



# Society of Physics Students

## Zone 4 Meeting

### March 27-28, 2026



Radford University's Physics Department and SPS chapter are excited to be hosting the event. Get ready for a weekend filled with physics fun, learning, and networking!

## Meeting Details

- **Dates:** March 27-28, 2026
- **Location:** Radford University, Radford, Virginia. Free parking for everyone in parking lots C, B, and GG. The Highlander Hotel at Radford is adjacent to campus and is within a ~4-minute walk of the meeting building.
  - Parking maps are here: <https://www.radford.edu/parking/index.html>
- **Meeting Building:** Center for the Sciences, Main Street level, adjacent to parking lot C.
- **Host:** Radford University Physics Department and Society of Physics Students
- **Registration:** \$5 – we will have things set up for this on-site (Zelle, Venmo, cash, etc.)

## Contact Information

For questions, please contact

- Dr. Rhett Herman, [rherman@radford.edu](mailto:rherman@radford.edu) or
- Radford University SPS President Athena Smith, [aksmith4@radford.edu](mailto:aksmith4@radford.edu)



# Preliminary Schedule

We are looking forward to offering the following events for this upcoming meeting. This schedule was designed by our SPS officers and includes activities that they wanted to see at the meeting.

## Friday, March 27

Time	Activity	Who is running session/involved?	Location	Joint Activity	Who is running session/involved?	Location
5:00 PM	Check-in	Dr. Herman, Athena	CS Lobby	Check-in	Dr. Herman, Athena	CS Lobby
6:00 PM	Planetarium games	Dom	Planetarium	Planetarium games	Dom	Planetarium
6:30 PM	Planetarium shows - multiple, ~35 minutes each	Dr. Herman	Planetarium	Multiple Shuttles to Selu (pick up and drop off every ~20 minutes)	Dom, Lily, (Dr. Liss?)	Selu
7:10 PM						
7:50 PM						
8:30 PM						
9:10 PM						

Friday night will be flexible so that those arriving can choose what works with their schedules. We will have planetarium games run by our SPS, followed by multiple shows that start at 40-minute intervals. We will also operate shuttles to take people to/from our Selu Observatory. These will happen clear skies or not but we're obviously hoping for clear.

Saturday breakfast and lunch are provided, along with snacks/coffee throughout the day.

We are having two poster sessions on Saturday to give more time for attendees to talk with the presenters. We are supplying poster stands and boards for everyone. We will post an online form for presenters to post their titles, abstracts and one representative image.

Remember to submit pictures highlighting your SPS chapter here (named SPS01.jpg, SPS02.jpg, etc. and SPS01\_vid.mp4, etc.):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Cjm-2bFu8drcdIHTlCRBO37CYiGEvoF?usp=sharing>

## Saturday, March 28

Time	Activity	Who is running session/involved?	Location	Activity	Who is running session/involved?	Location
7:00 AM	Check-in and poster setup	Radford U. SPS + faculty	CS Lobby	N/A	N/A	N/A
7:30 AM	Breakfast		CS Lobby	N/A	N/A	N/A
8:30 AM	Make and take cosmic ray detector	Miranda	M65	MacGyver Session Showcase Your Skills!	Alaska Students	M70
10:00 AM	Resume Building and Elevator pitch groups	Athena, Dr. Liss	M58	Faculty Student Discussion and Active SPS	Dr. Herman. Dr. Mehta. Mr Brizzo?, other faculty and students, Dom for SPS	M59
11:00 AM	Poster session #1	everyone	CS Lobby	N/A	N/A	N/A
12:15 PM	Lunch	everyone	CS Lobby	Highlight Your SPS Chapter	Lily, Dr. Herman	Planetarium
1:30 PM	Dr. Shane Larson talk	Dr. Larson, Dr. Bachrach, Dr. Herman	M73	N/A	N/A	N/A
2:30 PM	Poster session #2	everyone	M65	N/A	N/A	N/A
3:30 PM	SPS Chapters and other photos/videos in Planetarium	Dr. Herman, Lily	Planetarium	Mingling	N/A	CS Lobby
4:30 PM	End of Meeting	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

- **Make and take cosmic ray detector:** Led by our SPS, you will build and take a simple setup that lets you see cosmic rays. These will be ~45 minutes long so that you can then go over to the MacGyver session.
- **MacGyver session:** Bring your own! Showcase your skills! Our SPS officers and others will have e.g. their recent Alaska Geophysics projects set up. These are the Arduino-based \$200 versions of the \$5,000 sensors that are out of our price range. 😊 These will be ~45 minutes long so that you can then go over to the Make-and-take session.
- **Faculty/Student discussion and active SPS chapter:** This will focus on careers and having an active SPS chapter.
- **Resume building and elevator pitch:** These sessions will lead you through getting a resume going along with your elevator pitch.
- **Dr. Shane Larson** will give a talk titled “AN AUDACIOUS ENTERPRISE: LISA and the Future of Gravitational Wave Astronomy”
- **Highlight Your SPS Chapter** We will put your submitted pictures on our planetarium dome so you can showcase your chapter!