



Kalamazoo Astronomical Society

Looking Up Since 1936

September 18, 2020

Invitation to Attend 2020/2021 Season of “Online Viewing Sessions”

Dear Members of the Michiana Astronomical Society:

Sharing the night sky with the public through outdoor observing has been a long-standing tradition for both of our organizations. However, persistent cloud cover and frigid temperatures make sharing the sky quite challenging during the winter months. The KAS is pleased to announce that beginning on November 7th we will be introducing “Online Viewing Sessions” that will run through February of 2021. The monthly sessions will be held on the video conferencing service [Zoom](#). We would like to extend an invitation to all of your members to join us during one or more of the sessions. Those interested in attending should [contact us](#) through our website for the Zoom meeting ID and password. We would also be happy to add them to a mailing list, so we can send them the Zoom info before each session. Please see the table below for start times. Admission is free.

If weather conditions necessitate a cancellation there will be a second “cloud date” scheduled the following Saturday. Postponement or cancellation information will be posted on the KAS website and social media platforms.

[Online Viewing Sessions](#) utilize our premiere facility, the KAS Remote Telescope, located under the dark desert skies of Arizona Sky Village in Portal, AZ. The Remote Telescope consists of a 4-inch Takahashi refracting telescope mounted on a 20-inch PlaneWave CDK telescope, both equipped with identical full-frame CCD cameras. Session participants will view images of deep-sky objects captured on the CCD cameras in Arizona, transmitted to participant’s computer, tablet, and smart phone screens. Once the session has concluded, attendees will be provided with a link to download the images captured that night to share with friends and keep as mementos. Participants will also be able to view live streaming video of the telescope in operation through our website.

The Remote Telescope Project involved a 7-year fundraising effort that included contributions from KAS members, corporations and foundations, raising over \$122,000.

Dates and times for the 2020/2021 season are as follows:

<u>Primary Date</u>	<u>Cloud Date</u>	<u>Time (EST)</u>
November 7 th	November 14 th	8:30 – 10:30 pm
December 5 th	December 12 th	8:30 – 10:30 pm
January 9 th	January 16 th	9:00 – 11:00 pm
February 6 th	February 13 th	9:00 – 11:00 pm

For more details and to view images of the Remote Telescope, please our website at [kasonline.org](#). You can also follow the KAS on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).