

MSP-16
2026



<https://www.michiana-astro.org/>

The 16th Annual Michiana Star Party

Potawatomi Wildlife Park
16998 State Road 331
Tippecanoe, IN. 46570

October 8-11, 2026

PROGRAM

ALL TIMES ARE EASTERN
DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME

Thursday

- After 3:00 pm – Camp Set Up
- 5:00 pm – Social Time
- 6:30 pm – Observing (lights out)

Friday

- After 7:00 pm – Laser Sky Tour: Speaker Jim Hopkins' "Tonight's Constellations" (contingent upon weather, may be Friday or Saturday night)
- Observing (lights out) following the Laser Sky Tour

Saturday

- Vendors and swaps
- Solar observing
- Hiking, free time
- Yard games for kids of all ages
- Noon-Lunch break
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm: Speaker
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm: Dr. Kirk Korista, Olbers' Paradox Revisited.
- 3:15 - 4:15 Mr. Jim Hopkins An Astronomer and the Seven Dwarfs.
- 4:15 pm - Group Photo
- PWP Annual Banquet & Trivia - 6:30 pm - 10 pm at Bessinger Pavilion. Attendance optional. See [Potawatomi Wildlife Park](#) for details
- 7:30 pm – Observing (lights out) in star party event area and Observing Field following Laser Sky Tour – If rescheduled

Sunday

Checkout by 11 am

Eating and Sleeping

- Community campfire if the weather prevents observing and imaging.
- Bring your own food and drinks.
- Restaurants, motels, and hotels are nearby.
- Campsites available for tents & RVs at the overflow parking area.
- Public restrooms and running water & showers available at the Bessinger Pavilion. A second restroom is at the Bennack 1800s Potawatomi Village.

Park Opportunities

- Wildlife observation.
- Hiking and biking trails.
- Open fields for games, frisbee.
- Kayaking and fishing with a valid license.

Star Party Camping Guidelines

- Arrive after 3:00 pm Thursday; set up equipment and campsite before Civil twilight/dusk.
- Star party ends Sunday at 11:00 am.
- Parking in the designated parking areas.
- While primary camping is located in the overflow parking area, you are welcome to set up equipment on the Observing Field for the duration of the event.
- No car movement on the field after dark except in emergencies.
- Limited electricity is available for medical devices and battery charging at the Bessinger Pavilion and Observation Field, although no extension cords to campsites or telescopes are allowed. You are responsible for providing a silent power source after 8 pm.
- Red flashlights only!
- Minors must be accompanied by an adult in the designated star party area.
- Dogs on leashes are allowed.
- Vendors and swap tables welcome!
- Acoustical musical instruments are welcome!
- Dress warmly.
- Smoking permitted beyond telescope areas downwind.
- You are responsible for the security of your own belongings.
- Do NOT look at the sun through any device that is not designed for it!



MICHIANA
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

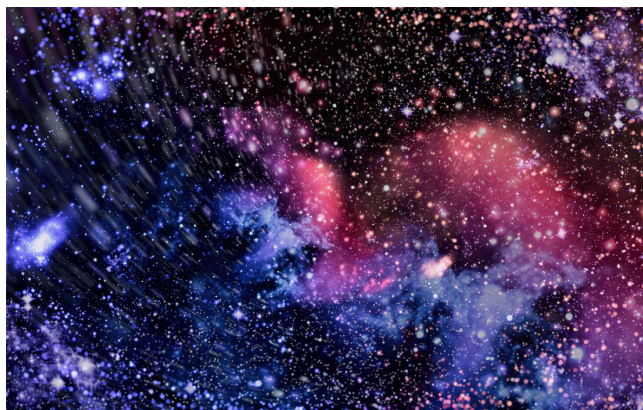


MSP 16 Speakers

Tonight's Constellations

Mr. Jim Hopkins – Friday After 9:00 pm

Mr. Hopkins is a retired high school physics and astronomy teacher and Associate Professor at Joliet Junior College in Illinois. He has spent his retirement speaking to star party attendees and is the past president of the Naperville Astronomical Association. He has attended more than 60-star parties, including at the Grand Canyon, Okie-Tex, and Nebraska, for over 20 years in a row. He especially enjoys showing the night sky to various scouts, church, and park district members.



Olbers Paradox Revisited

Kirk Korista, Professor in the Dept. of Physics at Western Michigan University.

B.S. Astronomy, University of Illinois (1985)

Ph.D. Astronomy, The Ohio State University (1990)

Postdoctoral research positions at:

- The Carnegie Observatories in Pasadena CA (1990-1992)
 - The Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore MD (1992-1994)
 - University of Kentucky in Lexington (1994-1997)
- In my 30th year at Western Michigan University (1997-present).

Research Area: Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), the most luminous (long-lived) objects in the universe, powered by the accretion of gas onto supermassive black holes in the centers of big galaxies, and observed all the way back to within the first 700 million years after the Big Bang. Ultimately, we would like to understand the role(s) of AGN in impacting the evolution of galaxies over the history of the universe.

TBA





PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Please pre-register by August 15th.
Copy this form as needed.

October 8-11, 2026

Name: _____

For others in your party, please include their names and ages if they are under 18.

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Member of the Astronomy group

Name: _____

Pre-registration	Fee	Number	Total
Adult (non-MAS member)	\$40	_____	_____
MAS current member	\$30	_____	_____
Under 18 Free			

Admission at the gate:

Adult NON member - \$45, Under 18 - \$10 _____

Daily pass \$10. Come as early as you want, stay as late as you want. But no overnight camping is allowed with a daily pass.

MAS Membership for One Year

(optional)			
Associate & Family	\$21	_____	_____
Senior & Student	\$16	_____	_____

Official 2026 Michiana Star Party T-Shirt Order Deadline September 9, 2026 - we may not have your size

Small	\$20	_____	_____
Medium	\$20	_____	_____
Large	\$20	_____	_____
XL	\$25	_____	_____
XXL	\$25	_____	_____
XXXL	\$25	_____	_____
XXXXL	\$25	_____	_____

Grand Total: \$ _____

Make Check out to :

Michiana Astronomical Society.

Your check is your receipt.

Confirmation will be emailed.

No refunds.

Send pre-registration and check to:

Paul Surowiec

103 Apple St.

Walkerton, IN 46574

e-mail: treasurer@michiana-astro.org

Pre-registration closes on October 1st 2026.

**Payment Methods:
or**

Pay Online by Visiting

<https://www.michiana-astro.org>
In the about section, use the PayPal donate to pay the full amount.
PayPal fees apply.

Send or email pre-registration to:
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103 Apple St.
Walkerton, IN 46574
e-mail: treasurer@michiana-astro.org

