



Astronomy Club of Tulsa

OBSERVER

February 2007

<http://www.AstroTulsa.com>

ACT, Inc. has been meeting continuously since 1937 and was incorporated in 1986. It is a nonprofit, tax deductible organization dedicated to promoting, to the public, the art of viewing and the scientific aspect of astronomy.



What

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa Star Party

When

2 February 2007

Where

Room M1 inside Keplinger Hall, the Science & Engineering Building at TU. Enter the parking lot on the East Side of Keplinger Hall from Harvard and 5th Street. This will take you directly toward the staircase to enter the building. Room M1 is the first room on the left.



President's Message

Tamara Green

Hello everyone!

This month, we have a very special guest speaker, Dr. Yun Wang, Associate Professor and Cosmologist from the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Wang's outstanding work is at the forefront of astronomical research into dark matter. Her presentation, entitled "The Dark Side of the Universe", promises to be a very interesting and educational talk, one that you will not want to miss! So come to our February 2nd meeting at TU's Keplinger Hall, 7:00 PM, Room M1 and hear Dr. Wang's very fun and informative presentation. Our new member coordinator, Denny Mishler, says this is the first time he can remember that a Cosmologist has visited the Astronomy Club of Tulsa, so I strongly recommend to everyone that you all come out to hear this talk. It will be well worth coming for, and a treat for everyone, especially new members and guests!

The speaker who was scheduled for last month's meeting, Tom Kovach from Astronomics, has agreed to come back and speak to us in March, due to the unfortunate cancellation of the meeting on account of the brutal ice storm that hit Oklahoma during the weekend of January 12-14. It is my hope that all of you managed to stay warm and safe during this storm, which, according to many news broadcasts I watched, is said to be the worst in recent Oklahoma history. Hopefully, with March bringing springtime and warmer temperatures, the weather will cooperate. You won't want to miss this presentation either, especially if you are new to Astronomy and would like to know what the best kind of equipment is for you.

I also hope that all of you got to see the SPECTACULAR Comet McNaught!! It is indeed a rare treat to see a bright comet in what most people consider to still being daylight, in the golden glow of evening twilight right after

the sun goes down! My husband Owen and I went out to TASM's parking lot on the evening of January 9 and viewed it with Chris Pagan, who was outside taking a little break, and I mean to tell you all it was the most wonderful thing I have ever seen! To those of you who took and emailed in pictures of the comet, thank you and good job!!! I personally enjoyed looking at all of them. Some have even reported seeing it in broad daylight at mid-day! Can you all imagine how it might have looked if it was up later in the night, and in a DARK sky? It would have surely knocked your socks off then! For those lucky old rascals south of the Equator, they did get to see it in a dark sky! I'm so jealous!

Unfortunately, Mother Nature has not been very kind to us lately. We attempted to reschedule our January meeting for January 19th, with our star party moved to

the 20th, but due to the dangerous weather both had to be cancelled. With overnight temperatures being below freezing and ice on the roads for many days, it was just simply deemed unsafe for anyone to be out driving, especially out to the observatory. Hopefully, Old Mother Nature will get over her nasty little attitude and give us a break in the form of better weather for this month and the months ahead.

Please accept my apologies for all these cancellations. Sadly, nobody has any control over the weather. But I do hope to see you all at our February 2nd meeting and our February 16th star party!

Clear Skies to All!

Tamara Green, President

COMET MCNAUGHT



Photo credit: Hannes Pieterse, Astronomical Society - Bloemfontein
© Hannes Pieterse, Bloemfontein, South Africa
e-mail: pieterse@polka.co.za
Comet C/2006 P1 McNaught 20 km West from Bloemfontein.
Friday, 19/01/2007; 20:39. 30 Second exposure.

THE TULSA ASTRONOMY CLUB PRESENTS

THE DARK SIDE OF THE UNIVERSE

A TALK BY PROFESSOR YUN WANG



Professor Yun Wang has graciously agreed to give a talk at our February club meeting at the University of Tulsa. She is with the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Oklahoma. The title of her talk will be The Dark Side of the Universe.

Ms. Wang's current research interests include:

- *Probing dark energy with cosmological data.*
- *Supernovae and cosmology.*
- *Cosmic microwave background anisotropy.*
- *Observational constraint on inflationary models.*
- *Gravitational lensing & cosmology.*
- *The measurement of cosmological parameters.*

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2nd AT 7:00 PM

Room M1 at Keplinger Hall, 5th and Harvard

NO CHARGE AND THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME

Lands Tidbits

By John Land

Night Sky magazine Ceasing publication. Received the sad news that the Night Sky magazine produced by Sky and Telescope will cease publication with its Feb 2007 issue. <http://skytonight.com/news/4884391.html>

Sky and Telescope has new address: After 50 years at the same address Sky and Telescope magazine has moved its headquarters to a larger more modern facility. The new address is 90 Sherman St, Cambridge, MA 02140 They have recently been a part of New Track Media company but assure us that they will maintain the same high level of quality articles that have made the magazine such a success for the last 65 years. Club members should still make their renewals through the Tulsa Club to get a substantial club subscription discount. They also have recently changed their Internet Website name to <http://skytonight.com/> so some of your old bookmarks may have to be changed to find familiar features on the new website. For those of you looking for a weekly update of breaking news in astronomy, register your email on the Sky & Tel website for a number of options including a weekly bulletin plus several new features coming out in 2007.

Welcome Recent New Members: Joe Wilson, Eric Miller, Jay Hall, Christine Fehrle, Glen McGowan

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP or Subscriptions LAPSE !! Check your MAILING LABEL for membership expiration date. Those receiving Email should get a reminder when your membership is up for renewal or you may contact John Land. You may also renew magazine subscriptions through the club for substantial discounts.

Magazine subscriptions Renewals: Several of you may be receiving renewal notices for you Astronomy or Sky & Telescope. If you renew through the club you get a substantial discount. Go to the website and fill out the renewal form then print it off and mail it in with your notice and envelope from the magazine. Or you may fill out and mail in the form below.

GUEST SIGN IN SECTION on the Website is already bringing the club new contacts for potential new members.

Changing EMAIL - When you change your email or

mailing address be sure to send me the new information so I can update the club records. You can use the Join feature on the club web page to make changes.

ON LINE Club Memberships and Renewals:

Adults - \$ 35 per year includes Astronomical League Membership

Sr. Adult discount \$25 per year for those over 65 includes Astronomical League Membership

Students \$ 15 without League membership.

Students \$ 20 with League membership.

We now have an automated on line registration form on the website for new AND renewal memberships plus magazine subscriptions. You simply type in your information and hit send to submit the information. <http://www.astrotulsa.com/Club/join.asp> You can then print a copy of the form and mail in your check.

Astronomy Club of Tulsa - 25209 E 62nd St - Broken Arrow, OK 74014

Magazine Subscriptions: If your magazines are coming up for renewal, try to save the mailing label or renewal form you get in the mail. Do NOT mail renewals back to the magazine! To get the club discount you must go through the club group rate.

Astronomy is \$ 34 for 1 year or \$ 60 for 2 years. www.astronomy.com

Sky & Telescope is \$33 / yr www.skyandtelescope.com Sky and Telescope also offers a 10% discount on their products.

Address Corrections- Email changes - Questions: You may forward questions to the club call our message line at 918-688-MARS (6277) Or go to the club website and Fill out an online form or just click on John Land and send an email. Please leave a clear subject line and message with your name, phone number, your question - along with address or email

Astronomy Club of Tulsa

Membership Application/Renewal Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____ Phone: (918) _____ - _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip _____ / _____ OK _____ / _____

E-mail address - print clearly _____

Check Lines below : For faster economical delivery you are notified by email when the Club newsletter is posted on the web. Email saves the club mailing expenses. Of course if you do not have email we can mail you a copy of the monthly newsletter.

New Membership Renewal Membership

Adult Membership (\$35) includes Astronomical League membership.

See <http://astroleague.org/> for benefits of being a League Member.

Student Member (\$20)* includes Astronomical League membership.

Student Member only(\$15)* - without League membership.

* Student - Persons 25 or younger actively taking courses at college, trade school, high school, or below.

* Adult Student - Persons over 25 may join at the student rate for one year if enrolled in an astronomy course at an area college.

Check Lines below for YES

I would prefer to receive E-mail notification when club newsletter is posted to the web.

Notice of club events and newsletters are usually sent by email.

This helps assure you will be informed of late breaking news.

I choose to receive my newsletter by E-mail ONLY instead of postal mail.

Check here if you also require a postal copy of the monthly newsletter.

Note: Using email newsletter saves the club about \$5 per year

Magazine subscriptions: Magazine rates may change. Prices available with membership only.

Sky & Telescope Subscription (\$33) / year _____ Renewal Include Subscription Number. Also includes 10% discount on most Sky & Telescope products.

Astronomy Subscription (\$ 34) / year (\$ 60) / two years _____ Renewal Include Subscription Number.

NightSky for 6 issues for \$18 see www.NightSkymag.com Issues come out bi-Monthly This is an excellent choice for the novice astronomer and youth just starting out in astronomy.

Astronomy Club of Tulsa - 25209 E. 62nd St - Broken Arrow, OK 74014

Or go to the club website and fill out an online form or just click on John Land and send an email.

How did you hear of the Astronomy Club of Tulsa? _____

How long have you been interested or active in astronomy? _____

Do you have a telescope? _____ Type _____

What astronomy club activities would you like to participate in?

Have you been a member of other astronomy clubs? _____

Where / when _____

Astronomy Club of Tulsa membership (\$35/year) includes membership in the Astronomical League and subscription to ACT's "Observer" and AL's "Reflector". "Astronomy" (\$34/year) and "Sky and Telescope" (\$33/year) are also available through the club. For more information contact John Land at 918.357.1759. Permission is hereby granted to reprint from this publication provided credit is given to the original author and the Astronomy Club of Tulsa Observer is identified as the source.

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Astronomy Club of Tulsa

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<http://www.AstroTulsa.com>

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