

Club Members-Only Star Gaze at Grassland Mountain Observatory August 6 or 7, 2021 (Friday or Saturday)

The Astronomy Club of Asheville's "**members-only**" star gaze at [Grassland Mtn. Observatory](#) (GMO) is quickly approaching. It's scheduled for the nights of August 6 or 7, 2021 (Friday or Saturday) -- the first clear and acceptable night of the two. **This is a members-only event – only paid members and their immediate family are invited to attend. We will post the weather call on the afternoon of the star gaze to the club's [website home page](#).** We will also send out a weather decision via the club membership e-mail list – so check your e-mail.

Find the [directions to GMO here](#), and please use them – as mobile map programs frequently take you the wrong way. The observatory is about a 50-minute ride from downtown Asheville. **A required, temporary access gate code will be sent out to all members on the day of the event – so check your e-mail.**

GMO is a beautiful, special, dark-sky location for observing the night sky. After sunset in early August, we should observe 4 planets – Mars and Venus during twilight and Jupiter and Saturn (both near opposition) after 10:00 p.m. We should be able to also observe some galaxies, nebulae, binary stars, and star clusters. On these dark nights, the band of our Milky Way Galaxy should be easily visible. Because we will be within a week of the Perseid Meteor Shower peak, we should see some "shooting stars".

Sunset is about 8:29 p.m. on these dates; so, arrive by 8:10 p.m. to watch it, and possibly the [Belt of Venus](#). The views up there are quite spectacular both day and night. You may bring food and drinks. There are bathrooms at the observatory site. If you have binoculars or a telescope, please bring them along. You may set up a telescope on one of the 2 large observing pads that now have electric outlets, if needed.

Dress warmly on the night of the observing session, as it is cooler up at 4100 feet.

We request that only fully-vaccinated members be permitted to attend the star gaze.