



Astronomy Club of Tulsa

OBSERVER

March 2006

<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 Meeting

When

10 March 2006 at 7:30 P.M.

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

Tim Davis

Please join us at our next meeting on March 10th, 7:30 PM at Keplinger Hall on the TU campus. Our speaker will be Dick Henry, Professor of Physics and Astronomy at Oklahoma University. He will talk to us about the evolution of our home galaxy, the Milky Way. And join us at our next Star Party at the observatory on March 31st, and then it's the Messier Marathon down at TUVVA on April 1st.

As we move into March, we can look forward to some warmer weather and some more comfortable observing conditions. Our last two star parties were a test of our cold weather clothes, for sure. Both January's and February's star parties were postponed from Friday to Saturday due to clouds, but for those that did come out, they were treated to a very beautiful sky. In January, about half a dozen came out on a cold night, and after waiting for the last clouds to move south, we had a sky that had some of the steadiest seeing conditions I've ever seen. Saturn was a stunning sight, and the E and F stars in the Orion trapezium immediately popped into view when I put the scope on that. But, it did not take long for the really cold air to move in that night, so we didn't stay too long on that night.

For February's star party, again postponed until Saturday night, we had a pretty good turnout of around 20 people. This night was another beauty, with a crystal clear sky, much darker than

usual and noticeably less sky glow from Tulsa. Everyone was commenting on how dark the sky was, and how many more stars seemed to be visible. So, at this time of year, you may have to work a little harder to get a night of observing in, and have to deal with the cold weather, but if you can manage it, you can be rewarded with some of the best skies you'll see all year.

This year's Messier Marathon will be held on April 1st at the usual location down at TUVVA, near Checotah, hosted by Ron and Maura Wood. Let's see who can give last year's winner, Rod Gallagher, a run for the title. He logged 104 of them last year. Watch for more details later this month to be sent out via email.

Here's the latest on the new telescope installation. Our observatory facility manager, Craig Davis, has been busy getting some minor repairs done to the observatory, as well as some routine maintenance, in preparation for the real work ahead. The old scope will be taken down in the next week or two, and then we can start on the dome repairs to seal up the leaks and replace the cables and pul-

leys for the shutter. With the turning of the weather to some warmer days, I expect we will see some substantial progress in the next few weeks in getting the dome ready for the new telescope.

March's Astronomical highlights:

Mercury goes from an evening planet at the first of the month to a morning planet after inferior conjunction on the 12th.

Venus is still a bright morning planet up before sunrise all month.

Mars is still a nice sight in the evening sky as it moves through Taurus.

Jupiter rises at around 11:00 at the first of the month, and around 9:00 at month's end.

Saturn is still the finest planet right now, with the rings tilted at their best for some time to come.

Mar 6, First Quarter Moon

Mar 14, Full Moon and penumbral lunar eclipse

Mar 20, 12:26 CST vernal equinox, first day of spring

Mar 22, Last quarter Moon

Mar 29, New Moon and solar eclipse for parts of Africa, Turkey and central Asia

WWW.ASTROTULSA.COM

Getting ready for Summer Star parties.

June 16-18, 2006 **MidStates regional convention** will be in St. Louis.

Featured guest will be **John Dobson**, sidewalk astronomer – inventor of the famed Dobsonian telescope design.

Keynote speaker - Ray Arvidson, Head of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Washington University - Report on Mars Rover accomplishments.

Details at www.MSRAL.org and <http://www.slasonline.org/msral2006.htm>

July 23 to 28th **13th Annual Nebraska Star party** This star party is held at a Nebraska State Park and features boating, fishing and other activities during the day. Plenty of things for the family to enjoy while the astronomers sleep in and prepare for the next nights observing.

Details at <http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/>

ALCON 2006 - August 4-5, 2006 in Arlington, Texas

National Astronomical league convention will be hosted by the Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas will host the national convention this year.

Details developing at <http://www.astroleague.org/al/alcons/alcon06/alcon06.htm>

Lands Tidbits – by *John Land* Mar 1, 2006

Welcome Recent New Members:

Tobias Moum, Nick & Rob Rausch, Jacqueline Herrera, Kim Brown, Brian Vallely

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.

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

Students \$ 15 without League membership.

Students \$ 20 with League membership.

* Student shall be defined as a person 25 or younger actively taking courses at a college or trade school or persons still in High school or below.

* Adult Students over 25 may join at the student rate for one year if enrolled in an Astronomy course in an area college.

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.

NIGHT SKY is \$18 / yr A exciting new bi-monthly magazine for beginning or casual astronomers.

<http://nightskymag.com/>

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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