



KOPERNIK OBSERVATORY & SCIENCE CENTER

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Friday Night Spring Schedule 2012

\$5 adults; \$3 seniors/students; \$16 family maximum
KOSC Members: no charge

KOSC is open every Friday night, regardless of sky conditions, March through November.

Doors open at 7:30 PM; programs start at 8:00 PM
followed by telescope tours (if cloudy) or viewing (if clear).

February 24-March 9: Close Approach of Mars – CLEAR ONLY VIEWING – special time: 7PM-10PM

The planet Mars is once again at close approach to the Earth. See this intriguing planet up close through Kopernik's powerful telescopes. Please call the observatory at 5pm or check the website for road and sky conditions.

March 2: Earth & Mars – Shoshanna Cole, Cornell University

Learn about the Mars Science Lab named Curiosity, a roving laboratory about the size of a car that is due to arrive on Mars in August 2012. Learn about the similarity and difference of these two planets.

Special Event: Saturday March 3: Marsapoloosa – 6PM

A close Encounter with Mars! Join the celebration as Kopernik takes you on a field trip with Curiosity the newest NASA spacecraft to explore Mars. Kopernik will be one of just a few centers nationwide who will display a life-size model of NASA's Curiosity Rover in our lobby! Telescopes will be open under clear skies to view the Red Planet.

March 9: Mars: The Red Planet – Kopernik Observatory Staff

Why is Mars red? Did you know that Mars once had liquid water flowing on its surface? Learn what we have learned thus far from over thirty years of robotic missions visiting the planet. If clear, see Mars, the majestic Orion Nebula and other deep-sky objects.

March 16 & 23: Climate Change: Will It Ruin Your Day? – Dr. Nicholas Guydosh, NASA Earth Ambassador

Scientists tell us that not only are we in for global climate change, but it may be the result of human activity. Are close we to a "Tipping Point" - the point of no return that can really ruin our day! We will examine the scientific evidence for climate change, and also the controversial issue of human involvement. If clear, see a spectacular conjunction of Venus and Jupiter as they will be as close as 3°.

March 30: UFOs of the Modern Era – James Eggleston, Kopernik Astronomical Society

Examine of the UFO enigma from WWII to the present. Talk will cover a variety of topics such as alien contact, government conspiracy and natural phenomena. This fact-based presentation highlights evidence for and against different UFO cases in a fair and balanced way. We report – you decide! The lights you see in the sky will not be UFOs but a string of planetary bodies: Jupiter, Venus, the Moon, and Mars – very cool sight. If clear, see Venus and Saturn.

April 6 & 13: The Best of Hubble – Tish Bresee, NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador

See the Hubble Space Telescope's most beautiful legacy images; learn about each one and where to find it in the sky. If clear, view the moon and these celestial objects through our telescopes.

Special Events: April 20 & 21: Capt. Daniel Bursch Homecoming – retired astronaut

Meet Capt. Dan Bursch USN (Ret.), Southern Tier native and veteran of four spaceflights. There will be three different events to attend. Hear fantastic stories of spaceflight and see images that are out of this world. Don't miss this exciting and educational events! See our website for schedule/details.

April 27: Exploring Photography – local photographer Steven Appel

Learn about digital photography, lighting, and how to compose shots. Whether portraits, products, people or architecture, see some amazing images of these different genres. After the program, receive tips on how to use your camera so make sure you bring it along! The first quarter moon makes a splendid appearance along with Mars, and Saturn.

May 11: Tigertronics: UE's Competition Robot - Deborah Daugherty: Union-Endicott High School

See behind the scenes look at Union Endicott's Tigertronics Robotic Club. See a robot that can pick up swim rings with an articulated arm. The team is currently working on a robot that throws T-shirts – all in the name of science and engineering!

May 18: Solar Energy – Art Weaver – CEO, Renovus Energy

Clean energy technologies are forever renewable and sustainable. See examples of systems that have been installed in our region for homeowners and businesses. Renovus Energy has designed and installed hundreds of efficient, affordable renewable energy systems for customers throughout New York and northern Pennsylvania. If clear, see Saturn high in the sky and deep-sky objects will be abundant.

May 25: Space Art Exhibition – Local Artist Pete Quiles

Enjoy the wonders of DreamScapes through the acrylic and brush paintings of local artist Peter Quiles. See space art inspired by Hubble Space Telescope and the wonders of human imagination. All paintings are for sale by artist.

Save these Dates:

Transit of Venus: June 5, 2012

RocketFest 2012: Saturday June 9th

Climate Day: Saturday June 16th

