

Offered Title: 2019: Things to Do

2018 is in the can and on the shelf. Whew! I'm looking forward to an astronomically eventful 2019!

Some suggested activities:

Most dear to my heart is *Astronomy Night at Tye Preston Memorial Library* (TPML) in Canyon Lake. TPML is one of only a few libraries in the US with its own observatory. TPML hosts Astronomy Night, with volunteers from the New Braunfels Astronomy Club (NBAC). Along with TPML's observatory, members from NBAC set up their own telescopes, giving attendees a variety of observing experiences.

There will be two special TPML Astronomy Night events in 2019. A "Sun Party" during the day, allowing guests to observe our nearest star up close, and a "Moon Party" during International Observe the Moon Night.

Bear in mind, Astronomy Night is subject to weather conditions. If it's clear enough, we will present a half-hour orientation in the library and then go to the observatory. If conditions do not permit outdoor observing, we will provide the orientation plus a presentation. Check out tpml.org for information.

TPML's Astronomy Night schedule for 2019:

January 26, 7-9 pm; February 23, 7:30-9:30 pm; March 23, 8:30-10:30 pm; April 27, 8:30-10:30 pm; May 18, 2-4 pm (Sun Party); No Astronomy Night in June-July-August; September 21, 8:30-10:30; October 5, 7:30-9:30 (Moon Party – International Observe the Moon Night); November 16, 6:30-8:30; December 14, 6:30-8:30.

The Texas Star Party, held at the Prude Ranch near Fort Davis, TX will be held on April 28 – May 5 in 2019. There are accommodations on site or in Fort Davis, space for parking your R-V, or tent camping. For information go to texasstarparty.org or TSP on Facebook.

McDonald Observatory is a destination, again, near Fort Davis. They offer Daytime Passes, Tours, Solar Viewing, Twilight Programs, and Star Parties. McDonald Observatory star parties are very popular and can be big events. They usually have 8-10 telescopes set up outside, and an orientation about the night's viewing. It's all very well organized, informational, and fun. For more information – mcdonaldobservatory.org

Texas Parks and Wildlife has astronomy/stargazing programs throughout the year including basic astronomy, Full Moon Hikes, Star Parties, Solar Viewing, and more. Check out tpwd.texas.gov for more information.

Your local club, the *New Braunfels Astronomy Club* welcomes you. We meet on the third Thursday of each month (no meeting in December) in TJ's Burgers (loop 337 near business IH-35) meeting room, at 7 pm. We are a casual group, we like to talk about and learn about astronomy and other stuff. Come join the fun! Check out astronomynbtx.org for information.

What's in the Sky?

Comet 46P/Wirtanen has been getting press. It shines at 7th magnitude, too dim for naked eye viewing but within binocular view. It can be found by following a line south from the bottom two stars of the Big Dipper's cup for about 20 degrees. Look for a smudge, short fan tail, maybe a hint of green in telescopes 10 inches or larger.