

Heart of America Star Party

June 22-25, 2006

Kansas City is one of the nation's most active astronomy communities. We're home to the Astronomical League - the world's largest amateur astronomy organization and the Astronomical Society of Kansas City (ASKC) - one of our country's largest astronomy clubs.

Early 2005 ASKC acquired 40 acres to develop into a private Dark Sky Site (DSS). Located approximately 75 miles south of Kansas City in the Marais des Cygnes (pronounced Mare des Zeen) River Valley, this pristine site is bordered by the 7200 acre Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area. Rich in history, the region was well known to the French trappers in the early 1800's who observed large flocks of swan (Cygnes). Later, the 2nd largest single day calvary battle of the Civil War was fought at nearby Mine Creek. A first class museum is located on the battlefield for tours. Butler, MO, approximately 15 miles to the east has hotels, restaurants and a beautiful aquatics center, including swimming pools and showers for the family.

DSS is a private astronomy site encompassing 40 acres. Plenty of room for tents, trailers, and RVs. Porta potties will be available. Please bring your own drinking water. We plan to have electricity installed by Star Party time. Electricity will be provided on a first come, first serve basis for astronomical equipment.

Want to see a panoramic view of DSS?

Visit ASKC's website: www.askconline.org/darkskysite.htm

City of Butler, MO website with aquatics center picture:

www.ci.butler.mo.us

Mine Creek Museum:

www.civillwaralbum.com

MAP:



Activities:

Beginners Field School – We will have a one hour class both in the morning and the evening (after dark). We teach fundamental astronomy to beginning astronomers of all ages. Several experienced astronomers will be on hand to help you locate planets, galaxies, exploding stars, etc. in the evening. No charge.

Observing Challenge – We'll publish a list of challenge objects for all levels of proficiency.

Registration Form:

Registrant: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____

Pre-Registration Fees – Save \$10.00

(Post Marked on or before June 8)

Adults: \$35.00 (x) _____ people = \$ _____

Ages 18 and under – Free

On-site Registration Fees – (After June 8th)

Adult (\$45.00) (x) _____ people = \$ _____

Ages 18 and under - \$10.00

(x) _____ people = \$ _____

NO Refunds after June 8th

Meals:

Thursday Dinner (\$5.00) x # of people _____ = \$ _____
(Hamburger or brat, baked beans, chips and drink)

Friday Brunch (\$6.00) x # of people _____ = \$ _____
(Biscuits and gravy, eggs, fruit, sandwich and drink)

Friday Dinner (\$8.00) x # of people _____ = \$ _____
(Fish, potato salad, coleslaw, cake and drink)

Saturday Brunch (\$6.00) x # of people _____ = \$ _____
(Cereal, milk, breakfast burrito, fresh fruit, sandwich and drink)

Saturday Dinner (\$8.00) x # of people _____ = \$ _____
(Star-BQ- boneless chicken breast, baked potato, corn on the cob, roll, cake and drink)

Sunday Breakfast (FREE!) x # of people _____ = \$ _____
(Cereal, milk, juice, fruit)

Total Meals \$ _____

Electricity – (FREE - telescope equipment, laptops only! First come, first serve.)

Total Registration and meals \$ _____

Make Checks payable to ASKC and mail promptly to:

Heart of America Star Party
c/o Paul Thompson
15285 Newton
Overland Park, KS 66223

Questions:

Dan Johnson – Co-chairman 913-897-0235
gdi102356@hotmail.com

Paul Thompson – Co-chairman 913-685-1374
pjtom@highstream.net

Tentative Schedule:

Thursday- Registration and check-in beginning 12:00 p.m.
Dinner – 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Friday- Brunch – 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Beginners Field School – 11:00-12:00 p.m.
Dinner & Door Prize Giveaway – 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Speaker (TBA) – 7:30 p.m.
Beginners Field School – 10:00-11:00 p.m.

Saturday- Brunch – 10:00-11:00 a.m.
Beginners Field School – 11:00-12:00 p.m.
Dinner & Door Prize Giveaway – 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Swap Meet – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Speaker (TBA) – 7:30 p.m.
Beginners Field School – 10:00-11:00 p.m.

Sunday- Breakfast – 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Check-out – 12:00 p.m.

Accommodations:

For those who prefer a roof over their head, we suggest these locations:

City of Butler:

- 1) **Super 8 Motel** – Jct. 52 and 71 Highway
Phone: 660-679-6183 or 1-800-800-8000
Single: \$45.00 **Double:** \$53.00
- 2) **Days Inn-** 100 Fran Avenue (just east of Conoco)
Phone: 660-679-4544 Has outdoor pool.
Single: \$56.00 **Double:** \$60.00

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Presented by: ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY of KANSAS CITY