



RocheStar Fest 2025

August 15 – 17, 2025, Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, Ionia, NY

Featured Speaker – Larry McHenry: "Planetary Nebula: From Messier to Abell (What are they, and How to Observe Them)". Planetary Nebula: Colorful ephemeral ghosts, luminescent wispy shells of dying stars. Little crystal ball gems in the night sky, delighting amateur astronomers using small or large telescopes. So today, we are going to bring these ethereal objects 'down to Earth' by discussing what they are, why we call them that, some of the people, both historical and modern, behind these objects, and how to go about observing them. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania resident Larry McHenry has been active in amateur astronomy

for over 40 years, and is a member of the Kiski Astronomers, and the Oil Region Astronomical Society (ORAS), both in Western Pennsylvania. One of Larry's favorite astronomical activities is learning about the historical forefathers of today's amateur astronomers, and EAA observing their deep-sky objects. You can learn more about Larry's astronomical interests online at his web portal: <http://www.stellar-journeys.org>

The Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science (ASRAS) will hold the 28th annual RocheStar Fest on August 15th to August 16th. This weekend-long event features astronomy, lectures, demonstrations, and camping at ASRAS's Ionia, NY observing grounds. A picnic dinner will be held on Saturday. Door prizes and a silent auction add to the fun. Proceeds benefit ASRAS, a non-profit organization devoted to education and public outreach in the fields of astronomy and space sciences. Camping arrangements are available at no charge, tents and small campers permitted. These are primitive camping sites - no electric hookups, water hookups, or showers are available. No pets or ground fires are allowed.

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 15th	6:00 pm	Arrival for camping, Astro-Jeopardy and music trivia contest (rain or shine), observing (beginning at dark, weather permitting)
Saturday, August 16th	11:00 am	Registration begins – pick up Door Prize tickets at Registration table; <u>hot dogs will be available for purchase or bring your own lunch</u> , drinks available at modest cost
	1:00 – 4:30 pm	Talks, Demonstrations, & Experiments – Contact Lori Englund (lenglund175@gmail.com) to get your talk or demonstration on the schedule
	1:00 – 5:00 pm	Silent auction, door prizes
	4:30 pm	Members Reception (bring appetizers to share if you'd like)
	5:15 pm	Door Prizes followed by group photo
	6:00 pm	Barbeque Dinner at Ionia Volunteer Firehouse Beef brisket, pulled pork, smoked turkey, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, pasta salad, and veggies. Bring your signature dish or dessert if you'd like.
	8:00 pm	Featured speaker: Larry McHenry, "Planetary Nebula: From Messier to Abell (What are they, and How to Observe Them)" Observing to follow, weather permitting
Sunday, August 17th	10:00 am - Noon	Cleanup (breakfast at 9:00 am)

For general information, program ideas, and offers to help, contact *Lori Englund* at (585) 820-5012. If you can donate a door prize, contact *Mark Minarich* at (585) 261-5666. For camping arrangements, contact *Roger McDonough* at (585) 519-9121

Check out all the other ASRAS summer activities, at www.rocheasterastronomy.org!!



Registration due by Friday, August 9, 2025

Day of registrations will be accepted: dinner purchases available but not guaranteed

Complete and mail this form with your payment (checks made out to ASRAS) to
Lori Englund, Attn: RocheStar Fest Registration, P.O. Box 20292 Rochester, NY 14602

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address (optional): _____

Number of adults attending: _____

Number of children attending (under 12): _____

Total number attending: _____

Camping? Yes No (Tents and small campers allowed; no hookups are available.)

Early-Bird Event Fee: \$15 for individuals or \$25 for families Amount due \$ _____

Dinners: Number of adult dinners: _____ x \$10 \$ _____

Children 6 thru 12 (5 and under FREE) _____ x \$5 \$ _____

Children 5 and under _____ free **Registration Total** \$ _____

Day of Registration Fees:
(August 16, 2025)

Individual: \$20

Family: \$30