DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION SOCIETY | HASWELL, COLORADO

Visitors Say Hello to the Moon at DSES Open House

Folks came out to Haswell on October 11 to see the big dish up close, hear their voices come back from the Moon, and stay for pulled pork.

By Paul Sobon, President, Deep Space Exploration Society (NO0T) • For the Kiowa County Independent • Sunday, October 11, 2026

HASWELL, Colo. - The Deep Space Exploration Society (DSES) held its open house on Sunday, October 11, out at the radio telescope site near Haswell. About 75 people showed up. By the end of the day, six of them had signed up as new members.

For a lot of the kids, the best part was in the control room. That is where visitors got to hear their voices off the Moon, using the society's 60-foot-wide radio telescope. Board member Alex Nersesian, K6VHF, ran the EME station. EME stands for Earth-Moon-Earth. He showed people how it worked, then let them say hello to the Moon themselves.



Under the dish. Young visitors gather beneath the 60-foot radio telescope at Haswell. For most folks arriving at the site, the dish was the first thing they wanted to see.

Hello to the Moon

Nersesian talked the children through it first. Then he held the microphone so the younger ones could have a turn. The room stayed busy. It is packed with radios, monitors and other equipment, and there is a sign on the desk that says "COOL KIDS LEARN HERE." On a day like this, that fit about right.

Ham Radio Across the USA

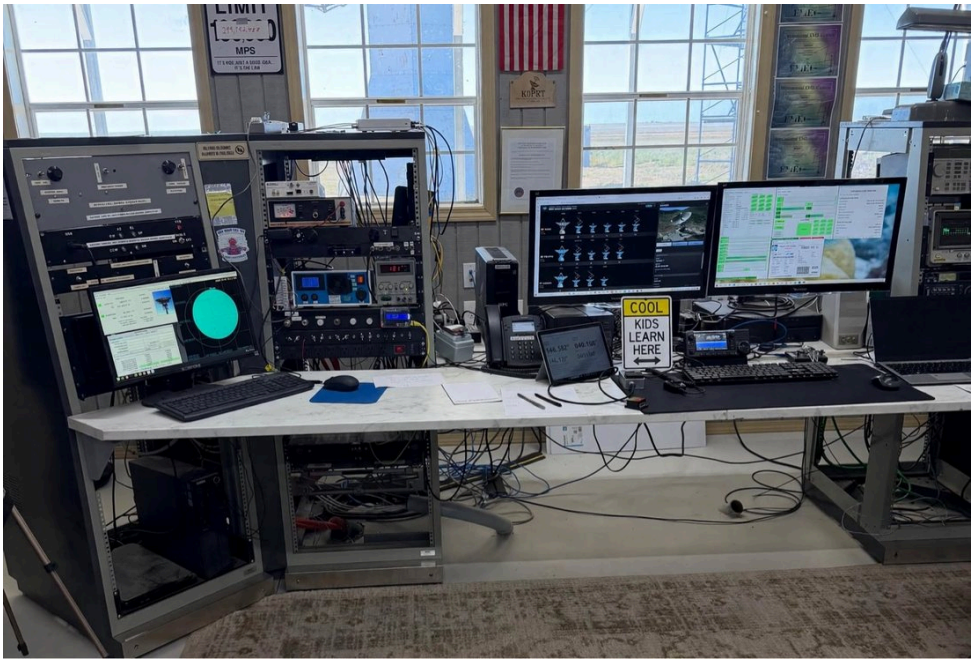
Plenty of people also stopped in at the ham radio station, K0PRT. They stood around and watched while contacts were made with operators in other parts of the country. Paul Sobon, the society's president, manned the station for visitors. He answered questions in between contacts.



In the control room. Alex Nersesian, K6VHF, explains the EME station to a group of children.



A turn at the microphone. Alex Nersesian holds the mic while a young visitor says hello to the Moon. The other kids crowded in to watch.



Where the operators sit. Monitors and radio equipment fill the control room. The little sign on the desk reads "COOL KIDS LEARN HERE."

Looking Safely at the Sun

Outside, Pat McDivitt had his solar optical telescope set up. It is a special telescope made for looking at the Sun safely, and visitors took turns looking at sunspots through it. Other groups were out on the grounds at the same time, talking with volunteers and looking over the equipment. It was clear out, and nobody seemed in a hurry to leave.



Out on the grounds. A DSES volunteer visits with a group of children during the open house.



Looking at sunspots. Visitors take a turn at Pat McDivitt's solar telescope, which lets them look at the Sun safely.

Pulled Pork for a Good Cause

Nobody went home hungry. Michelle Nelson, the mayor of Haswell, and her family put on a pulled pork dinner with all the trimmings, and dessert too. The dinner raised $740 for the Prairie Paws 4-H Dog Project.

It was that kind of day. One minute the kids were talking to the Moon. The next they were outside looking at the Sun, or back inside watching the ham radio reach somebody halfway across the country.

DSES wants to thank Mayor Nelson and her family for the dinner, and thank everyone who came out. And welcome to the six new members. We are glad to have you.

Deep Space Exploration Society • Open House • Haswell, Colorado • October 11, 2026 • All photographs from the event, supplied by DSES.