

What: Total Solar Eclipse Party!

When: Monday, August 21, 2017 from 11:42 am (eclipse begins) to 2:36 pm (eclipse ends). Come sooner, stay later, but be here in plenty of time for TOTALITY at 1:08.07 pm to 1:10.46 pm (2 minutes; 39 seconds).

Where: Gary and Helen Moore's house; 39.4139N 94.1563W (3 miles east of Lawson, MO/6 miles south of Elmira, MO.) Call, text, email, or FB message for driving directions. It takes me about 50 minutes to get from my house to the Bond Bridge over the Missouri River. The bridge, by the way, is right about the southern edge of totality, so if you are south of that you'll only see a partial eclipse if you are wearing eclipse glasses. It would be a shame to be that close to totality and then not get to see it.

Who is invited: Any friends or family who don't already live in the path of totality or who do but would like to be closer to the "blue line" of maximum totality. Call, text, email, or FB message to give me a heads up about how many people you may be bringing with you. (Note: my house, yard and studio are not "baby proofed." Be prepared to keep a tight eye on little ones.)

What to bring: Carpool if possible. Fill your tank the day before—traffic is likely to be weird on Eclipse Day.

Lawn chair and some personal shade; umbrella, pop up tent, etc.

Dress for the weather: (Let's hope for clear skies and moderate temperatures but it's August in Missouri.) Hat, sunscreen and most importantly ECLIPSE GLASSES if you have them. I bought a classroom pack of 30. First come, first served. The only part of the eclipse you can watch without them is the 2 minutes, 39 seconds of totality.

Cell phone charger. (I have a landline in case you can't get cell service.) Video camera (to record people's reactions—not the eclipse itself.) NOTE: Everything I've read suggests that if this is your first eclipse—just watch it, don't photograph it.

Food: Now we get to the party part! I'll have hotdogs on the grill, and some other things along with ice tea, lemonade and water. Bring something to share potluck style—with food as with friends, the more the merrier. I know of at least one person with a birthday that day (yes, Stephanie, you are the Chosen One!) so there will probably be some cake.