The 2010 Winter Star Party©
Southern Cross Astronomical Society, Inc.

DATE: **January 14, 2010**

TO: **All Winter Star Party RV'ers and Campers**

FROM: **Tim Khan, Star Party Director**

SUBJECT: **WSP Rules Adjustments**

Dear Attendees,

The Monroe County Department of Health is requesting two major rule changes for everyone's safety affecting both Campers and RV'ers as follows:

Campers: For those of you that are pitching tents (and including small cargo trailers and pop-ups) spacing of tents is critical this year. We have been advised that each tent is required to have 500 sq. feet of area which would be roughly 22½ foot square plots. So the center-to-center spacing for tents will be made 23 feet. As an example, using a 14'x10' and 8'x8' tent (using the 14' dimension), the space between the tents will be 23'-(14'+8')/2 = 12 feet between the two tents. WSP Staff will mark out and pre-paint center spots for each tent area on the ground to simplify the above requirements. If you do not see a painted ground spot, you cannot setup and will need to seek staff assistance. Anyone not adhering to this mandatory requirement will be asked to move their tent to comply. Furthermore, there is no parking allowed on marked tent plot areas.

We understand that this is a major change in the density particularly in front of the men's bathhouse, but this requirement must be complied with without exception. There is plenty of space to disperse, especially on the west end of the property. Please note that with this rule, at our discretion, we may decide to decrease the 'Berm' area. In the example of the above calculations, 12 feet of space between tents does give ample room to setup scopes within the 500 sq. foot plot space. We strongly urge that you keep your footprint to a minimum, and only use popup canopies for daytime shade, after which they should be collapsed and stowed away.

RV'ers: Second request by the Health Department concerns those with RV's. If you have a leak and/or you do not have a secured cap on your gray/black water waste drain pipe, your RV will not be granted admission to WSP. Health Department cites that they have seen RV's on route and in various campgrounds with damaged and leaking pipes and waste water tanks. Please make sure that your RV does not leak any fluids. Your RV will be inspected before entry and during the week to ensure compliance.

The Health Department this year has indicated to us that they will do a Health and Safety Inspection sometime during WSP. Please do not take these changes lightly; these are zero tolerance rules; we will have no choice but to remove those who do not comply with these rule changes.

Thank you,

Tim Khan, PE
Southern Cross Astronomical Society
Winter Star Party