

Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

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Date

Thanet Astronomy Group

Policy for the use of green lasers

Thanet Astronomy Group Members are expected to adhere to the following rules in pursuance of the Group's objective that astronomers retain the legal right to use green lasers as a legitimate part of their hobby, in a safe and a responsible manner .

The following mandatory rules apply within the boundaries of any and all of Thanet Astronomy Group's property and within the confines of any external event organised by the Group.

Banned categories of green laser and extent of ban:

- Lasers that do not have a fully functional internal IR filter.
- Lasers capable of bursting a balloon with the beam.
- Lasers that do not have a Danger rating sticker as shown alongside.



The Thanet Astronomy Group does not permit the use of the above categories of green lasers on its property, or at any public or private event held under the name of the Group. It is the belief of this Group that the above categories have absolutely no place in the pursuit of star pointing or optical instrument alignment, and that the use of any laser falling into any one or more of those categories constitutes a highly irresponsible act that would bring the Group's good name into disrepute.

Airport's and green lasers:

Any Thanet Astronomy Group event held within a radius of three miles of an active Airport will have a total ban on the use of any green lasers. This will apply to both the public in attendance, and to any and all Thanet Astronomy Group members involved in hosting the event, including the official presenter.

Guidance for use of green lasers at public and private events organised by the Thanet Astronomy Group:

All public and private events organised by the Thanet Astronomy Group will include in any advertising a statement to the effect that the public is not permitted to use green lasers within the confines of the event.

- 1.) The only laser use that is permitted is: (a) one single laser for each official event presenter whilst star pointing, (b) those Thanet Astronomy Group members with optical instruments that are fitted with mounted and collimated lasers that remain attached and have been brought along by an Thanet Astronomy Group member for the benefit of the event, and (c) use by a Thanet Astronomy Group member operating a telescope to indicate at which object the telescope is pointing.

Chairman : Daniel Day – Treasurer : George Ward – Secretary : Gill Palmer
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- 2.) The proper use of a green laser is to point it in the general direction of the object to which attention is to be drawn, switch on and “circle” it at slow speed, with no sudden and rapid sweeping movements, and then to switch off before moving on to the next object. A constantly illuminated green laser flashing across the sky in a “light sabre” fashion is not only unsafe and unprofessional, but encourages the uninitiated attendees into a belief that this is a plaything, and not a serious tool.

- 3.) It is not permitted to allow a green laser beam to fall upon any person, any animal (including birds and other wildlife), any moving vehicle, or any aircraft in flight. Neither should the laser beam fall upon private houses or other buildings, or any other stationary object including vehicles. **Apart from nuisance, it is possible to encounter highly reflective objects in the process, with no control over where the reflected beam will fall**, so the laser should only ever be pointed in an open-sky direction.

Any member of the Thanet Astronomy Group failing to adhere to the above rules as they apply within the jurisdiction of the Group may be deemed to have brought the Group and its members into disrepute. In such a case, the member may be required to appear before the Committee to explain any alleged actions. Repeated failure to appear without reasonable cause may incur sanctions or possible loss of Group membership.

In all these cases, approval for use is only granted upon receipt by the Secretary of this document, duly signed and dated. Receipt of such document will then imply that the signatory understands fully that this is binding for any and all Thanet Astronomy Group events following the date of signature. The secretary will retain the signed document for future reference as evidence of acceptance, should this be required. Retrospective permission will not be allowed.

NAME IN BLOCK CAPITALS:

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I the undersigned agree and state categorically that I have read and fully understand the above rules. I further agree that I will comply with those rules as they pertain to any Thanet Astronomy Group property or any external event hosted by the Group.

SIGNED.....

DATED