

# 2026 Hyman Rim Ranch Star Party

2026.09.11 – 2026.09.14

## Event Basic Information

### Dates/Times

- Sep 11<sup>th</sup> – Sep 13<sup>th</sup> (Friday – Sunday) Evenings
- Arrival: Sept 11<sup>th</sup> (Friday) 12 noon – 5pm
- Depart: Sep 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday) before 11 am

### Event Contacts

- Coordinators:
  - James Yoder | [jty.astro@ArtCentrics.com](mailto:jty.astro@ArtCentrics.com) | 480-209-6965
  - Andrea Matthias | [ena2429@yahoo.com](mailto:ena2429@yahoo.com) | 937-243-2710
- Property owner: Jerry Hyman | [jerryahyman@gmail.com](mailto: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.
- The sun is intense at this elevation bring sunscreen and hats.
- It can get cold at night make sure to bring appropriate clothing & bedding.
- It can rain, so bring appropriate clothing
- Observation site priority to mobility challenged persons before 6pm. Open to all after 6pm

### Observation Site

- Bring Ground Cover & Cover for telescope
- **East Side** of observatory area
  - Location for folks with mobility issues (Claim your location before 6pm)
  - Leveled and gravel added
  - Can accommodate 20 to 30 astronomers
  - After 6pm site is open to all astronomers
- **West Side** of observatory area
  - Has been graded
  - Overflow area for observers

### Environmental conditions

- Bortle 2 Skies
- Elevation: 7,400 feet (2,256 meters)
  - Average Nighttime & Daytime temps ([Forest Lakes](#)) 55° - 72°
  - Predicted High/Low for 09/11 to 09/13(Historic): 63° - 90°
- Wear sun protection during the day
- Wear appropriate footwear for forest/rocky conditions (No open shoes)

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## Additional Considerations

- Make sure you bring appropriate clothing and bedding to keep you warm.
- Although there are bathrooms and showers, you need to supply your own hygiene items such as soap, towels, toothpaste etc.
- Keep all food locked up at night so bears don't get into it.
- **Breakfast** and Dinners will be supplied by EVAC (all days)

## Getting There

- Check for Road closures before leaving ([www.az511.gov](http://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.
  - 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
  - Sites may be uneven. RVs should bring leveling blocks, campers cots
- No open flames please

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- 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: [MultipleNetworks](#) 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”.
- **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.

## Miscellaneous Information

- Drinks – Water and powered drink (non-sugar) will be provided, Bring re-usable water bottle and cup for hot beverage
- Bring ear plugs if you want to sleep in.
- Free observation Guides:

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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.

### Gear

- Setup your gear before packing it to make sure you don't forget anything.
- Tarp, Table, Dew Shield, Telescope Cover, Red Light, spare batteries

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## Speakers, Presentations and Demonstrations

All presentations will be held in the main house Conference Room

### **Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

- 2:00pm – 3:00pm
  - Steve Desch: Comets and the pictures we make of them
- 3:00pm – 4:00pm
  - Attendee's introductions and Socialize

### **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

- 2:00pm – 3:00pm
  - Wayne Thomas: Asteroid Occultations
- 3:00pm – 4:00pm
  - Attendee's share: Techniques, Tricks, Favorite gear, etc.