



Astronomy Club of Tulsa

OBSERVER

May 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

12 May 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 last meeting before the summer break on May 12th, 7:30 PM at Keplinger Hall on the TU campus. Our speaker will be club member Rod Gallagher. His presentation will cover the basics of CCD Imaging including various tips, tools and techniques for producing great images

May has arrived, bringing with it warmer temperatures and some much needed rain. Just watch out for those big thunder boomers, though! We are inching closer to having the observatory ready for the new telescope, thanks to the efforts of the club members who came out to our work day at the observatory on April 22. About 15 or so turned out to help with the dome repairs, clean up the bathroom and classroom, and clear some brush and trees from around the fence line. My sincere thanks go out to all who turned out to help spruce up our observatory. We still have a few more things to do in the dome before we can install the new scope, and those should be completed very soon.

Our April star party was one that you had to make some last minute change of plans to attend. As Friday approached, it was clear from the weather forecasts that the weekend was going to be a total washout, with a 100% chance of rain forecast for Friday, and more on Saturday. So, when Thursday rolled around and that night looked like it was going to be clear, I put out the word that we better have the star party that night, as that was going to our only chance to see anything all weekend. Despite it being a work and school night, we had a good turnout of around 20-25 people. The clouds stayed away till after 1:00 AM, and we were treated to some good skies and everyone was excited to get a good look at the comet, 73P. The B and C fragments were quite a sight to see.

Speaking of star parties, we are going to have an event on Memorial Day weekend that I'm sure you all will enjoy.

We have made arrangements to use the Adams Ranch site for two nights that weekend, on Saturday May 27th, and Sunday the 28th. If you have not made it up to the ranch yet, you should try to make it up. It is a very good dark sky site, and it is only a two hour drive from Tulsa. Of course, we will also have our regular star party at our observatory on Friday night, the 26th, and then we will head up to the ranch for the next two nights. We are also getting arrangements made to be able to use the guesthouse on the ranch if anyone would like to stay over in between nights. There would be a nominal fee to use this, but it would not be very much. I will let you know about this later in the month when we send out a reminder about the star party. If you do want to stay overnight or for any length of time, be sure and make your own arrangements for food and drinks. If you have never been to a very dark sky site with a telescope, then this could be your opportunity to see how beautiful it is under a sky filled with so many stars. Watch for an email about this later this month for more details.

We now have another outlet to get merchandise with the club logo on it. Go to the website here: <http://www.cafepress.com/astrotulsa> and you will see a variety of shirts and jackets and some coffee mugs that you can purchase with our club logo on it. A portion of the price listed will be returned to the club. So, you can not only get some apparel to promote the club, but you will also be helping out the club by contributing to the club's operating expenses. Or, as has been the case for a little while now, you can also get the club logo embroidered on a shirt or hat at Yvonne's Monograms. This is in Broken Arrow at 7844 S Elm. (That is about as far south on Elm as you can go). They have a variety of shirts and hats you can purchase there, or you can take in any of your own clothing and have the logo put on that.

May's Astronomical highlights:

The king of the planets. Jupiter, returns in all its glory to the evening skies. It is at opposition on the 4th, and is visible all night.

Mercury will be a morning planet for the first part of the month, but will return to the evening sky late in the month.

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

Mars has become a tiny sight now, but is still visible in the evening sky as it moves through Gemini.

Saturn is still a beautiful sight in the evening sky as it moves through Cancer toward M44, the Beehive Cluster.

May 5, First Quarter Moon

May 13, Full Moon

May 20, Last quarter Moon

May 26, Star Party at the RMCC observatory

May 27-28, Star Party at Adams ranch

May 27, New Moon

May 1 - 12, Eta Aquarid meteor shower, peaks on the 5-6th

Before our March star party, Jan Miracle, a reporter from the Oklahoma News Weekly, Beggs, Kiefer, Mounds Edition, came to the observatory and interviewed me for an article about the club and the observatory. Being situated near Mounds, she wanted to find out more about the observatory and tell people in the area about us and what we do. The article is reprinted below with the kind permission of the Oklahoma News Weekly and reporter Jan Miracle.

ALONG THE ALTERNATE ROAD By Jan Miracle

Tim Davis is president of the Astronomy Club of Tulsa, and I had the pleasure of meeting him at the Mounds Observatory southwest of Mounds. The event was the monthly 'Star Party', held at the observatory the Friday closest to the new moon, and everyone seemed very excited, although there was some cloud cover.

The club was founded in 1937, incorporated in 1986, and holds monthly meetings at the TU campus, as well as the 'star parties' at the local observatory, built circa 1992 and funded by Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities, along with contributions from banks, individuals, and a lot of volunteered supplies and labor.

The observatory used to boast a 16 inch telescope, but they are currently installing a 14 inch, which while smaller, is computerized and gets clearer images, with a full 360 degree viewing ability. They are also making other renovations. It was really neat walking up the winding staircase, just wish they weren't under renovation for my visit!

Of course, I had to ask about UFO sightings, but the only unexplained sighting they could remember was a blinking in the western sky years ago, and it was NOT an airplane! (Note: I have begun receiving calls about hauntings, ghosts and strange sounds and sightings, so please keep calling me at 827-7753 so I can compile these stories for an article).

The Astronomy Club has a lot to offer, and is an exciting opportunity for area kids to study our fascinating universe of stars and our solar system's planets. Several meetings may be attended for free, then if interested, annual memberships range from \$15 for students to \$35/household. You do not need binoculars or a telescope, members can use those of the club, and also have access to the TU Library. You will have other benefits, such as deep discounts for various journals and books. They will also give presentations and tours to area school groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops, and even private groups. There is no fee, but of course donations are always welcome.

For information and maps to TU campus and the observatory, call 688-MARS, or better yet, visit their website. Go to www.Mounds.org, click on the observatory link. This will take you to the page that tells specifically about the Mounds observatory, and gives instructions on how to approach after dark so as not to disrupt viewing with car lights. From there, you can go to the main site which is very user friendly. You will find news links about space/astronomy, a newsletter, current radar and satellite images, a clear sky chart, sky map, moon phases, free lessons, calculations and maps, downloads, calendar of events, universal time and local time, weather, and much more.

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa would definitely make for a fun and educational 'family affair' that is very much worth checking into. Enjoy, fellow galactic travelers!

E-mails to ACT

To: Astronomy Club of Tulsa
From: James H. Beauchamp - [jim@jhpc.com]
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2006 4:24 PM
Subject: Cloudy Nights

I am a member, and would not have known about Cloudy Nights had the equipment man from Norman not spoken at the meeting a few months ago. Anyway, my review of my Bushnell telescope was posted on the Cloudy Nights site today. FYI Jim

<http://www.cloudynights.com/>

To: Astronomy Club of Tulsa
Subject: Invitation to Mount Magazine (AR) Grand Reopening and Star Party May 19-21
From: Wade Van Arsdale
[wade_va@sbcglobal.net]

Hello, Your astronomy club is cordially invited to attend the Mount Magazine State Park Grand Reopening and Star Party to be held May 19th-21st, 2006 at the park. You can find more information about the event and web links for park information here: <http://www.caasastro.org/article.php?story=20060412062024501> Hope some of you folks get to come over and join us for a great time! Best regards, Wade Van Arsdale (Member, Central Arkansas Astronomical Society) Little Rock, AR.



<http://www.cafepress.com/astrotulsa>

Lands Tidbits

By John Land

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>

June 22-25 Heart of America Star Party - The Kansas City club is starting a new regional star party on a 40 acre dark sky area south of KC. Camping sites and meal packages are available. This is a newly acquire tract in a national wildlife area. Information & Registration Brochure at <http://www.askconline.org/brochure.pdf>

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>

Welcome Recent New Members: Richard Alford, Trisha Reynolds

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 informa-

tion 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		April 14, 2006.			
Expense Summary 2005		Treasurer - <i>John Land</i>			
Income					
New Memberships	48 New Members		\$	1,250.00	
Renewal Memberships	75 renewals		\$	2,200.00	
Bank Interest on Savings			\$	13.67	
Observatory Donations			\$	567.25	
Net Prairie Thunder event			\$	169.20	
Net Nov Mars watch			\$	275.34	
2005 Telescope fund Donations			\$	2,100.00	
Total 2005 Income					\$ 6,575.46
2005 Major Expenses					
Club Operations			\$	1,025.70	
Observatory			\$	1,756.44	
14 " Telescope purchase			\$	8,228.00	
	Total 2005 Expenses				\$ 11,010.14
		Income - Expenses			\$ (4,434.68)
Sale of Franklin Funds					
					\$ 4,700.00
				Net balance	\$ 265.32
Expenses					
Astro League dues 05-06 - 120 full memberships			\$	610.00	
Club Meeting costs -- Guest Speakers Etc.			\$	87.00	
News Letter			\$	287.45	
AstroTulsa Web Site			\$	41.25	
Club Operation Expenses					\$ 1,025.70
Product Orders Paid in Advance by Club members - No Net Expense or Gain					
Astronomy Magazine Subscriptions			\$	814.00	
Sky & Telescope Subscriptions			\$	1,306.00	
Astronomy Wall Calendars			\$	342.00	cost \$ 318.25
Canadian Observing Handbooks			\$	230.00	cost \$ 225.72
Observatory Operation Costs					
Annual Fee	Liability Insurance	\$ 750.00		average cost	
	Phone	\$ 282.54	\$ 23.55	/mo	
*\$100 Deposit refund	Electricity	\$ 231.54	\$ 19.30	/mo	
	Water	\$ 216.70	\$ 18.06	/mo	
Observatory Maintance & Repairs		\$ 275.66		for 2005 yr	
	Observatory Total cost	\$ 1,756.44	\$ 146.37	/mo	
	Minus Observatory Donations	\$ (567.25)			
	Net Observatory Costs	\$ 1,189.19	\$ 99.10	/mo	
Annual Report of Accounts					
		Dec 31-05			
1st Nat BA - Checking		\$ 1,266.47			
1st Nat BA - Savings		\$ 2,114.41			
Total Liquid Assets		\$ 3,380.88			
Club Investment Accounts					
AG Edwards Accounts	Dec 31-2004		AG Edwards Accounts	Dec 31-2005	
Continental Money Mkt	\$ 2,171.51		Cash Balance	\$ 4.88	
40 Shares- Fanne Mae	\$ 2,848.40		Franklin Fund	\$ 3,167.72	
Franklin Fund	\$ 7,829.00		American Balanced Fund	\$ 2,159.32	
04 Total Club Investments	\$ 12,848.91		Washington Mutual Inv Fund	\$ 2,160.83	
			05 Total Club Investments	\$ 7,492.75	
Redistribution of Investments					
Continental Money Mkt	\$ (2,212.98)	Sold & Reinvested July 14, 05			
40 Shares- Fanne Mae	\$ (2,323.14)	Sold & Reinvested July 14, 05			
American Balanced Fund	\$ 2,268.06	Bought July 14, 05			
Washington Mutual Inv Fund	\$ 2,268.06	Bought July 14, 05			
Sold for 14 "Telescope Purchase Dec 05					
Franklin Income Fund	\$ (4,700.00)	Reported purchase price 8/5/03	\$ 4,290.00		Gain \$ 410
AG Edwards reported 2005 Income	\$ 646.97				

Astronomy Optics and Systems
808 South Lynn Lane
Broken Arrow 74012

Meade - Orion - JMI - Antares - Baader/Zeiss

We are as close to a local astronomy store as it gets around here. There is no cash register or point of purchase signage and advertising. There are no illuminated display cases. In fact, we really are not a store, but a shop with a conference table, a sofa, and a pot of coffee. Our 700 square foot area is dominated by four old Newtonian telescopes in various stages of renovation. I am fabricating components for all of them. There are 12.5" F/5.1 and 8" F/7.1 Cave Astrolas, a Meade RG 12.5" F/6 OTA on a Starliner mount, and a Desert Sky 10" F/4.5 on Meade 645 Mount. In addition there are several Meade LX200 SCTs and ETX MCTs. Throw in dozens of eyepieces, adapters binoviewers filters and the like - and - well - it's a mad scientist's workshop! We promote Orion/Imaginova for it's commitment to youth, education, and value. \$200 will buy you a toy telescope from brands X and Z, but for the same money, Orion offers a real telescope with real eyepieces that even an experienced adult can enjoy. Many Orion accessories are identical to Celestron and Meade items, but sell for less. Their skyglow filters (made in S. Korea) compare favorably with Thousand Oaks and Lumicon, but costs much less. The Dynamo Pro-17 power pack I use costs least \$30 less than the same identical item from Celestron. You can order direct from Orion, or order from me. Even with sales tax, you'll always pay less when you order from Astronomy Optics. What Orion wants is for me to be more than a retailer; they want me to be a "field advocate". Many ACT members own and enjoy Orion products. Orion is good stuff. I represent JMI because the company was built on designing and supplying items that simply were not available elsewhere. Their precision focusers are made in the USA along with the famous line of tripod & pedestal "wheeies", scope cases, and computer/encoder systems for all types of GEMs. JMI also offers a pricey unique high portability telescope, and "giant reverse binocular" line. Antares/Sky Optics is a Canadian company whose most famous product is the Speers (owner - Glen Spears)/ WALER (Wide Angle Long Eye Relief) 82-degree eyepieces. In fact, Antares is a powerhouse when it comes to achromatic refractors and accessories for the eyepiece end. After Glen dropped the Skywatcher line, he negotiated with Vixen and other manufacturers to build a fine line if refractor telescopes and finders. Again, Glen is a very value con-

scious person and has focused his energies on super sharp achromats. APOs are great, but costly - much more so than adding a fringe killer to a fine achromat for excellent imaging and visual results. Baader/Zeiss The name says it. Baader's Modular T2/Bayonet eyepiece and accessory connection system is state of the art. Twist lock eyepiece retention systems, collimable binoviewers, gender changers, adapters, custom lenses elements (coma corrector, modular barlows, etc.), Hyperion eyepieces, and highly specialized research grade filter systems provide classic German engineering at prices that are quite livable. Yes - we sell Meade. In all honesty, Meade has finally gotten a handle on the LX200/LX200R product line. Optics are much improved in terms of consistency. The new 80mm and 127mm Triplet Apos - initially being sold as OTAs only - promise to be stunning performers in more manageable (shorter) focal ratios than the defunct doublets. Meade's DSI-2 (color) and DSI-2 Mono w/ RGB filters are now capable of good intermediate level DSO portraiture. Our purpose here is not to be a store, but rather a source for enjoyment of astronomy. I always tell people that they don't need a scope to enjoy astronomy, but if they do want one, I'll help them make the smart choices. We can get you hardware, books, the full line of Imaginova Software. But I can also fabricate certain parts, affect repairs, collimate, etc. Just contact me at 808-3158 or dracura94@aol.com.

Shldon Padawer
Astronomy Optics and Systems



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.

OFFICERS

President:

Tim Davis
918.665.8134

Vice-President:

Jerry Mullennix
918.712.9776

Treasure:

John Land
918.357.1759

Secretary:

Teresa Kincannon
918.637.1477

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Steve Chapman
Craig Davis
Rod Gallagher
Tamara Green
Dan Lamoreaux
Jim Miller
Denny Mishler
Tony White

APPOINTED STAFF

RMCC Observatory Director:

Tim Davis—918.665.8134

RMCC Facility Manager:

Craig Davis—918.252.1781

Membership Chairman:

John Land—918.357.1759

Observing Chairman:

David Stine—918.834.1310

New Members:

Denny Mishler—918.274.4772

Newsletter Editor:

Richie Shroff—918.835.3565

Webmaster:

Tom McDonough—918.665.1853

Astronomy Club of Tulsa

918.688.MARS (6277)

<http://www.AstroTulsa.com>

ASTRONOMY CLUB OF TULSA
P.O. BOX 470611
TULSA OK 74147-0611