

GREEN BANK SCIENCE CENTER

West Virginia's Space Place

*Get close to some of the
world's biggest telescopes and
enjoy fun, hands-on learning
about the incredible
space science
we do!*

www.nrao.edu/VisitGB

304-456-2150

Check out the Green Bank Science Center
on Facebook for updated events & specials!



National Radio
Astronomy
Observatory



**West Virginia's
Space Place**

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PAID
PERMIT NO. 1



Planning Your Visit

Every day
reveals
exciting
discoveries.

Science Center & Tour Hours

May 26 – Sept 3, 2012

Open Daily; 8:30am-7:00pm
Tours Hourly 9:00am-6:00pm

Sept 4 – Oct 31, 2012

Open Thursday-Monday; 8:30am-7:00pm
Tours Hourly 9:00am-6:00pm

Nov 1, 2012 – May 24, 2013

Open Thursday-Monday; 10:00am-6:00pm
Tours 11:00am, 1:00pm & 3:00pm

**Closed: Thanksgiving Day, Friday after Thanksgiving,
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve,
New Years Day, and Easter Sunday*

Rates

Adult Pass (Ages 13-64)	\$6.00
Youth Pass (Ages 7-12)	\$3.50
Children (6 & Under)	Free
Senior Pass (65 & Up)	\$5.00

*Pocahontas County residents
receive \$1 off regular rates.*



Green Bank Science Center

The Green Bank Science Center is the starting point for your guided tour of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) site. Your personal guide will introduce you to the fascinating world of radio astronomy featuring science demonstrations and a short film about the world-class Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT). Your tour continues with a bus excursion through our gates into the RFI-restricted Zone I for an up-close look at our telescopes from the pioneering instruments of the 1950s to the world's largest fully-steerable telescope, the GBT.

Your visit doesn't end with the tour. Plan to enjoy interactive exhibits and displays in our exhibit hall where you will discover what radio astronomers are learning about the universe. Admission to our exhibit hall is free and kid-friendly. Browse the Galaxy Gift Shop which features unique educational gifts and souvenirs. We are proud to be an Orion Telescope Dealer. Before you leave, don't forget to have a bite to eat at the Star Light Café.



Organized Group Tours

Motor Coach groups are welcome. Tours can be scheduled any day of the week. For your convenience, and to guarantee a guided tour, please make advance reservations. A \$3 fee per person is required for motor coach tours. Group meals also available.

School and scout groups are welcome. Tours can be scheduled any day of the week. We can tailor a program to your group. Tour reservations are free for organized school and scout groups, but please call in advance to make tour arrangements.

Informal groups are welcome. If your group is traveling by car, we will incorporate your group into the regularly scheduled public tours. If you have a group of 20 or more people, we appreciate knowing in advance.



For additional group details and reservations, contact the Green Bank NRAO tour director by calling (304) 456-2164 or email gbt-tours@nrao.edu.

GREEN BANK SCIENCE CENTER 2012 EVENT CALENDAR



In addition to the great day to day exhibits and public tours, the Green Bank Science Center offers additional enhanced learning activities every month. All events and activities take place at the Green Bank Science Center. Colored boxes indicate event type and day.

Monthly Star Party & Themed Activities

Star viewing begins at dusk, but the fun starts with monthly themed activities at 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Free for everyone. No reservations required.

Join NRAO staff members on the Star Party Patio for evening observing with optical telescopes. Themed activities will last 30 to 60 minutes. Cloudy skies will cancel night sky viewing.



High Tech Thursdays

November through May

2nd Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m.

June through October

2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m.

\$3 per person; reservations required.

Join us for a guided tour through restricted areas, like labs where sensitive receivers are designed and built. Each tour is limited to 15 participants and lasts approximately 1 hour.



Star Lab Fridays

Every Friday at 2:00 p.m.

\$3 per person; reservations required.

Guests will gather under a planetarium balloon for a fascinating look at the night sky.

Space is limited to 15 participants per program.

Time: approximately 1 hour.



Family Science Day

Free for everyone. No reservations required.

10am-12pm: 4/21, 6/30, 9/23, 11/10 & 1/12

Spend your Saturday mornings with NRAO staff as they guide kids of all ages through fun-filled, hands-on science projects. We provide the materials and feature themes in physics, engineering, astronomy and chemistry! Family Science Day 9/23 is our all-day Open House Festival edition!

For event reservations call: 304-456-2150

Dates subject to change without notice.

April 2012						
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July 2012						
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October 2012						
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January 2013						
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May 2012						
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August 2012						
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November 2012						
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June 2012						
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September 2012						
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December 2012						
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March 2013						
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PLEASE NOTE: The Green Bank Science Center is closed on the days that are colored gray. Please check calendar and Science Center website, www.nrao.edu/VisitGB, before planning your visit.

Star Quest • June 20-23

Join the Largest Optical & Radio Star Party in the Nation!

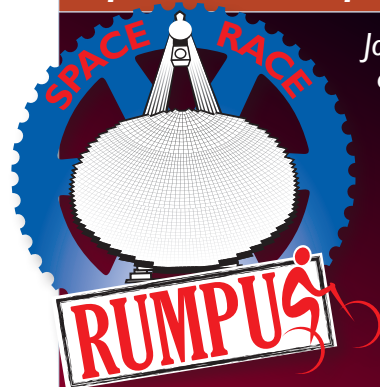
Enjoy optical and radio astronomy presentations, hands-on workshops and dark West Virginia skies. Learn to use a radio telescope! Fun activities for children too! The Green Bank Star Quest is sponsored by the Central Appalachian Astronomy Club.



For more information visit www.greenbankstarquest.org



Space Race Rumpus • June 15-17



Join us for a weekend-long cycling festival, where experts will guide you in fun mountain and road rides. Whether you are an experienced mountain biker or complete novice, there will be rides, races and cycling clinics for all ages and levels. The Rumpus also features star parties, bonfires, on-site camping and live music all three days! Proceeds benefit the construction of a community wellness center!

Registration is required!

Find out more information at www.gb.nrao.edu/rumpus.



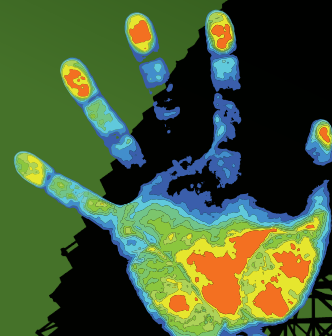
Open House • September 23

Green Bank Open House & Family Science Day
September 23 • 1 – 5pm

Free Event! No reservations required.



Where else can you... build and launch a rocket, test your engineering skills, play with liquid nitrogen, do fun science experiments, safely view the sun, and see some of the biggest telescopes in the whole world ALL IN ONE DAY? Public site tours will be available as well as rare peaks into the control room of the world's largest fully-steerable telescope!



Turkey Trot • Nov 23

Green Bank Turkey Trot

Race starts at 1pm. Registration required.

Eat too much? You'll enjoy your punkin' pie a whole lot more if you run or walk the annual 5K Green Bank Turkey Trot. It's for a good cause, too! The annual race affords spectacular views of some of the world's largest telescopes.

Proceeds benefit the Pocahontas County High School Track Team and the William Dilley Scholarship Fund.



Registration is required!
More information at www.iplayoutside.com



Train Ride to the Stars • Sep 15

Board the Cheat Mountain Salamander Train for a night-time excursion from Cheat Mountain Bridge to Lanam for a one-of-a-kind Star Party event! Staff from NRAO will guide you through a tour of the night sky with optical telescopes. Campfire and s'mores! Bring a camping chair, flashlight and jacket for this astronomical adventure.

Tickets available at
mountainrailwv.com



Educational Field Trips

NRAO offers day field trips as well as overnight field trips for students K-16, Boy and Girl Scouts and clubs. Overnight students experience science first hand by completing research projects with a real radio telescope. Scouts can earn astronomy merit badges! More than just a tour, a field trip to the NRAO might just inspire your students to join the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Tours and activities free for organized school and Scout groups. **Registration is Required!**



For more information please visit www.gb.nrao.edu/epo/fieldtrip.shtml

For event reservations call: 304-456-2150

Galaxy Gift Shop

The Galaxy Gift Shop offers a wide range of unique t-shirts and logo apparel & items, an assortment of science & astronomy books, star charts, science kits and educational toys. Celestial themed marbles, jewelry and hand-blown WV glass ornaments are just a few of the custom items guests will find in the gift shop. The Galaxy Gift Shop also features ORION telescopes, accessories and products.



Contact the Galaxy Gift Shop: **304-456-2151**

Starlight Cafe

The Starlight Cafe offers deli sandwiches & wraps, salads, hot dogs & burgers, nachos & soft pretzels, soft-serve ice cream treats and an assortment of snack foods.

Take advantage of our special menu and pricing for groups of 20 or more! Two week advance notice required. Contact our cafe manager for more information.

Starlight Cafe is open:

Winter & Spring Hours	11am – 6pm	Thurs. – Mon.
Summer Hours	11am – 7pm	Daily
Fall Hours	11am – 7pm	Thurs. – Mon.

Contact Starlight Cafe:
304-456-2361
twarder@nrao.edu





Visit the Green Bank Telescope

National Radio Astronomy Observatory

GBT Fast Facts

- Working both day and night, the telescope helps us learn about stars, galaxies and other objects in the Universe by collecting the radio waves they emit.
- The telescope is 485ft (148m) tall - taller than the Statue of Liberty and nearly as tall as the Washington Monument.
- It weighs 17 million lbs (7.7 million kg) - as much as 20 fully loaded Boeing 747s.
- Despite its weight, the GBT can be pointed with an accuracy of one arcsecond. That's equivalent to the width of a human hair seen from 66 feet (20m) away.
- The GBT's surface is made up of 2004 metal panels, and is almost 2.3 acres (8000m²) the same size of two football fields.
- The telescope is designed to handle a great range of wave-lengths from 9ft (3m) long down to 1/8th inch (3mm).
- The telescope only receives signals from space, never sends them.



GPS coordinates

38d-25'-48.2"N
79d-49'-03.93"W



The National Radio Astronomy Observatory Green Bank is located in Pocahontas County on Route 92/28 about 25 miles north of Marlinton, 53 miles south of Elkins, and 65 miles west of Staunton, VA.

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc.