President’s Message - October 2010

As I look back over the past year of turbulence and change, there is one more change to announce: the board has voted unanimously to rename RMCC to ACT Observatory. This will comply with the wishes of Ronald McDonald House Charities and paves the way for the club to secure significant funding to repair and upgrade the facility.

I again call upon the membership to step up and become more involved. With our increased expenses and need for repairs, the club cannot exist much longer on dues alone, even if we raise them. We MUST do additional fund raisers and also seek grants to obtain the funds necessary for our organization to thrive.

As I prepare to end my service to the club, I sincerely hope my call to action will be heeded by a new crop of members prepared to return our organization to a level that will make us all proud.

Tom McDonough / President, ACT
ACT Treasurers Report for Oct 15, 2010
John Land - Treasurer

Membership
98 Long Term members
28 New Members
126 Total membership as of Oct 15

Annual Report of Accounts
October 15, 2010

Checking $ 2,137.77
Savings $ 4,478.96
Available Liquid Assets $ 6,616.73
Minus Reserve Escrow $(2,260.00)
Available Funds $ 4,356.73

Reserve Escrow for Future Expenses
$ 250.00 Emergency Reserve Fund
$ 270.00 3 months Utilities
$ 270.00 Obs Supplies & Repairs
$ 1,470.00 6 mo Insurance & League
$ 2,260.00 Total Operational Expenses

Additonal $ 1470 will be added in Jan 2011

$ 5,593.25

Wells Fargo Investments accounts October 15, 2010 Sept 24-2009
Cash Balance $ 933.82 $709.98
Franklin Income Fund $ 8,683.34 $ 7,810.72
American Balanced Fund $ 2,361.12 $ 2,127.44
Washington Mutual Inv Fund $ 2,101.25 $ 1,891.59
Total Club investments $ 14,079.53 $ 12,539.73
( Note: Investment values continue to fluctuate due to weak economy )

Known & Projected Annual expenses
$ 710.00 June AL membership $ 59 /mo/ 12 mo
$ 2,221.00 July Insurance $185 /mo/ 12 mo
$ 800.00 Speakers & publicity $ 67 /mo/ 12 mo
$ 96.00 PO Box rental $ 8 /mo/ 12 mo
$ 41.25 Website $ 3.5 /mo/ 12 mo
$ 45.00 Safety Deposit $ 3.75 /mo/ 12 mo
$ 1,080.00 Utilities $ 90 /mo/12 mo
$ 600.00 Obs Maintenance $ 50/mo/12 mo
Total Annual Exp. $ 467 per month

For those who have not visited the club’s new Facebook page, go there now!
www.facebook.com/astronomycluboftulsa
Facebook is an excellent tool for sharing and staying “real time” up to speed on what’s going on with the ACT. Don’t forget to click “like”.

Upcoming Club Events

Member’s Star Party 11/5
Member Observatory
Public Star Party 11/12
Public Observatory
Nov Meeting 11/18
Annual Dinner Meeting
Sidewalk Astronomy 11/20
Public Bass Pro

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!
Special Offers for 2011 - Contact John Land astroclubbiz@windstream.net
Guy Ottewell Calendars and Canadian Handbooks
must be prepaid by Nov 19th
2011 Wall Calendars are already available while supply lasts

2011 Wall Calendars from Astronomy Magazine
Contains daily notes on astronomical events and history
Plus 12 beautiful 10.5 by 13 inch images suitable for display.
Make excellent gifts for friends
$ 10 each while supply lasts
Pick yours up at club meeting or contact John Land
These retail for $ 12.95 plus tax or shipping.

Special price $ 20 each Prepaid orders must be made by Nov 19 meeting.
Something new for our members this year. Bro. Guy Ottewell calendars are a comprehensive observers guide to astronomical events with large easy to understand diagrams. Its 11 by 15 inch format make it an attractive book for astronomy buffs as well as an easy to use guide for night observing. The information is similar to the Canadian Observer’s handbooks we have offered in the past but in a larger format. An introduction explains how
to use the various components of the book and, if you are a beginner, what to select at first, since there are so many levels of information. For each month there is a large map of the evening sky; facing it, a diary of 40 or so events, many with paragraph-long descriptions. Other features on the monthly pages are diagrams of where the planets are in their orbits, “Constellation Clues,” “Telescopic Tour” (coordinates of selected objects findable in the month), "Observer's Highlights," and sketches of the most striking sky scenes.
The Astronomical Companion is a separate comprehensive explanation of many astronomical phenomena. An informative book for novice astronomers trying to learn the mysteries of the night and an enlightening refresher for veteran observers on cloudy nights. For more details go to http://store.universalworkshop.com/Astronomy_Books_by_Guy_Ottewell_s/23.htm

2011 Canadian Observers Handbook $ 34 each PREPAID by Nov 19th
If we have 5 or more orders we can get them for $ 23 each
We have offered this observers guide for many years, however the cost has continued to climb. The Astronomical Calendar above has similar information but is in a larger format. Each Observer's Handbook is 5.5 by 8.5 inches. This is a 360-page guide published annually since 1907 by The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Through its long tradition and the expertise of more than 50 contributors, the Observer's Handbook has come to be regarded as the standard North American reference for data on the sky.
Tom called the meeting to order at 19:01. Welcomed 2 new members, talked about the agenda for the meeting. He then introduced Dr. Peter Shull, Associate Professor of Physics, Okla. State University, and director of the Mendenhall Observatory. He then turned the floor over to Dr. Shull.

Approx. 29 people attended.

Dr. Shull gave a really nice presentation on the Mendenhall Observatory, from the history of it to future plans for it.

**Announcements:**

Tom gave the following announcement:

Observatory Name Change:

RMCC no longer exists, so the use of the name is inappropriate. We got a release letter from RMHC (Ronald McDonald House Charities), so we may now solicit the name to potential donors. Tom put out a call for ideas for names from the membership, and we will decide at the next board meeting what to name the observatory in the interim.

Tom then turned the floor over to Teresa Kincannon. Teresa announced that Tulsa Town Hall will give 4 tickets to the lecture with Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson to the Astronomy Club of Tulsa. The event is on Friday Oct 22, 2010, during the day. She then showed the times of the special press conference, which is 9:30 AM, and the lecture at 10:30 AM. Luncheon is at 11:30 AM. Tickets can also be purchased by club members for $20 each, and luncheon tickets for $20 as well.

TTH is a subscription series, and they do not regularly sell individual tickets, but wanted to do this for us as a special deal. A drawing was held for the tickets. They were won by: Steve Chapman, Taylor Martin, James Dewey, and Owen Green.

Upcoming Events: Tom announced the upcoming events, which are:

- Sidewalk Astronomy at Bass Pro, Sat Sep 25
- Monthly Star Party Fri Oct 1, backup Sat Oct 2
- Members Star Party, Fri Oct 8
- October Elections Meeting, Fri Oct 22, TCC will not be available, Taylor suggested using a room at St. John’s Bailey Medical Center in Owasso. They allow non-profit clubs and organizations to use the room for free.
- Sidewalk Astronomy at Bass Pro, Sat Oct 23.

**Departmental Reports:**

**Treasurer** – John said that our next meeting will be our annual meeting, gave a rundown on annual expenses, including new insurance, AL dues, observatory expenses, etc. He gave the numbers on what the club has in the bank. We have about $4600 in monies that we can use for various projects. He then mentioned that we generally order the Astronomy Magazine calendar, if you are interested, they will be about $9 this year, those interested need to get with him.

**Groups** – Teresa talked about groups wanting to do observing nights in October. One on the 29th and one on the 30th for the observatory. Mentioned needing people at Bass Pro, because Teresa and Tim will be...
at Turkey Mtn. There are two people present going to Bass Pro on the 25th. Those interested in Turkey Mtn. need to email Teresa.

**Facilities** – Chris not present, Tom said the observatory needs work, made a call for donations of money and/or time. He then mentioned that there has been a problem with people leaving trash, and asked that everyone who is the last to leave to take the trash. Dome needs to be parked over the stairs.

**Secretary** – Tamara read the minutes from the last General Meeting, which was the May meeting held at TASM. She then made the announcement that we needed nominations the floor for the office of Vice President, Board positions, Program Director, and Fundraising Coordinator. Below are the nominees.

**OFFICERS AND BOARD NOMINEES:**
- President – Owen Green
- Vice President – Teresa Kincannon
- Secretary – Tamara Green
- Treasurer – John Land

**Board:**
- Allen Martin
- Chris Proctor
- Tim Davis
- Bill Goswick

**Appointed positions that need to be filled:**
- Webmaster – Jennifer Jones
- Program Director – Owen Green
- Fundraising Coordinator – John suggested leaving this one alone for now.

**Observing** – Ann announced that Dennis Karcher received his AL Outreach award, and that she will continue as the Observing Chairperson.

**Newsletter** – Allen made a call for articles, etc. for the newsletter.

**Public Relations/Outreach** – Owen made a call for volunteers to be at Bass Pro for Sidewalk Astronomy, as he and Tamara would be in Pawhuska for High Frontier, helping Tony with the star party there following the rocket launch. Tom adjourned the meeting at 8:34.

**Note from the Editor-**
All Nominees and motions regarding dues increases were voted upon and approved by the membership at October's Annual Meeting. All following newsletters will reflect these changes. “Thank you” to those individuals who have served the ACT over the last year and “welcome” to those just entering as Officers, Board members and appointed positions.
Land’s Tidbits – by John Land for October 2010

Welcome Recent New Members: Clark Hays, Ray Amstutz, Tricia Pickering, Sean Murray

As Approved by membership Oct 22 Membership rates will increase $10 per each category below to cover added expenses for insurance.

Our membership rates for 2010 - 2011 will be as follows.

Adults - $45 per year includes Astronomical League Membership
Sr. Adult discount $35 per year for those 65 or older includes Astronomical League Membership
Students $30 with League membership Students $25 without 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 including AL League membership the additional cost is $25

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.

Note: You may renew your Sky & Telescope subscription directly online without 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.

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 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
### Club Officers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Tom McDonough</td>
<td>918.851.2653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Ann Bruun</td>
<td>918.834.0757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>John Land</td>
<td>918.357.1759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Tamara Green</td>
<td>918.851.1213</td>
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### Board Members at Large

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve Chapman</td>
<td>918.342.1643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Alford</td>
<td>918.855.9986</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teresa Kincannon</td>
<td>918.637.1477</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denny Mishler</td>
<td>918.274.4772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Proctor</td>
<td>918.810.6210</td>
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### Appointed Staff

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<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facility Manager</td>
<td>Chris Proctor</td>
<td>918.810.6210</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Chair</td>
<td>John Land</td>
<td>918.357.1759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observing Chair</td>
<td>Ann Bruun</td>
<td>918.834.0757</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>Owen Green</td>
<td>918.851.1213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Director</td>
<td>Teresa Kincannon</td>
<td>918.637.1477</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tom McDonough</td>
<td>918.851.2653</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>Allen Martin</td>
<td>918.407.9706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Peggy Walker</td>
<td>918.640.0832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night Sky Network Program Director</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td></td>
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### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Astronomy Club of Tulsa membership ($45/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

[www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org)  

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