
OBSERVER

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa's Official Newsletter

October 2010

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

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www.astrotulsa.com
www.facebook.com/astronomycluboftulsa



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

Additional \$ 1470 will be added in Jan 2011

\$ 5,593.25

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".

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

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)

Upcoming Club Events



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!

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

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

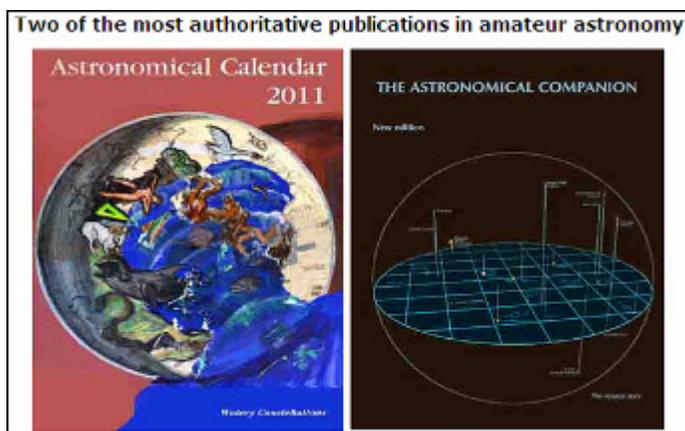
Contains daily notes on astronomical events and history
Plus 12 beautiful 10.5 by 13 inch images suitable for display.
Make excellent gifts for friends

\$ 10 each while supply lasts

Pick yours up at club meeting or contact John Land

These retail for \$ 12.95 plus tax or shipping.

<http://www.optcorp.com/product.aspx?pid=15622&tb=3>

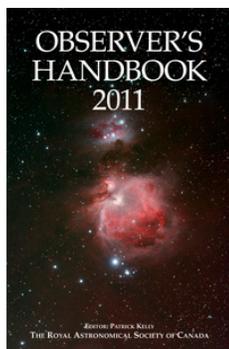


Bro. Guy Ottewell's 2011 Astronomical Calendar and Astronomical Companion. Special price \$ 20 each Prepaid orders must be made by Nov 19 meeting.

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.

ASTRONOMY CLUB OF TULSA – MINUTES - GENERAL MEETING FRI SEP 24, 2010

PRESENT:

Tom McDonough
Ann Bruun
Tamara Green
John Land
Steve Chapman
Teresa Kincannon
Denny Mishler

NOT PRESENT:

Christopher Proctor
Richard Alford

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

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

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

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 Program Director	Peggy Walker	918.640.0832
	Vacant	

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://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>

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