

44th Annual AstroFest Schedule
September 18th and 19th, 2026
Including the International Observe the Moon Night
Admission \$6 (\$4 students and seniors) /day, camping \$10

Friday – September 18

- 2:00 PM **Facility opens to campers** for setup, bathrooms open.
Viewing in yard, both solar and astronomical.
- 2:00 – 5:00 **Solar Viewing hosted by the KAS**, in the Yard (Spectroscope, H-Alpha and white light), in the Domes (Herschel Wedge on 6" Astro Physics Refractor), and in Physics (Heliostat Refractor, dedicated to the memory of the "Legendary Barlow Bob" Godfrey in 2014). Clear only.
- 3:00 **Doors open to public**, facility tours and observing (starting with the Moon, then Venus, followed by the planets Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, and Jupiter). Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, snacks available in Lobby.
- 5:00 – 6:20 **Swap Meet** – buy and sell your treasures (in Earth Science Lab). KOSC used equipment for sale to raise funds for our new equipment.
- 5:30 – 6:00 **Meteorite and Space Shuttle Tile Talk and Demo** – Art Cacciola, KAS.
- 6:30 – 6:50 **Significant Dedication Award to Dr. Nicholas Guidosh**, KAS and KOSC retired.
- 7:00 – 8:00 **Welcome to AstroFest 2026** – Drew Deskur, Executive Director Kopernik Observatory & Science Center. Quilt Raffle Saturday night.
- Mapping the Solar System - Zoe Learner Ponterio, Manager, Spacecraft Planetary Image Facility, Cornell University.**
From trying to comprehend the true scale of space, to navigating spacecraft across the Solar System, to the cartography of non-Earth bodies, we'll explore the challenges and achievements of exploring other worlds using maps.
- 8:00 – **Electronic Assisted Astronomy (EAA) Overview and Update – Keith Werkman, and other KAS members.** It's been another year of learning how to get the most out of the ZWO Seestar and other EAA devices. See what has been accomplished and learn how to make your own astrophotography images. Demo to follow later tonight.
- After the program: **Night Sky Viewing** – in the Domes and in the Yard, demo of the Dwarf and ZWO SeeStar telescopes, Imaging Demo of FLI Camera on 20" OGS RC, Night Sky Laser Tours, hot beverages and snacks available, bathrooms and domes open all night. Demo on setting up and operating an AVX mount on a C-9.25. If cloudy: Movie in Space Science, Lobby closes at Midnight.

Saturday – September 19 IOMN

- 7:30 - 9:00 AM Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, snacks available in Lobby.
- 10:00 – 5:00 **Solar Viewing hosted by Mark and Barb**, in the Yard (Spectroscope, H-Alpha and white light), in the Domes (Herschel Wedge on 6" Astro Physics Refractor), and in Physics (Heliostat Refractor, dedicated to the memory of the "Legendary Barlow Bob" Godfrey in 2014). Clear only.
- 11:00 – 6:00 **Swap Meet** – buy and sell your treasures (in Earth Science Lab). KOSC used equipment for sale to raise funds for our new equipment.
- 12:00- 6:00 **Vendors in Physics Lab**, Dark Sky Exhibit, Facility Tours.
- 12:00 – 12:55 **Lunch** - pre-order lunch, someone will pick it up and deliver it to you at Kopernik.
- 1:00 – 1:55 **Astronomy Clubs Roundtable Discussions – WHO???, KAS, MC – Topic?**
- 2:00 – 2:30 **Meteorite and Space Shuttle Tile Talk and Demo** – Art Cacciola, KAS.
- 5:00 – 6:00 **Dinner Break and Musical Entertainment by Robert Olaf Siegers**. pre-order dinner, someone will pick it up and deliver it to you at Kopernik.
- 6:00 **Quilt Raffle and Door Prize Drawings** – you need not be present to win!
- 7:00 – 7:55 **Welcome to AstroFest 2026 – James Penwell, President of the Kopernik Society**
- International Observe the Moon Night (IOMN) – Tish Bresee, NASA JPL Solar System Ambassador** – Saturday night is International Observe the Moon Night (IOMN)! Join us as we take part in one of over a thousand events around the world celebrating our closest celestial neighbor. Discover the Moon's history, geology, human exploration, and the art it has inspired throughout the ages.
- 8:00 **Keynote Address: Blue Origin Flight and Deepworld – Aaron Newman**, Founder, Exploring Our Deep World - dedicated to education, conservation, scientific research, and exploration of the deep waters of our world. Aarons will tell us about his flight into space onboard the Blue Origin Space Craft.
- After the program: **Night Sky Viewing** – in the Domes and in the Yard, demo of the Dwarf and ZWO SeeStar telescopes, Imaging Demo of FLI Camera on 20" OGS RC, Night Sky Laser Tours, hot beverages and snacks available, bathrooms and domes open all night. Demo on setting up and operating an AVX mount on a C-9.25. If cloudy: Movie in Space Science, Lobby closes at Midnight.

Join the Kopernik Astronomical Society!

To learn more about the Kopernik Astronomical Society come to Kopernik Observatory on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. or check out our website at:

www.kopernikastro.org or email info@kopernik.org