



The Astronomy Club of Tulsa Observer



JUNE 2010 EDITION



Jerry Mullennix. 5-26-2010 using Nikon D-5000 with 500mm mirror lens 1/60 exposure.

There is no June Meeting.

However, here are some upcoming club events.

Event	Date	Program	Where
SideWalk Astronomy	6/26/2010	Public Observing	RiverWalk Crossing
July Star Party	7/2/2010	Public Star Party	RMCC Observatory
July Star Party	7/9/2010	Members Club Star Party	RMCC Observatory

Meeting Date	Scheduled Speaker
Friday, June 25, 2010	<i>No Meeting</i>
Friday, July 23, 2010	<i>TBA</i>
Friday, August 27, 2010	<i>TBA</i>
Friday, September 24, 2010	Dr. Peter Shull – OSU
Friday, October 22, 2010	Tom McDonough – Club Elections
Friday, November 19, 2010	<i>2011 Club President</i> – Dinner Meeting
Friday, December 17, 2010	Dr. Aaron Coyner – Goddard Space Center

Important Message from the President

From Tom McDonough

Our insurance company has made a substantial settlement with the plaintiff in the lawsuit stemming from the accident which occurred at the observatory in August 2007. As a result of this, they declined to renew our coverage when it expires in July. We have been searching for a new carrier but, so far, the only offers represent a 400% increase in our current rate. If we go with one of these, we would most likely have to increase the membership dues to help offset the cost. Since time is running out, the board has decided that the corporation will temporarily suspend all operations on July 12, 2010 if we do not have an insurance policy in place. All meetings and events will be cancelled, including Sidewalk Astronomy. The observatory will have the RCX and other valuable equipment removed and put into storage. All gate locks will be changed and the site posted against trespassing. The president and facilities manager will have the only keys. The grounds and observatory will be strictly off limits to everyone.

The board wishes to make clear that, during this suspension, no one is to make any representation or hold any activity, public or private, in the name of the Astronomy Club of Tulsa. All members revert to private citizens and are fully responsible for their own actions. Any deviation from this could potentially expose the corporation to more legal troubles.

When we resume operations, we will need to make significant repairs and upgrades to the observatory in order to bring the facility up to current safety standards. This is necessary in order to help negotiate better insurance rates and avoid litigation in the future.

The club needs the support of its members now more than ever. If anyone has input to help resolve this crisis, please email the board at act_board@astrotulsa.com

Tom McDonough
Astronomy Club of Tulsa –President

Rocky Mountain Star Stare

From Marcia and Bob Boston

The Rocky Mountain Star Stare was held from Wed, June 9th through Sunday morning, June 13th. It was hosted by *the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society*. Allan Gorski is this year's president of the club which has about 85 members and has been in existence about 30 years. The event chairman was Al Schlafli. The group has monthly meetings and prides themselves on their outreach programs, but do not have an observatory. This was the 2nd year RMSS was held on 35 acres near Gardner, Colorado, which is 2 1/2 hours south of Colorado Springs. The town of Gardner has a little store with food, ice, and other supplies, but it's necessary to drive about 45 minutes if you want a motel room for daily naps and showers.

There were just over 300 registered. There were a few children attending and more dogs (well controlled) than we've seen at other star parties. The people were all hospitable and helpful when approached but, unlike Okies, no one walked over to our campsite, viewed through our scopes or just came by to "shoot the breeze". Large portions of the 35 tree'd acres had been cleared but the soft grasses and wildflowers remained about a foot tall. It was relatively easy to walk the site and to pitch the tent. The few cacti present were easily seen and avoided.

There were speakers, a photo contest, an ATM walkabout, geo-caching, a swap-meet, kite flying, catered meals, and other activities scheduled during the daylight hours; however, we combined the star party with sight seeing, so we didn't spend much time at the site during the days. We took a familiar route out through Boise City (as if on the way to Okie-Tex) then went north on 385 and west to Walsenburg, where we had booked a room at the Best Western. We can highly recommend this Best Western. It had reasonable rates, an indoor heated pool, plenty of downstairs rooms with outside access, a full breakfast included and was quiet during the day. The weather was warm during the day and cool at night. The nights became increasingly cloudy during the week and we spent Friday night at the motel, then packed up the tent and equipment in the rain Saturday and left one day early. We drove back just in front of the severe thunderstorms and tornado(s) in the panhandle Saturday evening. For the drive home we dropped down into New Mexico and used I-40 to go east through Oklahoma City.

One highlight of the trip, was our day trip to nearby *Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve*. If you ever travel to Colorado it's a must see. On previous trips, we had already seen *Garden of the Gods*, *Red Rocks Amphitheatre*, *Pikes Peak* and *the Royal Gorge*. *The Sand Dunes National Park* ranks right up there. We enjoyed the trip. The Star Party was well organized at a primitive (no running water, no electricity) but beautiful site. We weren't bothered by flies or mosquitoes. Folks were nice, but bottom line, the skies are darker at Okie-Tex. Bob and Marcia Boston



Links from the Club

Lately, I have had quite a few members send me some really cool websites, news articles, interesting photographs, et cetera. There are quite a lot of interesting things happening in astronomy right now. Here's a few of the more noteworthy things you may be interested in.

Tony White submitted this to the Club's Yahoo group. It is an Amazing photo from astrophotographer, Thierry Legault, of Shuttle Atlantis and the ISS transiting the Sun. It is definitely worth seeing if you have not already.
<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/2010/05/18/iss-shuttle-transit-the-sun/>

John Land sent this to me. It is a really neat page on the Sky and Telescope website where they have included an application to calculate when the Great Red Spot of Jupiter will be visible. This is especially interesting considering Jupiter has recently lost its southern cloud band making the Spot a little easier to view.
<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/planets/3304091.html?page=1&c=y>

This was also uploaded to the Yahoo group but comes from Tim D. It is a Spaceweather.com website about the recent Jupiter impact caught on video!
<http://spaceweather.com/archive.php?view=1&day=04&month=06&year=2010>

Comet McNaught is now expected to become brighter and more visible than originally thought. Here are a couple websites describing when, where and how you can be a comet hunter.
http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/37580576/ns/technology_and_science-space/?GT1=43001
<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/highlights/94277259.html>

We will be having a partial lunar eclipse on the 26th. A full lunar eclipse is expected in December. Here's NASA's website info.
<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/OH/OH2010.html#LE2010Jun26P>

John Podpechan sent me this link. This is one of the coolest videos I have ever seen. It is an insider's time-lapse of a shuttle setup and launch that is an absolute "must-see".
<http://www.airspacemag.com/video/Go-For-Launch.html>

And you thought you had seen Saturn's rings. Check this out. Thanks to Lowell Dodson for uploading this to the Yahoo group.
http://www.dailygalaxy.com/my_weblog/2010/06/image-of-the-day-saturns-newly-discovered-immense-outer-ring-.html

Lowell sent me this link as well. I hope they decide to bring this art exhibit to the states. It would definitely be worth seeing.
<http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/outreach/index.html>

Lastly, for those of you that missed it, "Explore Tulsa" is a television show that airs every Sunday at 3:30. This last Sunday, they showcased the Astronomy Club of Tulsa. Ann Bruun, the Club's VP, Observing Chair and regular "Observer" contributor, sat down for an interview and discussed everything ACT. Here is a link to the TV show's website where the episodes are archived. It is episode 17. I am told they will have it archived to the site very soon.
<http://www.exploretulsachannel.com/>

Attention all Eggheads

From Ann Bruun

If you are reading this newsletter, there is a good chance you might be an egghead. If you enjoy astronomy but wonder about the science behind it, you might be an egghead. If you are not afraid of a little math, or at least not afraid to sit through mathematical explanations of the motions of celestial objects, ... well, you know. If you are still reading this you might want to check out Yale Open Courses. They are Yale University courses that have been recorded and made available on line for free. They offer an Astronomy course titled, "Frontiers and Controversies in Astrophysics". It was recorded in the spring of 2007.

<http://oyc.yale.edu/astronomy> I have made it about halfway through the course and have only heard a couple of references that were dated and they did not have anything to do with the basic concepts being taught. If you follow the link you can see a list of class sessions that will give you a pretty good idea what is covered. Each session is about 45 minutes. With no tests to take there's no pressure, you can just sit back and relax like I do as the occasional bit of information flies over my head. Why not give it and try?

A Few Double Stars to Check Out

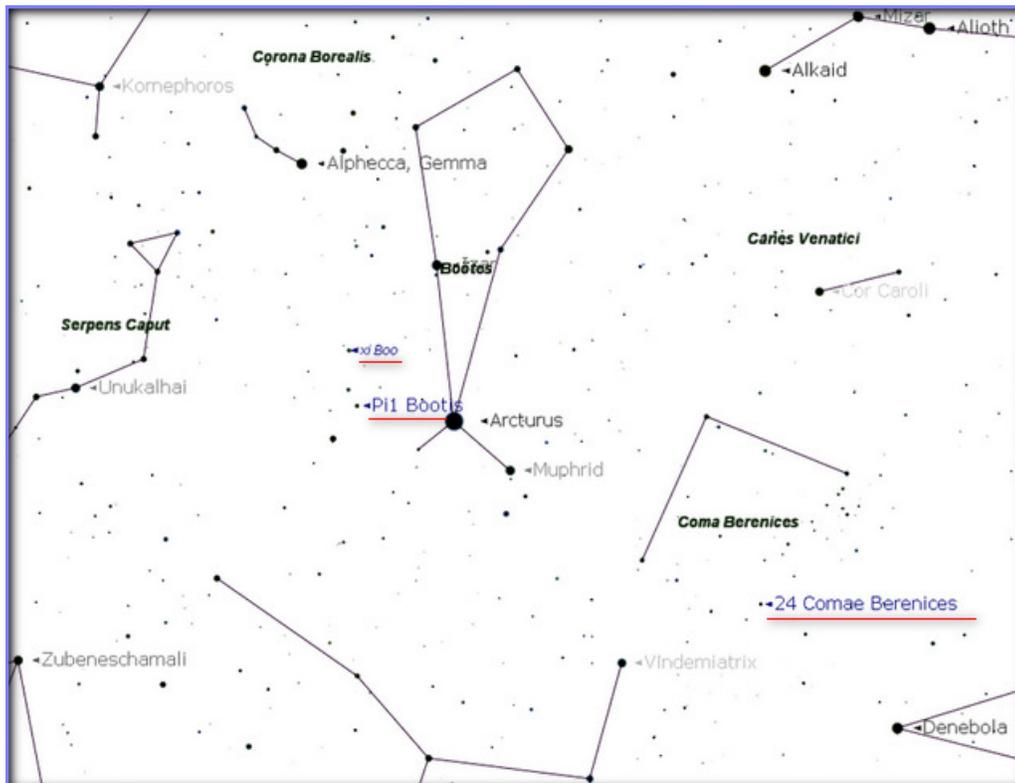
By Ann Bruun

Every season of the year has its own array of double stars. One of the nice things about hunting double stars is that you can do it in your back yard even if you live in the city. Another thing that makes them fun to find is that no two are alike. There are different colors, sizes, separations and some can be very surprising. I have put a short list of doubles together that are visible this spring/summer. If you find you enjoy observing doubles check out the Astronomical League Double Star observing club. They have a list of 100 doubles you can view. Without the A. L. list I would never have thought of looking for double stars. There are some that are real stunners like the first one on the list below.

24 Comae Berenices – A beautiful, colorful pair of differing magnitudes. It is a fairly wide double, which means it is not hard to split the two stars. The contrast in colors makes this one of the most beautiful doubles in the sky.

Pi Bootes – This pair is fairly tight. You may need to increase your magnification to split the two stars. Both members of this pair appear bluish to me.

Xi Bootes – This is a very uneven pair, the brighter of the two is magnitude 4.7 while the companion is only magnitude 7.0. It maybe just be the difference in size but I think the secondary looks orange compared to the yellow primary.



Shifting to the east we find Lyra.

Zeta Lyrae – This is a wide double. The stars are uneven and appear different shades. The primary is mag. 4.3 and the companion a dimmer mag. 5.9.

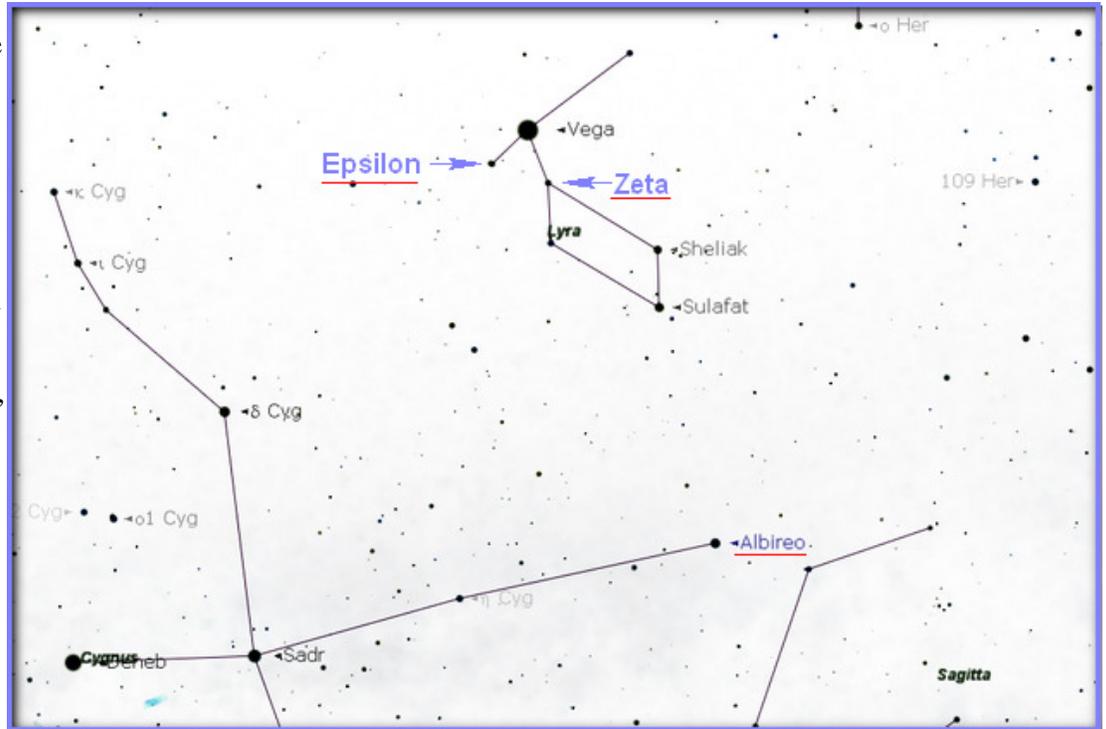
While we are visiting Lyra we have to take a look at the “Double Double”.

Epsilon Lyrae – The “two” apparent bright stars are easily split. Splitting the “two” bright stars into doubles is a bit harder and can really be affected by the atmospheric seeing. Sometimes they will seem to split fairly easily and other times you can never

get a clean split but it's always worth a look. While we are in this part of the sky we definitely don't want to miss Albireo, the crown jewel of double stars.

Beta Cygnus – Alberio, the head of the Swan is one of the most beautiful double stars in the sky. I find it interesting when showing Alberio to people to ask what colors they see when they look at this double. I am always surprised at the variety of descriptions I hear.

(Sky Charts created using Starry Night Pro 6.3)



Unique Home for Sale in Tulsa

This was sent to us by a club member who recently moved out of the area. Though it makes no mention of it on the included website, this beautiful and reasonably priced home has a **10' x 10' Observatory with an 8' dome in the backyard!** Visit the website below for more information.

<http://homesite.obeo.com/viewer/default.aspx?tourid=609126&refURL=&locale=en-US>

Adam's Ranch Information

from Ann Bruun

It is Adam's Ranch Registration time. The event is open to Astronomy Club of Tulsa Members and their families. If you do not have the forms please email me and I will send them to you for the Adam's Ranch Dark Sky Weekend, July 9th and 10th. Please fill out the registration and send it in as soon as possible. There are 15 bunks available in the coed bunkhouse, which cost \$30 per night. The \$30 fee is what the Ranch charges, the club does not keep this money. There is plenty of room for tent camping and space for RVs, which is \$5.00 per night per person. This will help pay for the Porta-Potty. The \$10 registration fee includes a dinner Saturday night at the bunkhouse for everyone. The dinner will probably be lasagna and a salad, which the club will provide. Anyone, who wants to, can bring something to go along with the dinner. We are supposed to leave the bunkhouse in the condition that we found it, so we will have to clean up after ourselves. The ranch also requires we all sign a liability release form, please print out the attached release form and bring it with you to the ranch. The registration form is in Excel format and will add up the fees for you. Just follow the instructions on the form. Save a copy and email it in to reserve your spot. In the subject line put – Your name – Ranch registration Email to Ann Bruun: act_obs@astrotulsa.com

Then print it off and mail it in with a check to:

Astronomy Club of Tulsa
1307 S. Winston Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74112

You can send in just your registration/reservation cost and pay the rest when you get to the ranch or you can pay it all when you register. Reservations cannot be held if payment is not received and the registration fee, \$10 per person, is non-refundable. You will need to provide all your own food except for the dinner Saturday night. Also don't forget bug repellent!

Adam's Ranch is located on a 30,000 acre ranch about 20 miles NW of Pawhuska OK. It 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, bathroom/showers and living area. 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 daytime.

If you have any questions you can email me at act_obs@astrotulsa.com. I am also looking for someone to help coordinate the dinner. Please email me if you can help out.



Upcoming 2010 Events



National Astronomical League Convention
June 25–26, 2010 Tucson, AZ
 Side trips include tours of Kitt Peak
 national observatory
<http://alcon2010.astroleague.org/>

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|--|----------------------|--|
| Adam's Ranch | July 9 and 10 | <i>Registration information in this issue</i> |
| Nebraska Star Party | Aug 8 to 13 | http://www.nebraskastarparty.org/ |
| Heart of America Star Party
In west central Missouri | Sept 2 to 9 | http://www.hoasp.org/ |
| Okie-Tex Star Party | Oct 2 to 10 | http://www.okie-tex.org/ |

If you know of an upcoming event not listed here that may be of interest to club members, Please email relevant information to act_pm@astrotulsa.com



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www.GarrettOptical.com
www.AstronomyBinoculars.com
 for more information!

ASTRONOMY CLUB OF TULSA
--MINUTES--
GENERAL MEETING FRI MAY 28, 2010

PRESENT:

Tom McDonough, President
 Ann Bruun, Vice President
 Tamara Green, Secretary
 John Land, Treasurer
 Steve Chapman, Board

NOT PRESENT:

Teresa Kincannon, Board
 Richard Alford, Board
 Chris Proctor, Board
 Catherine Kahbi, Board
 Denny Mishler, Board

There were approx. 50 people in attendance. The meeting was held at the Bertlesmeyer Planetarium at TASM. President Tom McDonough called the meeting to order at 19:01. He then welcomed everyone and introduced himself. He announced that due to Chris Proctor being absent for reasons beyond his control, there would be no Astronomy 101. Then, he introduced Jim Bridenstine, Executive Director of TASM. Jim talked about the planetarium and announced that he would be looking for volunteers to run the planetarium on the weekends. He is looking for a core group of people to do this. We were then treated to a planetarium show called "Extreme Planets".

Following the show, Tom announced the upcoming events:

Sidewalk Astronomy, May 29 at RiverWalk.

Public Star Party, June 4 at R.M.C.C. Observatory.

Members' Star Party, June 11 at R.M.C.C. Observatory.

Sidewalk Astronomy, June 26 at RiverWalk.

Public Star Party, July 2 at R.M.C.C. Observatory.

Members' Star Party, July 9 at R.M.C.C. Observatory.

Adams Ranch Star Party, July 9-10.

Departmental Reports:

Treasurer – John Land did not have a report, but asked guests to come see him after the meeting to get on our mailing list and for members who need to pay dues to come see him as well.

Groups – Teresa Kincannon not present, no report.

Facilities – Chris Proctor not present, no report.

Secretary – Tamara Green read the minutes from the April 2010 general meeting to all present.

Observing – Ann Bruun sent out the registration forms for Adams Ranch, and only got a few back. She said that we will try to set up our telescopes on the runway this year. She is going to go up 2 weeks before the event to check on the condition of the runway. If it is too polluted, we can set up by the bunkhouse.

She also talked about the Nebraska Star Party and announced that she had pamphlets for it, if anyone is interested.

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa 2010 Calendars are now \$4 apiece.

Newsletter – Editor Allen Martin invited all those interested to submit articles, photos, etc. to the monthly newsletter. He said that if you can put 4 words together to make a coherent sentence, you can write an article.

Public Relations/Outreach – Owen Green announced the Sidewalk Astronomy at RiverWalk and said that in order to get there early enough to get a place to park and set up your telescope, to be there around 6:30. He also said there would be some solar observing going on.

Being no other business, Tom McDonough adjourned the meeting at 19:40.

Past meeting minutes are archived within the newsletter archives on the Astronomy Club's website. Please visit <http://www.astrotulsa.com/Archive/archive.asp> to view previous month's newsletters.

Land's Tidbits *for June 2010*

– by John Land

Our membership rates for 2010 – 2011 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 League membership.

Students - \$ 20 with 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.

Additional 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 / yr 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 it with 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 filling 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

OFFICERS

President: Tom McDonough 918-851-2653

Vice-President: Ann Bruun 918-231-0301

New Members :Owen Green 918-851-8171

Observing Chairman: Ann Bruun 918-231-0301

Membership questions: John Land 918-695-3195

Secretary Tamara Green 918.851.1213

Observatory Caretaker: Chris Proctor 918-810-6210

Contact Chris to volunteer to help with observatory projects

Observatory Cleanup Days

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa is made of about 150 members who share a common love of astronomy. Unfortunately, most of us live under light polluted skies. Our Observatory gives us a retreat to gather under darker skies, but we can only continue to enjoy its use if we **VOLUNTEER OUR TIME AND EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE BUILDING AND ITS GROUNDS**. Often, we need some SWEAT EQUITY to keep the observatory and grounds in good shape. If you are willing to volunteer to help with general maintenance or with mowing and trimming this summer let Chris know. Contact Chris Proctor to volunteer 918-810-6210 act_maint@astrotulsa.com

For all the scheduled club events for 2010 you may wish to purchase the first edition ACT calendar. Prices now reduced to \$ 4 each. This calendar includes club events, plus a wealth of other astronomical data.

Details are on the website at www.AstroTulsa.com

CLUB OFFICERS

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
President	Tom McDonough	918-851-2653
Vice-President	Ann Bruun	918-834-0757
Treasurer	John Land	918-357-1759
Secretary	Tamara Green	918-851-1213

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

NAME	PHONE
Steve Chapman	918-342-1643
Richard Alford	918-855-9986
Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477
Denny Mishler	918-274-4772
Chris Proctor	918-810-6210

APPOINTED STAFF

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
RMCC Facility Manager	Chris Proctor	918-810-6210
Membership Chair	John Land	918-357-1759
Observing Chair	Ann Bruun	918-834-0757
New Members	Owen Green	918-851-1213
Group Director	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477
Webmaster	Tom McDonough	918-851-2653
Newsletter Editor	Allen Martin	918-407-9706
Night Sky Network	Peggy Walker	918-640-0832
Program Director	Vacant	

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



Night Sky Network

Astronomy Clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public



<http://www.astroleague.org>

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

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