**2024 Dark Sky Event Calendar – Rappahannock County Park**

RCRFA will open the park a total of nine (9) evenings during 2024 during which the public can come and observe the night skies (nominally once a month during the warmer months). These are listed below. The ‘New Moon’ dates have been chosen to provide dark moonless nights for observations. The “FULL Moon” date has been chosen to allow a nearly full moon to be observed above the trees in the park.

RLEP will provide a minimum of four (4) night skies event programs in 2024 to be scheduled on four of the nine evenings as indicated in blue text. Proposed event dates and start times are shown.

5 days after New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening**: Sat. Apr. 13 (Sunset 7:47 pm)

3 days after New Moon:

1. **Dark Sky Event: Sat. May 11, 8:15 pm – (Sunset 8:14 pm)**

2 days after New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening**: Sat. June 8, (Sunset 8:35 pm)

1 day after New Moon:

1. **Dark Sky Event: Sat. July 6, 8:30 pm – (Sunset 8:39 pm)**

1 day before New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening**: Sat. Aug. 3, (Sunset 8:20 pm)

2 days before FULL Moon:

1. **Dark Sky Event: Sat. Aug. 17, 8:00 pm – (Sunset 8:03 pm)**

4 days after New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening**: Sat. Sept. 7, (Sunset 7:32 pm)

3 days after New Moon:

1. **Dark Sky Event: Sat. Oct. 5, 6:45 pm – (Sunset 6:48 pm)**

1 day after New Moon:

1. **Free Observation Evening: Sat. Nov. 2, (Sunset 6:10 pm)**

Celestial Events

Partial (88%) Solar Eclipse: April 8 (2:02 pm – 4:31 pm)

Lyrids Meteor Shower: April 16-25

Perseid Meteor Shower: Aug. 11-13

Partial Lunar Eclipse: September 17 (10:12 pm – 11:15 pm)

Orionid Meteor Shower: Sept. 26 – Nov. 22 (peak on Oct. 20/21 with waning gibbous moon)

Geminid Meteor Shower: Dec. 4-17 (peak on Dec. 14 with nearly full moon)