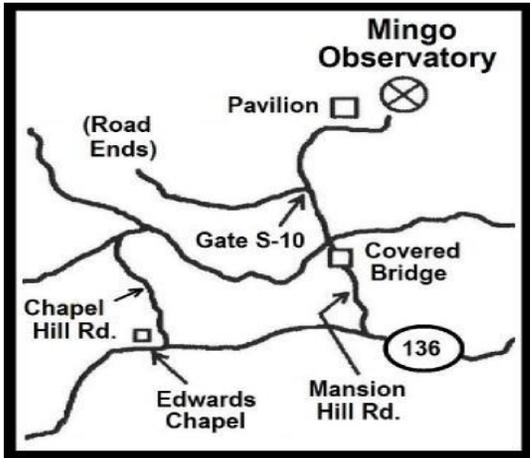
### 10" D&G Refractor with 4" Lunt Solar Telescope

Observe sharp images of the Moon, planets, double and multiple stars as well as globular clusters. Observe the Sun safely on the attached Lunt.



### Richard Y. Haddad Planetarium

Learn about astronomy with sky shows and special speakers and astronomy presentations. The planetarium will operate during Star Party nights regardless of the weather.



### How do I get to Mingo Creek Park Observatory?

**From the North:** Take exit 9 off I-79 South. Follow Route 519 south to Route 136 where you'll go left. Go approximately 6 miles and look for "Mingo Creek County Park" signs. Turn left onto Sichi Hill Road. At the bottom of the hill bear right and take the next right into the park. Follow the park signs to Shelter 10 and the Observatory

**From the South:** Take I-79 North to I-70 East. Follow directions below for East and West.

**From the East and West:** Take I-70 to Interstate 43 North. Take Monongahela Exit 44 and head west on Route 136 toward Washington. Go about 1.3 miles and turn right on Mansion Hill Road. Go through the Henry Covered Bridge and cross the road to go up the hill toward Shelter 10. Continue past Shelter 10. The observatory is on top of the hill.

**Tip:** Find the best directions from your location to Mingo Creek County Park. Once inside the park follow the park signs to the Observatory.