

2025 Hyman Rim Ranch Star Party

2025.09.18 – 2025.09.22

Event Basic Information

Dates/Times

- Sep 18th – Sep 21nd (Thursday – Monday) Evenings
- Arrival: Sept 28th (Thursday) 12 noon – 5pm
- Depart: Sep 22nd (Monday) before 11 am

Event Contacts

- Coordinator: James Yoder | jty.astro@ArtCentrics.com | 480-209-6965
- Property owner: Jerry Hyman | jerryahyman@gmail.com | 480-695-6656

Additional Considerations

- No cell phone coverage at ranch (Signal loss after turn off the #260 onto the 300).
- Location is at 7,400' if you have medical conditions please consult your doctor for professional advice.
- We have no medical train person on site.
- The sun is intense at this elevation bring sunscreen and hats.
- It can get cold at night make sure to bring appropriate clothing & bedding.
- Observation site priority to mobility challenged persons before 6pm. Open to all after 6pm

Environmental conditions

- Bortle 2 Skies
- Elevation: 7,400 feet (2,256 meters)
 - Average Nighttime & Daytime temps ([Forest Lakes](#)) 55° - 72°
 - Predicted High/Low for 09/28 to 10/01(as of 09/24) : 51° - 85°
- Wear sun protection during the day
- Wear appropriate footwear for forest/rocky conditions (No open shoes)

Getting There

- Check for Road closures before leaving (www.az511.gov)
- MAKE SURE TO TANK UP IN PAYSON <https://az511.gov/>
- Watch for elk & other wildlife, especially during dusk and dawn hours.
- Address
 - [9625 Hart Canyon Loop, Forest Lakes, AZ 85931](#)
- GPS Coordinates: 34 28' 5.384" N 110 58' 57.96" W
- Approximately 1:15 from Payson
- 7 miles on dirt road (about)
- Detailed Driving Instructions
 - The ranch is about 1:15 minutes' drive (50 miles) N.E. of Payson. Please make sure you fill your gas tank in Payson because there will not be any opportunity to gas up after that.

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- Travel to the McDonalds in Payson, Arizona which is at the intersection of Highway 87 and Highway 260. From the McDonalds in Payson.
- Turn right on **Highway 260** and take Highway 260 toward Heber, AZ for roughly 30 miles.
- Soon after mile **marker 282**, take a left on **Rim Road 300** (also known as the road to Woods Canyon Lake).
- Take Rim Road 300 for roughly **9 miles** until you come to a **Stop Sign at the "T" junction** of Rim Road 300 and FR 34 (also known as Wallace Road). – *Gravel roads from here to the ranch.*
- Take a **Right onto FR 34** (Wallace Road) and go **6.8 miles** and then take a left on FR75 (also called Hart Canyon Loop). *Note: at approximately 3 miles you will pass the first turn off to FR75.*
- Turn left (West) onto **FR75 for 1.8 miles** to the property. This is just after **Mile Marker 4**.
- You'll see private property signs every 100 feet on the side of the road that look like stop signs. That's our property. You'll see a large cabin and pavilion take that road to the pavilion.

Onsite Facilities

- Large Pavilion ([Online Information and Photos](#))
 - Large grill | Tables | Sink with hot water |
 - Electricity
 - 2 Bathrooms with showers and hot water
- WiFi
- Tent Sites and 5 RV sites
- No open flames please
- No Smoking

Grocery Stores

- [Woods Canyon Lake General Store](#) | 8:30am – 6pm | 1101 Christopher Creek Lp Payson 85541 | 15 miles, [30 min](#) |
- [Forest Lakes General Store](#) | 7am-9pm | 2998 AZ-260, Forest Lakes Estates, AZ 85931 | [23 miles, 40 min](#) |
- [Safeway](#) | 6am – 10pm | 401 AZ-260, Payson, AZ 85541 | 45 mi, [60min](#) |
- [Bashes](#) | 6am – 10pm | 142 E. AZ-260, Payson, AZ 85541 | 45 mi, [60min](#) |
- [Walmart Supercenter](#) | 8am – 11pm | 300 N Beeline Hwy, Payson, AZ 85541 | 46 mi, [60min](#) |

WiFi Information

- WiFi Name: [HymanRimRanch](#) Password: [Irene1912](#)

Common Questions/Answers

- **Are pets allowed?** Pets have to be on a leash at ALL times, no exceptions.
- **Are Campfires allowed?** The owner has requested that there be no campfires. However, cooking stoves are allowed, and there are grills at the pavilion.
- **Can I camp out in my car/Truck/Van and does that count as an RV location?** You can certainly camp out in your vehicle, and it would not be considered a Tent or RV “slot”.

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- **Do I have to stay the entire time?** No, stay as many nights as you want, but please indicate how many you plan on staying so we can make appropriate plans for food.
- **Can I stay other nights (before or after the official star party)?** No, we only have access to the site during the official star party dates. However, [Woods Canyon Lake](#) and [Bear Canyon Lake](#) are close by; you may want to consider checking it out if you want to stay in the area other nights. The forest also has camping areas with no fees such as [Bear Canyon Lake](#) with no or limited facilities (Boondocking).
- **Can I Bring Weapons?** No; no guns or other weapons allowed.

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Site Conditions

Main Observation Area



Observation Area

The main observation area has easy access, is pretty level and can accommodate 20-25 observers. Friday and Saturday night may have more than the area can accommodate, please allow those with mobility issues to have priority access to the main area. An alternative area is available on the other side of the observatory. Anyone with mobility issues to have their equipment setup by 6pm (30min before sunset). After 6pm Friday and Saturday anyone can setup in this area as long as there is space available.

Camping: RV, Car Camping and Tents

When you arrive at the ranch, please contact James or Jerry to determine where to park and setup your overnight accommodations.

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Speakers, Presentations and Demonstrations

Thursday, September 18th

- **Binoculars for Astronomy**
 - Time: 3:30pm – 4:00pm
 - Location: Hyman Pavilion
 - Speaker/Presenter: Bill Dellinges
 - Publications/Books/Guides: [A New Catalog of Stellar Richfields for Binoculars](#) (Free PDF download)
 - Description: Bill will discuss what features to look for in binoculars for touring the night sky.
- **Binocular Tour of the Night Sky**
 - Time: 8:00pm – 9:00pm
 - Location: Hyman Observatory
 - Speaker/Presenter: Bill Dellinges
 - Publications/Books/Guides: [A New Catalog of Stellar Richfields for Binoculars](#) (Free PDF download)
 - Description: This is a hands-on tour of the night sky with binoculars, you are encouraged to bring your own binoculars, but if you don't have any you are welcome to come just the same, we should have extra binoculars, and folks can always share. NOTE: This tour will be available Friday night also.

Friday, September 19th

- **Image Processing** with Atro Pixel Processor (APP) and Affinity Photo applications
 - Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm
 - Location: Hyman Pavilion
 - Speaker/Presenter: Leo Libby
 - Description: Leo will demonstrate the workflow he utilizes when processing deep sky images he has taken utilizing the [Astro Pixel Processor](#) and [Affinity Photo](#) applications.
- **Binocular Tour of the Night Sky**
 - Time: 8pm – 9pm

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- Location: Hyman Observatory
- Speaker/Presenter: Bill Dellings
- Publications/Books/Guides: [A New Catalog of Stellar Richfields for Binoculars](#)
(Free PDF download)
- Description: (This is the same demo as Thursday). This is a hands-on tour of the night sky with binoculars, you are encouraged to bring your own binoculars, but if you don't have any you are welcome to come just the same, we should have extra binoculars, and folks can always share.

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- **StarSeek S50 and Celestron Origin Training**
 - Time: 8pm – 9pm
 - Location: Hyman Observatory
 - Speaker/Presenter: James Yoder
 - Description: East Valley Astronomy Club (EVAC) has both the SeeStar S50 and the Celestron Origin smart telescopes that members are allowed to rent (\$25/week) . We have reserved this equipment for members to reserve (Free of charge) for 1 hour blocks during the star party (Sign up sheet will be alliable on-site) This is basic training on how to use these instruments. If you are interested on how these telescopes work you should attend this training/demo.

Saturday, September 20th

- **Purchasing Binoculars for Astronomy**
 - Time: 10am – 10:30am
 - Location: Hyman Pavilion
 - Speaker/Presenter: Bill Dellinges
 - Description: Bill will discuss what to look for when considering purchasing binoculars for astronomy.
- **Napkin to Reality: How to bring a product to market**
 - Time: 10:30am – 11:30am
 - Location: Hyman Pavilion
 - Speaker/Presenter: Kevin Legore
 - Description: Skywather's product development specialists will discuss the process it takes to develop equipment for astronomy.
- **Objects In The Heavens**
 - Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm
 - Location: Hyman Pavilion (ZOOM)
 - Speaker/Presenter: Peter Birren
 - Description: Our speaker will be Peter Birren, celestial voyeur and author of the deep-sky field book "Objects in the Heavens". He plans to talk about his journey into astronomy, how the book came to be and what it's about, and share with us a

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couple of discoveries he's made. Questions will be allowed at any time during and after the presentation..

- Using AstroPlanner to Plan Your Astronomy Session

- Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- Location: Hyman Pavilion
- Speaker/Presenter: James Yoder
- Description: A demonstration on how to use the [Astro Planner](#) application to identify objects to image or observe based on your equipment capabilities and preferences.

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Jerry Talking Points

- Event Numbers Review – 50 limit
- Evacuation plan – Jerry will draw up, James to incorporate and distribute
- Cooking Area Fire Extinguishers – Jerry to see about getting one or two.
- **Security Individuals – Anyone with experience with law enforcement to be a goto person.**
- Waiver Discussion – James to maintain
- Audio and Video –
 - We have an old Yamaha system that worked last week's reception, and I believe we still have a projector we used for last year's family reunion. However, they are old and we should probably use them for backup purposes. We should probably go with the EVAC system for primary and ours for backup. We should test them (including with zoom) before the event.
 - **James to see what he can find – Personal stereo system works fine. May need microphone option.**
- Event Speakers/Presenters
 - Thurs
 - Friday
 - 9am – 10am
 - 2:00 – 3pm - **Leo**
 - 3:30pm – 4:30pm
 - Sat
 - 10:30am – 11:30 - **Kevin**
 - 2:00 – 3pm - **Book**
 - 3:30pm – 4:30
- Security/Cameras
 - I have been studying security cameras and have come up with two candidates so far. Tomorrow we need to discuss how you access the video feeds. – **Further Research from Jerry**
- **Pot Luck - Andrea**
- **T-Shirts – Query group on interest with price points (James)**
- Slide Shows – Query Group
 - SiFi Movie
- Volunteers
 - Waivers
 - Security person
 - Hot Drinks Table – Kent?
 - Clean Bathrooms
 - Path Lights
 - Trailer – Closed Trailer
 - Trash Pickup, Final Day
 - Trash Haul

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- Breakfast Cooks - Jeff
- Dish Washers – Mike
- Lights for Path – Talk to Jeff
- Site Director (Tents/Parking, etc) - Leo

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Email

Hello,

EVAC Membership/Activity Payment

Tentative Schedule

Trailer

Survey #2

T Shirts

We may try to order some basic T-Shirts with the Hyman Rim Ranch Star Party on it. We are trying to gauge interest since the price of the shirts is associated with the volume we purchase. The price of the shirt will be quite close to what we will pay (no intent on profit) Please indicate how much you would be willing to pay for a standard short-sleeve T shirt.

- \$12
- \$17
- \$22
- \$27

Volunteer Activities

Please indicate what volunteer activities you will be willing/able to participate in while you are here. Please note this does NOT mean that you will be doing those activities, just that you have no objection to doing them. Eventually we will assign people to the task based on need and availability.

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Packing Lists

- UHaul Pickup and Drop-Off
 - Pickup: 09/17/2025 7am
 - Drop Off: 09/21/2025 (5 days)
- Propane
- EVAC Gear
 - Origin Telescope
 - SeeStar 50S
 - Storage Unit Stuff
- Shopping List
 - Fruit
 - Cook-out food
 - Drinks
 - Ice
 -
- Packing List
 - Sound System
 - Computer
 - Telescope Equipment
 - Heat Binos
 - SmartEye
 - Telescope
 - Table
 - Batteries
 -
 - Clothing