

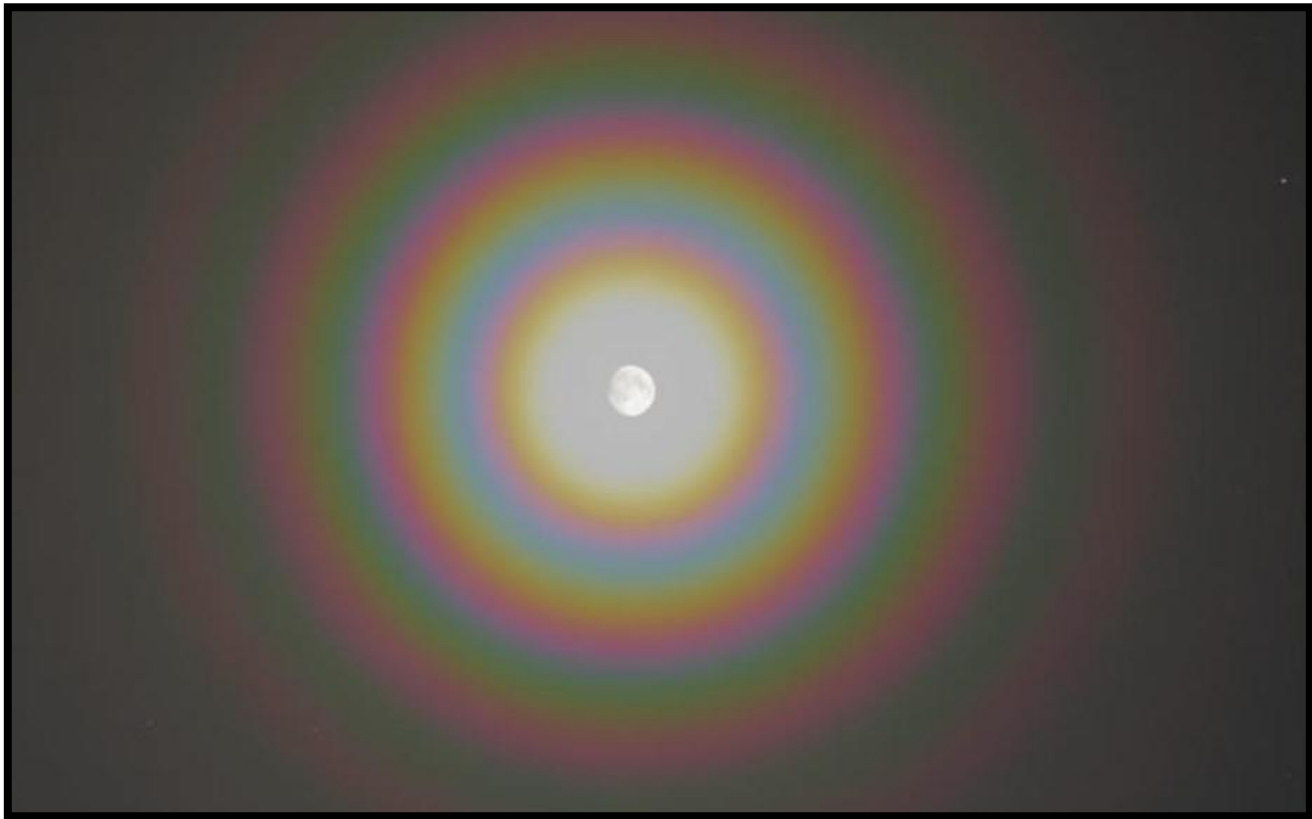


Astronomy Club of Tulsa
Observer



May 2009

Picture of the Month



Six Ring Lunar Corona

HDR Lunar Corona by Boris Dmitriev & Stanislav Korotkiy at the Special Astrophysical Observatory of the Russian Academy of Science, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, Russia. Reproduced from Atmospheric Optics Website "<http://www.atoptics.co.uk/fz202.htm>"

A corona is a diffraction pattern in the sky produced by light interacting with small water droplets in clouds. It has a huge range of brightness. Most scattered light goes into the bright central aureole but even that is dim compared with the moon itself. The first ring outside the aureole has only 1.75% of the forward-scattered light intensity. The second ring is 4X fainter still at 0.42% and so on.

Our eyes cannot cope with the intensity range and we usually see no more than 2-3 rings. Cameras are worse and cannot capture the rings without grossly over-exposing the moon and central portions. Sometimes a fortuitous cloud does allow the lunar details to be preserved while capturing the outer coronal delicacy.

In the clear air of the 2,070m high observatory, four rings were seen visually and even more are on the image. High Dynamic Range (HDR) techniques were used to render the brightness range. Individual images were made with a 50mm lens on a Canon EOS 20D using exposures of 1/1000, 1/2, 1, 2.5, 5 and 10s. They were combined in PhotoShop CS.

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| May Calendar ----- p2 | Planetarium News ----- p6 |
| May Stars ----- p3 | Observing Pages ----- p7 |
| 100 Hrs – Come & Gone -- p4 | Land’s Tidbits ----- p10 |
| 100 Hrs - Photos ----- p5 | Adams Ranch ----- p11 |

Important ACT Upcoming Dates:

- ACT Meeting @ TCC - Fri. May 8, 2009 (7pm)
- RMCC Work Day – Sat. May 9, 2009 (10am – 2pm)
- Public Star Party... Fri. May 15, 2009 (p11)
- Adams Ranch / Members Weekend May 22-24, 2009

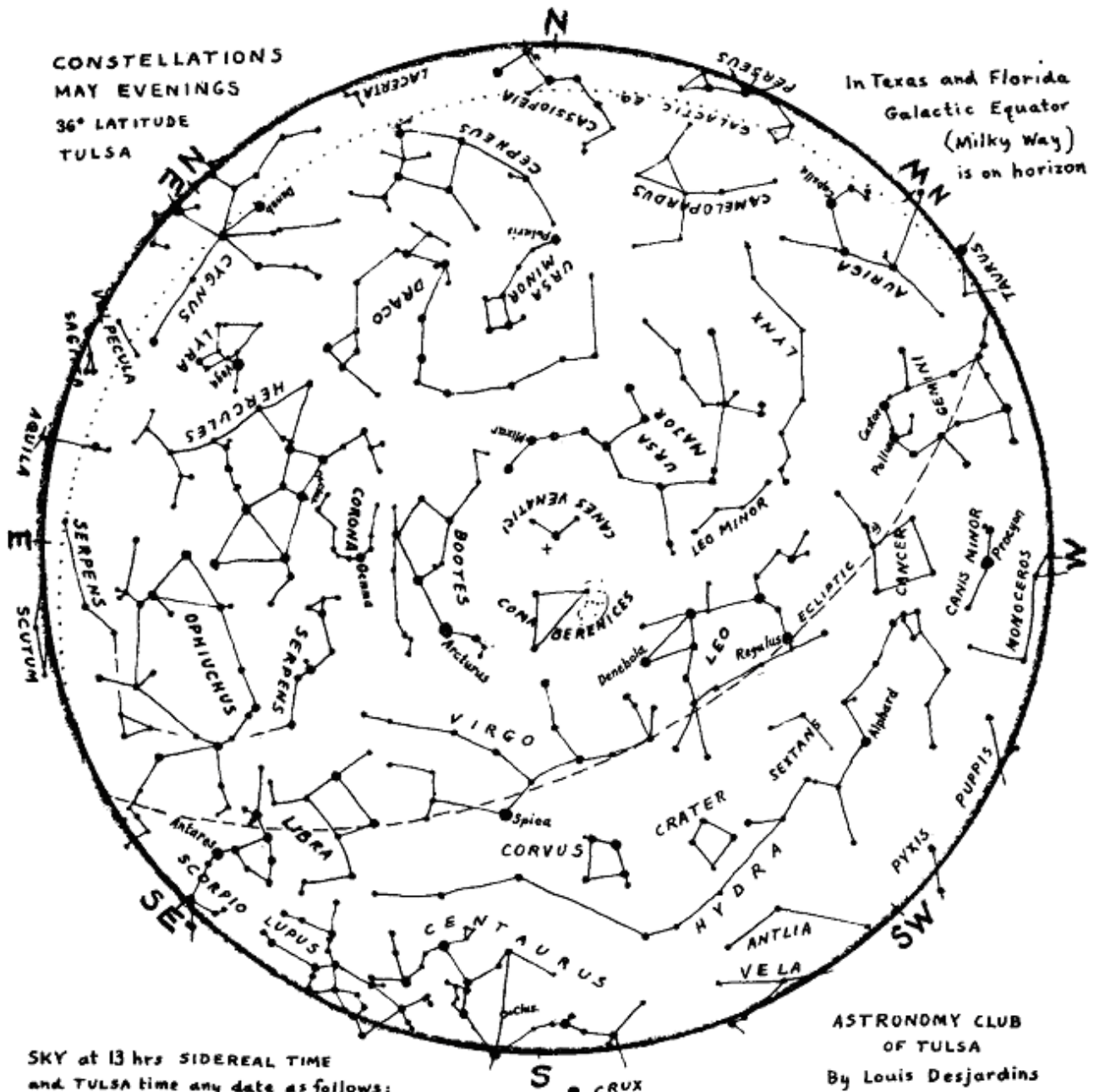
May 2009

Tulsa, Oklahoma

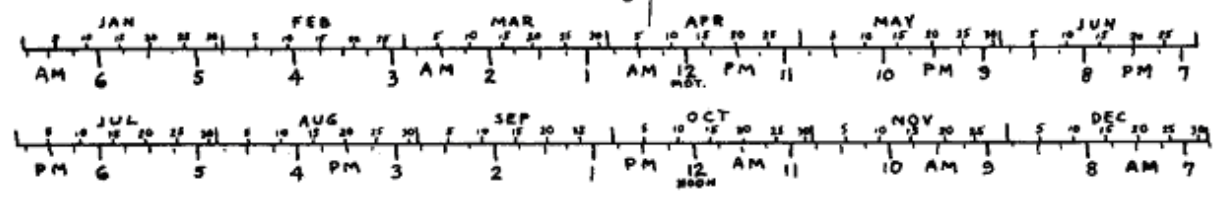
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| 31 Sunrise: 6:08am Sunset: 8:34pm Moonrise: 1:57pm Moonset: 1:48am | | | | | 1 SIDEWALK BASS PRO & RIVERWALK 8-10 PM Sunrise: 6:31am Sunset: 8:10pm Moonrise: 12:42pm Moonset: 2:09am First Qtr: 2:45pm | 2 SIDEWALK BASS PRO & RIVERWALK 8-10 PM Sunrise: 6:30am Sunset: 8:11pm Moonrise: 1:51pm Moonset: 2:45am |
| 3 Sunrise: 6:29am Sunset: 8:12pm Moonrise: 2:58pm Moonset: 3:16am | 4 Sunrise: 6:28am Sunset: 8:13pm Moonrise: 4:03pm Moonset: 3:44am | 5 Sunrise: 6:27am Sunset: 8:14pm Moonrise: 5:07pm Moonset: 4:11am | 6 Sunrise: 6:26am Sunset: 8:15pm Moonrise: 6:10pm Moonset: 4:38am | 7 Sunrise: 6:25am Sunset: 8:15pm Moonrise: 7:14pm Moonset: 5:07am | 8 ACT MEETING Sunrise: 6:24am Sunset: 8:16pm Moonrise: 8:17pm Moonset: 5:40am Full Moon: 10:02pm | 9 Sunrise: 6:23am Sunset: 8:17pm Moonrise: 9:19pm Moonset: 6:17am |
| 10 Sunrise: 6:22am Sunset: 8:18pm Moonrise: 10:17pm Moonset: 6:59am | 11 Sunrise: 6:21am Sunset: 8:19pm Moonrise: 11:09pm Moonset: 7:46am | 12 Sunrise: 6:20am Sunset: 8:20pm Moonrise: 11:55pm Moonset: 8:39am | 13 Sunrise: 6:19am Sunset: 8:20pm Moonrise: none Moonset: 9:35am | 14 Sunrise: 6:18am Sunset: 8:21pm Moonrise: 12:35am Moonset: 10:33am | 15 RMCC PUBLIC Sunrise: 6:18am Sunset: 8:22pm Moonrise: 1:09am Moonset: 11:31am | 16 Sunrise: 6:17am Sunset: 8:23pm Moonrise: 1:40am Moonset: 12:30pm |
| 17 Sunrise: 6:16am Sunset: 8:24pm Moonrise: 2:07am Moonset: 1:28pm Last Qtr: 1:27am | 18 Sunrise: 6:15am Sunset: 8:24pm Moonrise: 2:32am Moonset: 2:27pm | 19 Sunrise: 6:15am Sunset: 8:25pm Moonrise: 2:58am Moonset: 3:29pm | 20 Sunrise: 6:14am Sunset: 8:26pm Moonrise: 3:24am Moonset: 4:32pm | 21 Sunrise: 6:13am Sunset: 8:27pm Moonrise: 3:53am Moonset: 5:40pm | 22 MEMBERS ADAMS RNCH Sunrise: 6:13am Sunset: 8:28pm Moonrise: 4:27am Moonset: 6:51pm | 23 MEMBERS ADAMS RNCH Sunrise: 6:12am Sunset: 8:28pm Moonrise: 5:07am Moonset: 8:04pm |
| 24 MEMBERS ADAMS RNCH Sunrise: 6:12am Sunset: 8:29pm Moonrise: 5:56am Moonset: 9:16pm New Moon: 6:12am | 25 Sunrise: 6:11am Sunset: 8:30pm Moonrise: 6:54am Moonset: 10:22pm | 26 Sunrise: 6:10am Sunset: 8:31pm Moonrise: 8:02am Moonset: 11:19pm | 27 Sunrise: 6:10am Sunset: 8:31pm Moonrise: 9:16am Moonset: none | 28 Sunrise: 6:10am Sunset: 8:32pm Moonrise: 10:30am Moonset: 12:06am | 29 Sunrise: 6:09am Sunset: 8:33pm Moonrise: 11:42am Moonset: 12:45am | 30 Sunrise: 6:09am Sunset: 8:33pm Moonrise: 12:51pm Moonset: 1:19am First Qtr: 9:23pm |



With apologies to Charles Schultz & Messier



SKY at 13 hrs SIDEREAL TIME
and TULSA time any date as follows:



- First Quarter – May 1st
- Full Moon – May 9th
- Last Quarter – May 17th
- New Moon – May 24th
- First Quarter – May 30th

- May 2nd – Venus – Greatest Brilliancy (Morning)
- May 5th – Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower Peak
- May 18th – Mercury Inferior Conjunction
- Morning Planets - Venus, Mars & Jupiter
- Evening Planet - Saturn

YEAR OF ASTRONOMY – INTERNATIONAL STYLE

Peggy Walker – ACT IYoA Coordinator

100 HOURS – COME AND GONE

The International Year of Astronomy's 100 Hours of Astronomy was scheduled from Thursday, April 2nd, to Sunday April 5th. The Astronomy Club of Tulsa offered a few sidewalk events. Our regular scheduled events at Bass Pro Shops in Broken Arrow and Riverwalk Crossing in Jenks. However, the weather was not working with us and the Bass Pro Shop event was cancelled and an attempt was made at the Riverwalk Crossing. Although there were clouds, the radar showed the clouds leaving about 9:00p.m. So Rick and I, Chris and Dennis made the journey anyway. There was visiting and then clouds were gone for a few minutes of viewing.

One couple did come and view but one cyclist on his way back from the movie theatre stopped to view. As Chris showed him Saturn and he asked what moons were with him, we did not know the answer. So the guy pulls out his cell phone and calls his dad. He had his mom get him to the phone and asked him and his dad replied Titan. The guy talked for a few minutes and he told us to say good night to Dr. Shone from Palomar who has written three books and worked on the large radio telescope in Tennessee. So we yelled good night Dr. Shone. Afterwards I asked his son about his dad and he mentioned the books and the work he did. He thanked us for the viewing and left. So the night was not a total waste of time. You never know who you will meet at these events.

Friday, April 3rd, the presentation did not happen due to no projector, but we did have a good sized crowd. What was interesting is that certain visitors spent the time with one of the different club members. The visitors were very engaged in the event and questioned the members because conversations were very plentiful and lots of laughter and smiles were had by everyone. When the visitors left, the members felt it was a very dynamic night. The three guys that came to the Rod's presentation at Hardesty in March, came back for these events. At Hardesty, John spent time with, Chin, Raj, and C.K., and found out that two were from Singapore, and one from Toronto. As our 100 hours came, they were at the Friday and Sunday events.

Saturday, April 4th was the International Sidewalk Astronomy Night – ISAN II held at Mohawk Park. Although it was forecasted to have some clouds, the faithful members were there with equipment and smiles in hand. There was a bus load of kids from St. Peter & Paul's School as well as several people who saw the newspaper article that Rick and I finally got the Tulsa World to write on the club. We happened to have an ISS fly over and Iridium Flare as well as Saturn in the sky that night (and a couple of planes). With the club back active with the Night Sky Network, I had tons of giveaways for the crowd as well as IYA stickers. Tamara was in full paparazzi mode

snapping photo op's at every turn and it is with great thanks to her, that you have the great shots in this article.

The last 100 Hours Event was the Hardesty Black hole Presentation in the Conner's Cove Auditorium and solar observing afterward. Of course the weather changed and it was cloudy, painfully cold and windy so the solar part of the event did not happen. But the long awaited – constantly talked about black hole presentation with on without a hitch. Although I was pretty nervous about it, I think I did a pretty good job conveying the information I presented. I had made some Black Hole Game c.d.'s for adults and kids, and had more handouts. Jerry and Connie set up a scope in the foyer, and Connie ran the table and Jerry had his laptop and telescope for people to get a great idea to the workings of a telescope. Bill Steen showed came and also set up his scope as well and he had folks engaged in conversations as well.

There was a young lady from Landon Holcomb's Astronomy class from Broken Arrow High School and I had to sign off on her notes. She did a great job on the note taking and I was told that black holes are the hot topic in her class. I did also have a man ask me about the electromagnetic spectrum that was on the presentation and I'm not sure, but a man joined the club and commented that he saw the "very informative black hole presentation at the library," and that's why he joined.

I asked Tom to write what he thought about the presentation so make sure you check out his article to which I am declaring plausible deniability on my part.

Anyway, thank you guys so much for all the effort and hard work. I enjoyed visiting and hanging out with you guys and trying to beat Anne to the port-a-potty. – Peggy Walker

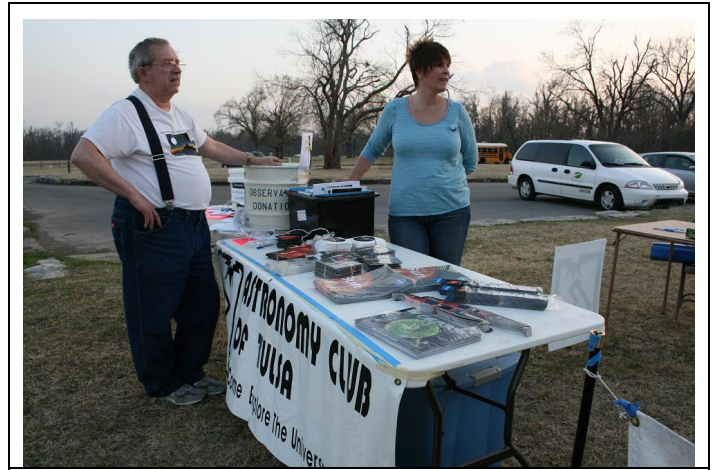


Garrett Optical® stocks over 50 astronomy binoculars from six different manufacturers, and we're based right here in south Tulsa.

Visit our websites
www.GarrettOptical.com
www.AstronomyBinoculars.com
 for more information!



Moon & Venus - April 22, 2009 / Steve Chapman



Saturday 4/4/09 at Oxley Nature Center.



"Teapot" - Dean Salman past club member (10' DLSR Shot)

(Note: watch for Dean's article in July 2009 Astronomy Magazine)

April Public ACT Event Pictures – 100 Hours



Saturday Night – Good Turnout.



Public Star Party – Friday Night 4/3/09 at RMCC.



Sunday 4/5/09 –Hardesty Library.

**Special Notice:
TASM Holiday Closing
May 25th!**



Planetarium Shows

May 1st – 31st, 2009
Presentation Schedule Changes Monthly



**Doors open 10 minutes prior to show time for general seating.
All shows begin on the hour. Admission applies to one show.**

Monday PLANETARIUM CLOSED

Tuesday through Friday

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 11:00 AM | Extreme Planets |
| 12:00 Noon | BIG |
| 1:00 PM | Secret of the Cardboard Rocket |
| 2:00 PM | Extreme Planets |
| 3:00 PM | Night Skies over Green Country |
| 4:00 PM | BIG |

BIG: The Universe is Big, but how Big is Big? Journey to the farthest observable reaches of the universe to find out! Computer animation, claymation, laser graphics and a surround sound musical score bring a really BIG subject down to Earth.

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket: Join two children, Bonnie and Marcus, on a magical journey through the Solar System, aided by a talking astronomy book, a cardboard rocket, and a vivid imagination. Take an up close look at all of our planets and learn the secret that makes this entire journey possible. Great for young children and their families. *Funded by Sam Viersen Family Foundation and The Oxley Foundation. Community Sponsor -- Tulsa City-County Library.*

Saturday

| | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10:00 AM | Secret of the Cardboard Rocket |
| 11:00 AM | Extreme Planets |
| 12:00 Noon | BIG |
| 1:00 PM | Secret of the Cardboard Rocket |
| 2:00 PM | Extreme Planets |
| 3:00 PM | Night Skies over Green Country |
| 4:00 PM | BIG |

Extreme Planets: For ages, humanity has wondered whether we are alone in the Universe. Fifteen years ago we were unaware of planets outside our solar system, but today these "extrasolar" planets appear to be quite common. As the search continues, the possibility exists that one day we might find life elsewhere in the Universe, born in the light of another sun. Join us in the adventure as we explore Extreme Planets.

Sunday

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 1:00 PM | Secret of the Cardboard Rocket |
| 2:00 PM | Extreme Planets |
| 3:00 PM | Night Skies over Green Country |
| 4:00 PM | BIG |

Night Skies over Green Country: Live Planetarium presentation takes the audience on a journey of the current local night sky. Visual demonstrations will include what constellations and planets are visible that night and include upcoming celestial events like comets, meteor showers, and eclipses. Program changes as the night sky changes.

Notice: Shows are subject to change. Seating is for 110. Admission and seating is on the basis of first-come, first-served. Seating may not be available for all showings. Visitors must be seated before presentation begins. No entry after doors are closed, late arrivals attend next presentation. No food or drinks allowed in Planetarium. Please contact the Planetarium to confirm shows and information at (918) 834-9900 x400.

Observing Pages

Information Exchange

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa now maintains a Yahoo Group for the club. For those of you unfamiliar with Yahoo groups, it is a forum that allows for messages, photos and files that can be shared among the group's members. As stated in the group's description, "This group is for the members of the Astronomy Club of Tulsa to ask questions, share ideas, get information, plan observing sessions, or just communicate in general. Informal club business communications may also be announced here." This group can be found on the web at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/AstroTulsa/>. It is open to all club members, so be sure to check it out! Tony White, our Club President is the group's moderator.

| | Double Star | Caldwell | Messier | Deep Sky Binocular | Herschel-1 | Herschel-1 | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|----|
| 1 | Delta Corvi | NGC4236 (C3) | M49 | Mel111 | NGC4245 | NGC4565 * | 41 |
| 2 | 24 Comae Berenices | NGC4449 (C21) * | M53 | | NGC4251 | NGC4570 | 42 |
| 3 | Gamma Virginis | NGC4244 (C26) | M58 | | NGC4258 * | NGC4596 | 43 |
| 4 | 32 Camelopardalis | NGC5005 (C29) * | M59 | | NGC4261 | NGC4618 | 44 |
| 5 | Cor Caroli | NGC4631 (C32) * | M60 | | NGC4273 | NGC4631 * | 45 |
| 6 | Zeta Ursa Majoris | NGC4889 (C35) | M61 (NGC4303) * | | NGC4274 | NGC4636 | 46 |
| 7 | | NGC4559 (C36) * | M63 | | NGC4278 | NGC4643 | 47 |
| 8 | | NGC4565 (C38) * | M64 | | NGC4281 | NGC4654 | 48 |
| 9 | | NGC5248 (C45) * | M68 | | NGC4293 | NGC4656 | 49 |
| 10 | | NGC4697 (C52) * | M84 | | NGC4303 * | NGC4660 | 50 |
| 11 | | NGC5128 (C77) | M85 | | NGC4314 | NGC4665 | 51 |
| 12 | | NGC5139 (C80) | M86 | | NGC4346 | NGC4666 | 52 |
| 13 | | NGC4945 (C83) | M87 | | NGC4350 | NGC4689 | 53 |
| 14 | | NGC5286 (C84) | M88 | | NGC4361 | NGC4697 * | 54 |
| 15 | | | M89 | | NGC4365 | NGC4698 | 55 |
| 16 | | | M90 | | NGC4371 | NGC4699 | 56 |
| 17 | | | M91 (NGC4548) * | | NGC4394 | NGC4725 | 57 |
| 18 | | | M94 | | NGC4414 | NGC4753 | 58 |
| 19 | | | M99 | | NGC4419 | NGC4754 | 59 |
| 20 | | | M100 | | NGC4429 | NGC4762 | 60 |
| 21 | | | M104 (NGC4594) * | | NGC4435 | NGC4781 | 61 |
| 22 | | | M106 (NGC4258) * | | NGC4438 | NGC4800 | 62 |
| 23 | | | | | NGC4442 | NGC4845 | 63 |
| 24 | | | | | NGC4448 | NGC4856 | 64 |
| 25 | | | | | NGC4449 * | NGC4866 | 65 |
| 26 | | | | | NGC4450 | NGC4900 | 66 |
| 27 | | | | | NGC4459 | NGC4958 | 67 |
| 28 | | | | | NGC4473 | NGC4995 | 68 |
| 29 | | | | | NGC4477 | NGC5005 * | 69 |
| 30 | | | | | NGC4478 | NGC5033 | 70 |
| 31 | | | | | NGC4485 | NGC5054 | 71 |
| 32 | | | | | NGC4490 | NGC5195 | 72 |
| 33 | | | | | NGC4494 | NGC5248 * | 73 |
| 34 | | | | | NGC4526 | NGC5273 | 74 |
| 35 | | | | | NGC4527 | NGC5322 | 75 |
| 36 | | | | | NGC4535 | NGC5363 | 76 |
| 37 | | | | | NGC4536 | NGC5364 | 77 |
| 38 | | | | | NGC4546 | NGC5466 | 78 |
| 39 | | | | | NGC4550 | NGC5473 | 79 |
| 40 | | | | | NGC4559 * | NGC5474 | 80 |

Details of this list are located in the folder, "ACT Observing Lists" in the AstroTulsa Yahoo group's files section. This list contains too many objects to "observe" in one evening, but we will recognize anyone who observes 20 or more of these objects. The reason there are many objects is to give the observer a variety of objects that can also be used for completion of a Astronomical League (AL) Observing Club. For more information on the Astronomical League and the observing clubs, check it out at <http://www.astroleague.org/observing.html>. All of the objects cross the meridian between 10 PM and midnight. For this month, the

list contains 6 double stars (AL Double Star Club), 14 Caldwell objects (AL Caldwell Club), 22 Messier objects (AL Binocular Messier & AL Messier Clubs), 1 deep sky object (AL Deep Sky Binocular Club) and 80 Herschel objects (AL Herschel-1 Club). Several of the Herschel objects are also on the Caldwell and Messier lists, so observing any of these objects will count toward multiple observing clubs.

Starting last month and continuing through the next couple of months, we are in the “galaxy” season. Most of the objects on these lists are galaxies although there is one spectacular globular cluster. Unfortunately, it only rises 9 degrees above the horizon in Tulsa. Be sure to check out NGC5139 (Omega Centaurus) and not too far away NGC5128 (Centaurus A). Also another of my favorite galaxies is NGC4565 which is also Caldwell 38. Here's a couple of images that I did of these objects while at the Texas Star Party.



NGC5128 – Centaurus A



NGC4565

As we continue these lists, one should be able to complete several of the AL observing clubs in only one year. Of course the Herschel list with its 400 entries, will probably take longer. Please take a look and give feedback to either Ann Bruun or Rod Gallagher. Also, please provide a copy of your observing logs to Ann Bruun.

Thanks – Rod Gallagher

Boldly Going Where No Peggy Has Gone Before

Reviewed by Tom McDonough

Peggy Walker delivered a presentation entitled Black Holes at Hardesty Library on April 5th, 2009 as part of the International Year of Astronomy 100 Hours of Astronomy event. An audience of about 60 filled the Connor's Cove Children's Theater to experience the program.

Clad in a Star Fleet uniform and backed up by stunning visuals and music, Ms. Walker burst forth with her exuberant personality engaging the crowd with a treatise on the life of black holes in the universe. Although the subject matter is very complex, Peggy struck the right balance between theory, fact, and technospeak.

The high quality of the production along with Peggy's costume set the stage for a high energy program that kept an audience of all ages riveted for over an hour, culminating in a thunderous round of applause. Following the performance, several people posed with Peggy for pictures and sought autographs.

Overall it was the highlight of our IYoA activities so far this year and shed a very positive public spotlight on the club. I think we all owe thanks to Ms. Walker and company for a fantastic and professional presentation.



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE STAR TREK CONVENTION

On April 5th, for my Sunday black hole presentation I had an idea to give me more validity and that was with a Star Trek Deep Space 9 uniform. (What was I thinking?) I was not very comfortable with the close proximity to my person, but it was all in good fun. I

even had a lady from work purchase the original com badge from the actor who wore it on the series DP9. At the Friday, April 4th Star Party, Raj another of our international guests confided he was a closet trekie. Chin laughed and when I told them what I was going to do, it peaked their interest even more to come to Hardesty.



So after the presentation, which I was nervous about, I could not wait to get out of the uniform and Chin asked if he could have his picture taken with me. I had to laugh because I'm sure if I offered my autograph, they would have taken it. However, they did get lithographs of all the planets so they did not leave empty handed. It was way too hysterical.

So this picture was emailed by Chin from Singapore for us to add to the newsletter.

Lands Tidbits – by John Land

Welcome Recent New Members: Willard Koch, Fred Morgan, Bob White, C. Stewart Giles II, Len Turner, Randall Baker, Joey Woodson

Our membership rates for 2009 – 2010 will be as follows:

Adults - \$35 per year (includes Astronomical League Membership)

Sr. Adult - discount \$25 per year for those 65 or older (includes Astronomical League Membership)

Students - \$15 (without Astronomical League membership)

Students - \$20 (with Astronomical League membership)

The regular membership allows all members in the family to participate in club events but only ONE voting membership and one Astronomical League membership. If an additional member of the family would like to join with voting rights the additional cost is \$15, and/or additional Astronomical League memberships within a family are \$5 each.

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 / year. "www.skyandtelescope.com"

Sky and Telescope also offers a 10% discount on their products.

Note: You may renew your Sky & Telescope subscription directly with out having to mail in the subscriptions to the club.

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS must still be sent to the club treasurer. Forms are available on the website.

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 to:

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

Address Corrections- Email changes – Questions:

You may forward questions to the club by going to our club website (<http://www.astrotulsa.com/>) 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 email.

Letters to the Observer:

Where'd It Go - Reading some old archives the Jan '99 issue got me to thinking about the newsletter of today, it sure has changed, it looks more uptown. And that is where it ends. It is trying to come back but it still needs more meat. I would like to see more members send in articles. Now the negative side. Like I just said members we need more input. Now for the disclaimer -- no astronomer's were injured is this and no fingers are pointed are any one person. We all are to blame. That is the only plus that I can give our newsletter. Now then let's look at the negative side. What is our membership now; in 1999 we had 150 members. There use to be a show and tell of our equipment and why we have it. Now the committee's. You all should go back in the archives and read them. Now let's look at few--

We need to get the news out to all the school's our best bet would be the superintendent of the district. Off topic for a second, is Big Mac attack still with us. If Mac is not then we need to start putting a list together. We also need to get real good package for then. Some of our new members don't own a scope let so how about when we have parties let's let them help and let them find things - with our help of course. The scopes that are in the classroom can they be set up for members with out scopes. The next thing is the historical aspect of the club. Has any body done any thing? And how about a dark sky site committee - something that is closer for a short night.

Here's a website, to help find a scope buddies around our area, there's only 2 of us listed for Oklahoma. Also is there a master list of all members and when it was last up dated. Connie and I are putting together a photo layout of you and your telescope and short note such as--name--date joined--Size of scope. So you all better smile no mug shots. Also we all need name tags so that we look professional and our guest's will feel more at ease. I think we should all have a business card, nothing fancy maybe our logo and our website. Not a day it seems I don't tell somebody about our club and then they ask for a website. Well that about ends my 2cents for the month. So come on members Start writing.

Clear Skies
 Jerry & Connie Koenig

ASTRONOMY CLUB STAR PUBLIC PARTY

FRIDAY MAY 15ND - ALTERNATE DATE WILL BE SATURDAY MAY 16TH IF SKY IS CLOUDY ON FRIDAY.

*GATES OPEN AT 7:00 PM SUNSET -8:29 P.M. / END CIVIL TWILIGHT - 8:58 P.M.
PRESENTATION AT 8:00 P.M. IN CLASSROOM - OUR SUN*

Due to the uncertain weather reports, always check your local weather reports for sky conditions. Our club has an excellent resource for predictions of cloud cover on the observe section of our website: (<http://www.astrotulsa.com/Observe/observe.asp>). Since night-time temperatures can dip to the mid 40's or colder you should plan to bring a coat and/or dress in layers. **IT CAN GET VERY WINDY ON OUR OBSERVATORY HILL!!**

- Beginners Telescope Set Up on Center Pad: Several of our new members and guests have new telescopes they are trying to learn how to use. We would like to invite you to set up your equipment near the center concrete observing pad. Members let's all take time to meet these novice astronomers and help them get a good start with their equipment.
- Wireless Internet now available at the Observatory: For laptop users - Rod Gallagher has made arrangements for wireless Internet to be broadcast on the observing field. Details for log on are available at the observatory. This is available for members to use for astronomy, observing and weather information and should not be abused for other types of browsing and gaming.
- Things to bring to a star party: Of course a telescope or binoculars are great for observing but you don't have to have one to enjoy the evening. You don't have to own a telescope to enjoy an observing night. Our members are eager to share their views with others. There will be plenty of people willing to share the view if you just ask. Also bring a red colored or covered flashlight to see your way around. We have plenty of folding chairs and a clean restroom.
- Children are always welcome but must be supervised and must stay on observatory grounds. It's always wise to have an alternate activity such as a favorite book or tapes for younger children who may tire early. Closed toed shoes are preferred and a light jacket as needed.
- We would like to encourage our new members and guests to join us
- Plan to arrive before dark. We have plenty of chairs and a classroom area.
- We have a microwave and you can bring your own snacks. You need to bring your own drinking water!

PARKING MAY BE AT A PREMIUM. Reserve Parking is available next door in old ATT lot for those without equipment or planning to leave early. PLEASE DO NOT PARK VEHICLES near the center-observing pad blocking the view and traffic access.

SAFETY ISSUE: When large groups are present it is better to turn on your park lights or headlights on low beam rather than to try driving in or out without lights... especially if those groups include children. Just warn everyone when you are getting ready to leave.

NEVER try driving down the hill without lights.

A donation of \$1.00 per guest would be appreciated to help us maintain the observatory.

Adams Ranch Dark sky Memorial Day weekend - Friday May 22 through Sunday night May 24

- Registration only open to Astronomy Club of Tulsa Members and their families.
- You will have to sign an insurance Liability Release form required by the Ranch.

Located on a 30,000 acre ranch about 20 miles NW of Pawhuska OK is one of the Darkest places in Oklahoma. Skies easily exceed 6th magnitude viewing naked eye. This ranch once belonged to Oil Tycoon Boots Adams who had his own private airport on the ranch. The ranch has a large bunkhouse with kitchen, baths and living area. This year we will be setting up telescopes in the area around the bunkhouse. (The runway is being used by crop duster planes this time of year) There is also a large area for camping tents near the bunkhouse.

- Registration fee All attendees Cost \$ 5 per person - nonrefundable
- Bunk Reservation fee \$ 10 per person - Non Refundable after May 14th
- 15 bunks are available at cost of \$ 30 per night - payable upon arrival.
- Bunk reservations are 1st Paid first served with preference to those staying two or more nights.
- Setting up you own cot indoors \$ 5 per night subject to available space.
- Tent and Camper space available outdoors.

IF POSSIBLE PLEASE USE THE REGISTRATION FROM POSTED ONLINE AT THE ACT YAHOO GROUP WEBSITE

-or-

eMail John Land at address below for a copy (Microsoft Excel Format...)

Save a copy and EMAIL it in to reserve your spot on SUBJECT LINE put: "**Your Name - Ranch registration**"

Email to John Land: <mailto:astroclubbiz@valornet.com>

Then print it off and mail it in with a check to - Astronomy Club of Tulsa, 25209 E 62nd St., Broken Arrow, OK 74014

You may phone in reservations to 918-357-1759 / Reservations will not be held if payment is not received.

Bunks do have linens but you must bring all your own personal items. NOTE: The Bunkhouse is COED – We will work together to insure areas and times to preserve your privacy. NO SMOKING INDOORS ! You must Bring all you own food and drinks. The club will buy paper plates and plastic ware and such for eating. Plan to bring other materials as you like. There is a large kitchen with two large refrigerators and a freezer.

In the past we have had volunteers to plan at least one large group meal per day. So expect to pay your part on that

Those camping outdoors must keep their areas clean and all trash in containers. No Open Fires! We'll have to abide by whatever burn bans rules may be in effect in the area. Plan to bring jackets and Insect repellent.

There are several nice places to visit in the area. The ranch is adjacent to the Tall Grass Prairie preserve that features 36,000 acres of open range and 5000 head of bison. Pawhuska has several historic buildings and Bad Brad's Barbeque is a favorite eating place. About 40 miles west is Ponca City with its historic Marland Museum. Those not staying at the ranch may inquire about motels in Pawhuska but be sure to tell them you will be sleeping in the day time.

CLUB OFFICERS

| POSITION | NAME | PHONE |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| President | Tony White | 918-258-1221 |
| Vice-President | Tom McDonough | 918-665-1853 |
| Co-Treasurers | John Land Jim Miller | 918-357-1759 918-627-4551 |
| Secretary | Teresa Kincannon | 918-637-1477 |

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

| NAME | PHONE |
|----------------|--------------|
| Ann Bruun | 918-834-0757 |
| Steve Chapman | 918-342-1643 |
| Rod Gallagher | 918-369-3827 |
| Bill Steen | 918-251-3062 |
| Chris Proctor | 918-810-6210 |
| Rick Walker | 918-451-9235 |
| Dennis Karcher | 918-619-7097 |

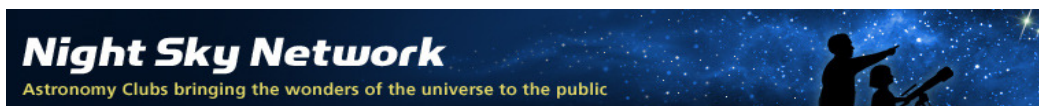
APPOINTED STAFF

| POSITION | NAME | PHONE |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| RMCC Facility Manager | Open | |
| Membership Chairman | John Land | 918-357-1759 |
| Observing Chairman | Ann Bruun | 918-834-0757 |
| New Members (co-Chairmen) | Owen Green Rick Walker | 918-851-1213 918-451-9235 |
| Observatory Director | Teresa Kincannon | 918-637-1477 |
| Webmaster | Richard Alford | 918-855-9986 |
| Newsletter Editor | Dennis Karcher | 918-619-7097 |
| Night Sky Network | Teresa Kincannon | 918-637-1477 |

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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.

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa is a proud member of the Astronomical League and the Night Sky Network



<http://www.astroleague.org>

<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>

ACT welcomes your questions, suggestions, comments, and submissions for publication.
Please send all inquiries to Newsletter@astrotulsa.com

There were three medieval kingdoms on the shores of a lake. There was an island in the middle of the lake, over which the kingdoms had been fighting for years. Finally, the three kings decided that they would send their knights out to do battle, and the winner would take the island.

The night before the battle, the knights and their squires pitched camp and readied themselves for the fight. The first kingdom had 12 knights, and each knight had five squires, all of whom were busily polishing armor, brushing horses, and cooking food. The second kingdom had twenty knights, and each knight had 10 squires. Everyone at that camp was also busy preparing for battle. At the camp of the third kingdom, there was only one knight, with his squire. This squire took a large pot and hung it from a looped rope in a tall tree. He busied himself preparing the meal, while the knight polished his own armor.

When the hour of the battle came, the three kingdoms sent their squires out to fight (this was too trivial a matter for the knights to join in). The battle raged, and when the dust had cleared, the only person left was the lone squire from the third kingdom, having defeated the squires from the other two kingdoms, thus proving that the squire of the high pot and noose is equal to the sum of the squires of the other two sides.

Deadline for June Article submissions: May 24, 2009
Target Publication for June Observer = May 30, 2009
eMail article submissions to: djkarcher@cox.net