

# MARS SOCIETY KENYA ANNUAL REPORT 2022

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step and for the society; this first step was taken long before our inaugural launch. Such activities include but not limited to creating awareness in the country aimed at preparing the general public to support Humans-to-Mars.

**JANUARY - MARCH:** With the second year of the Chapter's existence beginning, members were hopeful of having a very active year with regard to our projects and activities. And therefore as we prepared to have our first year anniversary celebrations, there were talks on coming up with a calendar of activities. The kind of activities selected were those in line of the activities of the mother organization and the astronomical/space-related activities on the global calendar.

It was not until March that the calendar was developed and plans were put in place for the first activity of the year. And as we were busy planning for our first event, we were fortunate to have three organizations partner with us and whereby through this partnership we agreed to be holding events together as a means of creating awareness on matters space within the country. The three organizations are Leo Sky Africa, Kibera, Aeronautics and Space Academy and Amateur Astronomical Society of Kenya

**APRIL:** Annually on 12 April, the space community commemorates the day the first human (Yuri Gagarin) launched into outer space with a remarkable event called [Yuri's Night](#). This year, [Kibera Aeronautics & Space Academy - KASA](#), in partnership with [Space Generation Advisory Council](#), [AASK Amateur Astronomy Society of Kenya](#), [Leo Sky Africa](#) and [Mars Society Kenya](#), celebrated the event on 16 April at [Tunapanda Institute](#) (Kibera). The event served to reflect and take account of the past, get into the present, and project into the future of human spaceflight. The event focused on *Taking Account of Space Activities in Kenya and Importance of Human Spaceflight*.

A detailed report of the event is available [here](#):



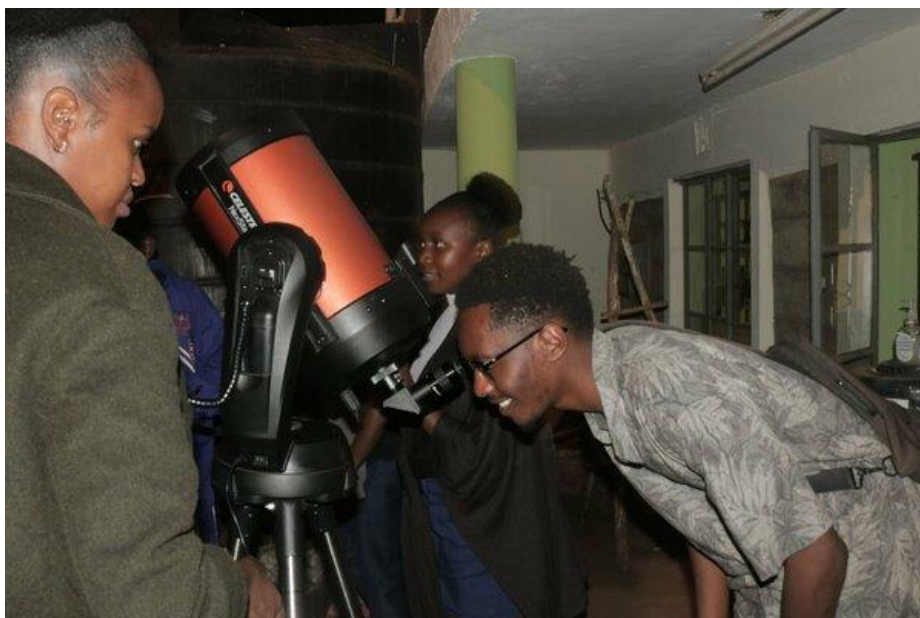
During the event, [Kibera Aeronautics & Space Academy - KASA](#) cofounder, Adrian Schmidt, virtually delivered a keynote talk that covered a 'Brief history of spaceflight activities', 'Careers in spaceflight', 'Later usage of spaceflight technology on Earth', 'Cooperation between different Nations and cultures in spaceflight', and 'The role of private organizations in spaceflight'. A recording of his presentation can be accessed [here](#).

**MAY:** Annually on 7th May, astronomy enthusiasts and professionals get together to share their knowledge and love of astronomical studies with the general public. It's also a time to appreciate the great minds that have continuously developed the mechanics and dynamics that fuel modern [astronomy](#). This year, [Leo Sky Africa](#), [Mars Society Kenya](#), [AASK Amateur Astronomy Society of Kenya](#), [Kibera Aeronautics & Space Academy - KASA](#) and [Space Generation Advisory Council](#) collaborated to host an event in Kibera to celebrate the World Astronomy Day.

The theme of the event was *'The Past, The present and the Future of Astronomy in Kenya'* and which was delivered by the following invited panelists; Ms. Malkia Kelelue (Space Science & Astronomy Officer - [Kenya Space Agency](#)), Mr. Carringtone Kinyanjui (Astronomy & Astrophysics) and Dr. Willice Obonyo (Lecturer - Astrophysics & Space Science; [Technical University of Kenya](#)). They tackled three extensive questions that covered close to 3 hours of the event. These topics were; *Problem Facing Africa Space activities, What more can we do to increase Space activities and Big opportunities for Kenya*

A star gazing session concluded the event, thanks to [Kenya Space Agency](#) who availed a powerful telescope and the audience took turns in looking at the Moon and stars.

A detailed report of the event is available [here](#):



**JUNE:** Being a university Chapter, we the [Mars Society Kenya](#) are grateful and proud to be associated with the Kenyatta University and as well honored by their invitation to speak during the Aerospace Career Day organized by the Kenyatta University Aerospace Students Association (KUASA). Also present were [Kenya Flying Labs](#), [Leo Sky Africa](#) and [AASK Amateur Astronomy Society of Kenya](#) whom we are partnering with in a number of projects.

The Kenyatta University Aerospace Student's Association (KUASA) Career Fair took place on 3rd June 2022 at Kenyatta University, Alumni Building. It was such an honor to have been invited to present a talk during the event. This was an incredible opportunity for Academia and Industry to have discussions on the future of Kenya's Aerospace Industry and job opportunities for young passionate Aerospace Engineering Graduates.

It was exhilarating and fun listening to the students' presentations which added new insight into our various fields of expertise and equally contributing to the day's theme of "Career Opportunities in the Aerospace Industry".

A recap of the day's activities is available [here](#):



## *AEROSPACE CAREER DAY*

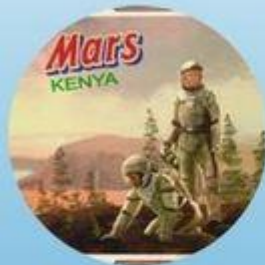
*FRI 3RD JUNE 2022 9-1PM  
ALH*



### *AGENDA*



- 1. Aerospace Engineering career talk*
- 2. Advancing Aerospace Career Opportunities locally*
- 3. Promoting Aerospace Engineering Awareness in Kenya*



### *GUEST SPEAKERS*

- 1. Eng. Charles Mwangi, KSA*
- 2. KFL, Mars Society of Kenya & Leo Sky Africa Representatives.*
- 3. Peter Munnyi KU Aerospace Graduate Engineer.*



*COME FLY DRONES AND VIEW STARS IN  
A PLANETARIUM*


We were also delighted on the same month when we were not only invited to attend but as well participate at the Kenya Space Expo & Conference. The expo was held from 15-17 June 2022 and whose theme was “Leveraging Space Capabilities for National Development”. The event brought together industry players in an interactive forum that showcased current projects and innovations and provided an opportunity for linkages and collaboration. You can learn more about the event [here](#).



This being the inaugural space expo not only for the country but also for our organization, we had to come up with the best product to showcase. Our goals and mission are to prepare the general public to support Humans-to-Mars and inspire more Elon Musks around the world, with the hope of one day we Kenyans being involved in terraforming the Red Planet. A detailed report of our activities at the Expo is available [here](#):



The month's activities would not have been complete without the Asteroid day event. A huge Thank You goes to all the attendees for making this year's [Asteroid Day](#) a success and to our special guest [Miracle Chibuzor Marcel](#) for the insightful information you presented. To our partners [Leo Sky Africa](#) [AASK](#) [Amateur Astronomy Society of Kenya](#) and [Kibera Aeronautics & Space Academy - KASA](#) we are forever grateful for helping make our events a success. Together we achieve more. A recap of the day's activities is available [here](#):




## International Asteroid Day


Hosted by  
SGAC Kenya NPOCs  
Leo Sky,  
Amateur Astronomy Society of Kenya,  
Mars Society Kenya,  
Kibera Aeronautics and Space Academy

Asteroid Day is a UN-sanctioned global awareness campaign participated annually on 30 June. The mission of the event is to inspire, engage and educate the public about asteroids opportunities and risks.

Date : 30th June  
Time : 3.00 pm EA Time  
Register Link  
<https://tinyurl.com/asteroiddayKE>



**Guest Speakers**  
Miracle Chibuzor Marcel



Scan to Register

**JULY - AUGUST:** Our proposed event for July was called off after last minute changes to the event venue were made, hindering the event from taking place.

As for August, there was some bit of tension as the fate of this year's general elections that took place on this month was unknown. It was therefore almost impossible to plan for a successful event and therefore none took place.

**SEPTEMBER:** in a bid to deliver our STEM activities, we decided to incorporate Zindua STEM; as a constituent of Mars Society Kenya and came up with a Holiday program for kids as our first event. The September STEM Camp is a place where kids can participate in hands-on, project-based learning. At Zindua STEM, each camp is grade-specific and enables students to experience coding and drone/robotics technology skills and more, equipping them with basic skills. You will find an amazing and dedicated staff, a high curriculum that includes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Unfortunately we had a poor turn up and therefore decided to postpone the event and try again on December.



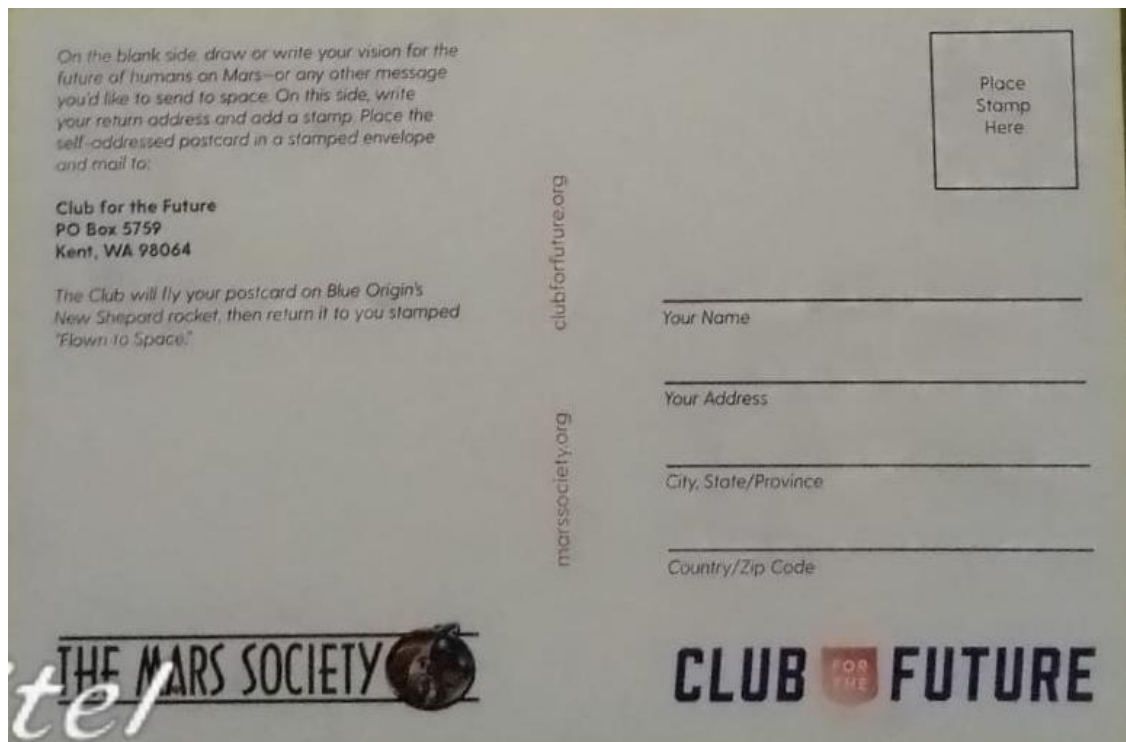
**ZINDUA STEM**  
September Stem Camp

**ABOUT THE CAMP**  
Showcasing drone technology and equipping students with basic skills  
Date : September 24th 2022  
Time : 9am - 4pm

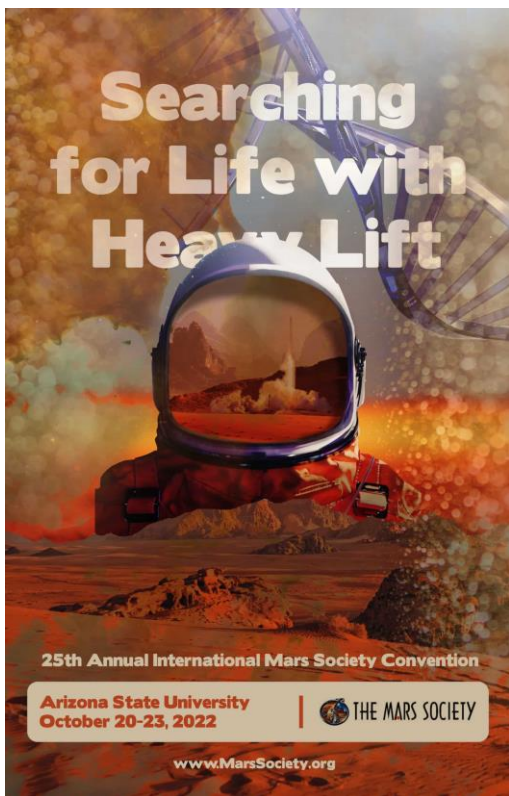
**MORE INFORMATION**  
Call Olivya  
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**ZINDUA STEM** A CONSTITUENT OF  **MARS SOCIETY KENYA**  
TERRAFORMING MARS

Also, through our mother organization, we were able to secure some postcard for the Postcards for Space program of the under the Clubs for the Future Initiative of Blue Origin. We had decided to give out the cards during the September STEM Camp event, unfortunately with the event postponed; we could not distribute them as expected. We hope to try again during the same event on December.



**OCTOBER:** As accustomed by the global Mars Society, we joined other chapters virtually on October 20-23 for the 2022 25<sup>th</sup> Annual International Mars Society Convention, with leading experts from the global space community discussing current Mars exploration and plans for a human mission to the Red Planet. This year's theme is *"Searching for Life with Heavy Lift"*.



And as the year comes to an end, there has been an ongoing push for an Analog Habitat (mission) from some of our partners. For instance, there is a proposal to set up camp at some parts near Ngong; in the outskirts of the capital city, Nairobi. This land is being offered to us free of charge through some partnership agreement. However, we are yet to decide when the agreement will be implemented.

Others include the Analog Astronaut Community (AAC), who has come up with the World Biggest Analog (WBA) competition, whereby we have offered to participate. The competition begins early next year with a culmination in 2025.

The latest to approach us is our very own local company, Omarichet; where they are planning to have an Analog Mission in Kenya next year. More to this will be coming later.

All of these projects add up to our continued push to the mother organization to kindly facilitate in the establishment of not only a Kenyan but African Analog Habitat within the country. We hope that this assistance can be granted soon so as to make next year's analog missions within the country a success.