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# Willingboro Astronomical Society

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## Public Star Watch at Atsion Saturday, October 5, 2013



Weather permitting, a free public star watch will be presented by the Willingboro Astronomical Society at Atsion Field in Wharton State Forest on **Saturday, October 5, 2013**. Atsion Field is on the east side of Rt 206, just north of Atsion/Quaker Bridge Rd, about 10 miles south of Rt 70 at the Red Lion Circle, and 8 miles north of Rt 30, the White Horse Pike in Hammonton, NJ.

The program starts on the field at 6:00 pm EDT with **Kid's Korner**, featuring "Cooking up a Comet," where we make our own comet. Afterwards, there'll be an observing session with our telescopes until 10:00 pm. During the observing session, we'll have a laser-guided **Sky Tour** of the stars and constellations and a **Binocular Beam**, where participants will follow the laser beam to find things in their own binoculars – *if you have binoculars, be sure to bring them, and don't forget your lawn chairs!*

This will be a great opportunity to look through a variety of optical instruments from a relatively dark site at many of the incredible and diverse celestial bodies that fill the nighttime sky. Here are some of the many objects we expect to see:

- **Neptune**, the most distant of the planets in Aquarius, the Water bearer, and **Uranus**, the next most distant planet in Pisces, the Fishes.
- The minor planet (or asteroid) **Juno** will be in Capricornus, the Sea Goat.
- Some interesting multiple stars in Cygnus, the Swan; **Albireo**, a striking color-contrast double, **Omicron-1 Cygni**, the *Patriotic Triple* (red, white and blue stars) and **61 Cygni**, a not-too-distant pair of red dwarfs.
- Two beautiful planetary nebulae, **M57**, the *Ring Nebula* in Lyra, the Lyre (an ancient stringed musical instrument) and **M27**, the *Dumbbell Nebula* in Vulpecula, the Fox.
- Open Clusters **NGC 869** and **NGC 884**, the spectacular *Double Cluster* in Perseus, the hero.
- **M13**, the *Great Globular Cluster in Hercules*, the Heroic Strongman, and **M15**, another bright globular cluster in Pegasus, the Winged Horse.
- **M31**, the *Great Galaxy in Andromeda*; along with its satellite galaxies, **M32** and **M110**. Andromeda was the maiden chained to the seaside rocks, but was rescued by the hero Perseus.
- The **Milky Way**, our own galaxy, will appear as a glowing band across the sky.

Come and share our enjoyment of the night sky. Whether you're new to astronomy or have a lifelong interest, this will be an event you won't want to miss; all ages are welcome. Further information about the Willingboro Astronomical Society and its schedule of Public Star Watches, as well as directions to Batsto, can be found at our web site: [www.wasociety.us](http://www.wasociety.us)

For weather status on the day of the Star Watch, check the WAS web site (usually posted by noon) or call the Batsto main office at (609) 561-0024 after 3:00 pm. For questions about the Sky Watch, the Willingboro Astronomical Society or astronomy in general, feel free to contact:

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