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New York Based Astronomy Club Announces Dates for It's Annual Summer Star Party

10-Day Observing Event, the Longest Star Party in the United States, is Being Held July 29 - August 7, 2016 in the Berkshire Mountains of Northwestern Massachusetts.

Suffern, New York – Rockland Astronomy Club, Inc. (RAC), a non-profit astronomy education and outreach organization, announced dates for it's well-known observing and camping vacation, the Summer Star Party (SSP). The annual event is in it's 26th year and is held at the Peppermint Park Camping Resort, Plainfield, Massachusetts, in the Berkshire Mountains. SSP2016 is open to both club members and the general public, all of whom can enjoy dark sky and solar observing for a few or all of the ten days.

SSP is designed to meet the needs of many types of astronomy enthusiasts, both the individual and the family, the seasoned astro-photographer and the beginner. Everything at the event site allows for maximum enjoyment of the area's pristine dark skies and arching Milky Way. The facilities and camping grounds include on-site food service, free WI-FI, an in-ground swimming pool and hot tub, new kid's playground, and lodge with fireplace for relaxation. There are numerous picturesque local attractions to occupy attendees during the daylight hours, and non-campers can choose from many available lodging options.

SSP is sponsored by *Sky & Telescope* magazine, which hosts a live guided sky tour by *S&T Chief Editor* Alan MacRobert as well as popular observing and equipment oriented lectures. Additional lectures will be given by renowned optical designer Al Nagler, among others.

SSP Manager and longtime RAC Board Member Jose Alvira recently stated: "The Rockland Astronomy Club strives to make the event even more memorable each year by featuring a crowd pleasing opening festival with live music and a sky lantern launch; a special chicken barbeque, raffle tickets for valuable prizes, unlimited coffee every night and free daily continental breakfast. Each year we bring a 80" LED TV to the site for the lectures and a daily astronomy matinees. On non-observing nights, classic sci-fi movies are shown in our heated club tent theater on a giant ten wide foot screen. We also provide activities for children and wonderful astronomy prizes."

The Rockland Astronomy Club, Inc., founded in 1958, is one of the east coast's premiere astronomy clubs and non-profit astronomy education organizations. In addition to SSP, the club hosts many lectures, workshops, star parties, planetarium shows, children's programs, and science, space, and astronomy events, including the famous Northeast Astronomy Forum (NEAF), the Northeast Astro Imaging Conference (NEAIC), and the Children's Space & Astronomy Fair (CSAF).

To register for the Summer Star Party or for further information about RAC, please visit the club's web site: rocklandastronomy.com/ssp