

Exploring the Sky-2018

National Capital Astronomers / National Park Service

7 April	9:00 P.M.	Orion nebula, Beehive cluster
5 May	9:00 P.M.	Jupiter, Beehive cluster
2 June	9:00 P.M.	Jupiter, M13
14 July	9:00 P.M.	Jupiter, Saturn, M13
11 August	8:30 P.M.	Jupiter, Saturn, M13
1 September	8:00 P.M.	Jupiter, Saturn, Mars
6 October	7:30 P.M.	Saturn, Mars
17 November	7:00 P.M.	Saturn, Mars, Uranus, Moon

Exploring the Sky is a joint public observing program between the National Capital Astronomers and the National Park Service. We have been holding these sessions for almost 70 years. We supply the telescopes and you supply the eyes. We meet in the field just south of the intersection of Military and Glover Roads, NW, near the Rock Creek Park Nature Center. A parking lot is located next to the field. The sessions will be canceled in the event of rain or cloudy skies.

Although this is not an optimal observing site, many of the objects people are interested in looking at are visible. At times we can see some of the planets, double stars, open clusters, globular clusters, the occasional comet or asteroid, nebulae and fuzzy galaxies. The latter two will never look like the magazine pictures!

More information can be found at NCA's web site, www.capitalastronomers.org or the Rock Creek Park web site, www.nps.gov/rocr/planyourvisit/expsky.htm. You can also call the Nature Center at (202) 895-6070. For general information on local astronomical events visit www.astronomyindc.org.

