



Astronomy Club of Tulsa

OBSERVER

November 2004

<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

5 November 2004 at 6:00 P.M.

Where

Ryan's Family Steak House
74th and Memorial

President's Message

Craig Davis

As we stroll into November perhaps we shall see as many clear nights as has been available to us in the past few weeks. Without doubt it may very well be hard tasked to beat October but between the natural changes in the weather patterns for this time of year and the holidays that are only a short time away, well, standby, the Christmas rush is only a short ways off and so are the evenings with Orion and Taurus setting boldly in the southern sky.

I wish to remind everyone that this month's regularly scheduled club meeting will this year be held at Ryan's Family Steak House at 74th & Memorial. The past two years we have held the annual dinner meeting at Bishop's cafeteria on 41st. But this year Ryan's Family Steak House has been chosen as a new location with a new flair of menu presented to all. The club meeting will begin somewhat earlier this time, 6 P.M., so that everyone will have enough time to pick out what they may like to have and be able to relax and enjoy the meal before we begin. The main theme for this year's annual dinner meeting will be quite easy. Open discussions concerning club activities as well as presentation of

new club officers. If any of you may happen to have any pictures that have been taken at Okie/Tex or some that you have recently taken here in the local area please bring them along to share with all of us. It's always great to see what so many have accomplished in the tricky world of astrophotography. Again, yes, we will hold this months meeting at Ryan's Family Steak House. Many of you may know where Ryan's Family Steak House is but for others that may not I will provide directions later on.

From the looks of things at the time of this writing our public eclipse event, Wednesday, October 27th, may very well be in jeopardy and have to be canceled due to the weather. If so, unfortunately many will miss out on something that they have not seen before. But then again it may possibly still open up enough for it to be held as scheduled. We'll have to hope for the best and wait and see since that is one thing that can be determined only at that time. The weather may or may not be in a very cooperative mood this coming Wednesday evening but if so that alone will make it so much more rewarding. Not only to all club volunteers with their telescopes that plan to come but most definitely for the general public that may attend. Once again, keep your fingers crossed, the weather may turn out good to us after all. We may very well receive not only the reward of a wonderful lunar eclipse but also a larger than anticipated crowd whether the World Series is on or not.

To get to Ryan's Family Steak House you can easily go south on 169 and get off at the 71st St. Exit or continue on and get off on the Memorial St. exit. If you take the 71sr St. exit simply follow 71st west to Memorial. Turn left and it is only three blocks ahead on the left. Well within eyeshot after making the left turn. Coming from the other exit - Memorial - simply follow Memorial north and you will see it on the right as you approach the main 71st and Memorial intersection. As I've said, it's easily seen and easy to get to. Hopefully everyone will have a good time and most of all enjoy the food and service for this year's dinner meeting. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

Clear skies to all,

Craig D. Davis
President
Astronomy Club of Tulsa

Night Sky Network

By Neta Apple

October was a busy month for ACT in the area of public education and outreach. October 9th Craig Davis, Gerry Andries, and Tim Davis attended an event at the Gilcrease Museum. Unfortunately, our bad weather luck was holding and the skies were cloudy for them.

While at Okie-Tex I was invited to lead a group discussion about outreach activities where I talked about our club outreach activities and demonstrated some of the materials we had received from the Night Sky Network for astronomers from four states. Those of us in attendance are now able to communicate readily thanks to a discussion forum set up for our use on the OKC club website. There is also a great interest in the OKC club in getting together with our club for events in the future, both for observing and outreach. The discussion group was logged as our club's first NSN event.

October 20, I taught a one day kids' camp at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum where I was able to use some of the NSN materials and thus logged our second event. The kids were totally taken by surprise to learn that other stars than our own have planets! The maps showing some of the naked eye stars known to have planets that I gave them to take home were clutched in little hands like treasures.

At this writing we still have three upcoming events: the Lunar Eclipse event at Hunter Park in Tulsa, the Lunar Eclipse event for the Chouteau Astronomy Club in Chouteau, and the Lunar Lunacy event October 29th at TASM. With any luck we will be able to log at least one of these events as an NSN event for the club, bringing our events to a total of three, the number required before we can get the next kit of materials. The next one is going to be about galaxies! I have heard it has some really interesting things in it.

Gary Buckmaster has asked for a copy of the current NSN manual and guide, and will soon be added to our list of persons who can log events online for us. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the NSN materials or in using them for any kind of outreach, even a star party for your neighbors, friends or family in your backyard, can contact either Gary or myself to learn what is available.

DAVID'S ASTRO CORNER

By David Stine

The next bright comet is coming and it should be visible in Tulsa skies the latter part of November. Comet Machholz (Q2) will just be above the ESE horizon after midnight between the 20th-30th just south and west of Lepus. At this time the comet should be around 7th Mg. After the 30th Q2 will begin rising rapidly and increasing in brilliance. By the first week in December the comet should be naked eye from a dark location and by December 22 it should be around Mg. 4.7 and pass very near the star Omicron Eridanis. By this time the comet will be high in the SSE by 9p.m. and hopefully exhibited a nice dusty or gaseous tail of several degrees. It is predicted to reach it's brightest around Jan. 1 at 4th Mg. and remain naked eye through the end of February. On January 8-10 it will pass near the Pleiades and be a photo moment. The comet will pass through Perseus between Jan. 14-24th and go from Mg. 4.2 -4.5. After moving through Perseus it will travel into Camelopardis and become circumpolar or be visible all night never setting between Feb. 11-March and remain naked eye through much of this time. It should still be visible for the annual Messier Marathon at the end of March at Mg. 7.5. What is really amazing about this comet is that it was discovered with a 6" reflector before the big observatories like Neat, Linear, etc. detected it. I guess there is always hope for us yet to discover our own comet. So on Christmas Eve or Christmas night you can show your relatives after opening presents Comet 2004 Q2 Machholz as an added treat to the holidays.

November is always that famous time of the year for the Leonid Meteor Shower. After several years of seeing thousands and hundreds of Leonids, the shower drops back to its normal 15-20 an hour peak. This year's max according to the North American Meteor Network will be on the morning of the 17th of November at 2:25 a.m. for Tulsa observers. You might see anywhere from 20-60 meteors an hour at this time. The Leonids can be seen from about November 14th to the 21st. They are very fast meteors at about 71km per second. Even though they are not expected to reach levels anywhere near the past years there is some predicted evenings during this time of enhanced activity. Vaubailon and Esko Lyytinen and David Asher have predicted some interesting dust streams to watch. The 1333 stream is predicted to give enhanced activity of about 10 meteors per hour on November 19th just after midnight 12:42am for Tulsa observers, then the 1733 stream is predicted to give

enhance activity of about 65 meteors per hour on November 19th at 3:39p.m. Of course its late afternoon for us, so unless you are listening to this activity by radio you will miss this one. Vaubaillon points out that this year it is still very important to observe, even if the level will not be as high as in past years. Remember that your results are useful for us. Please send your observations to International Meteor Organization. If you want to record data on the Leonids check out the NAMN Observing Guide on what to record at <http://www.namnmeteors.org/guide.html>. Information that needs to be recorded includes time a meteor occurred, its brightness, the shower it belongs to, its speed, and other comments such as color, train left behind, sounds, etc. You will also need to record how dark your sky is, comments on weather and cloud cover and location you are observing from. The club has always opened up the observatory for viewing the Leonids and this will be the night of November 16th and the morning of the 17th. Even though you may only see one or two meteors every 5 or 10 minutes, the Leonids are well known for their bolides with long lasting trains that are worth the watch. So plan on taking off work the 17th so you can rest after a night of the Leonids.

That's it from my corner this month, keep your eyes skyward.

DAVID'S ASTRO CORNER – UPDATE

Miserable weather resulted in the club having to cancel the public viewing of the total lunar eclipse. However one of our former club officers, Ruth Simmons, had a ringside seat in Houston and this is what she says:

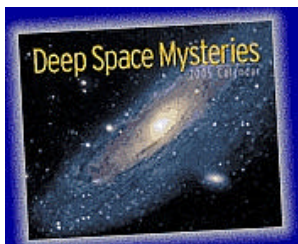
“We had beautiful skies in Houston and the eclipse was absolutely breath-taking. I know adjectives are way over used now-a-days but it was really awesome. The bright(really bright)white cap, after the eclipse was about 2/3rd's along, was absolutely glowing so much that it gave the moon an oblong appearance – it really tricked the eye! It was almost a mushroom effect in that it looked like the white glow sat like a mushroom cap on top of the dark moon. The copper color upon total eclipse was really magnificent! Really incredible- you guys in Tulsa are going to love the show in 2007! Wish you all could have been here!”

Thanks for the great report Ruth and we wish we could have been with you. We can only hope for a clear night in 2007.

Astroland Tidbits

By John Land

Its that time of year for many of you to renew your memberships and magazine subscriptions. To spend up your renewals use the online forms at <http://www.astrotulsa.com/Club/join.asp> Please send any inquiries about your membership or other club matters to membership@astrotulsa.com



2005 Astronomy Calendars ARE IN ! - 2005 Deep Space Mysteries Wall Calendars from Astronomy magazine are here. We have 50 extra Calendars that we could not sell at the eclipse watch. As club members you can get yours for \$ 8.00 each a 33% discount over the cover price. Need several for Christmas or office gifts? Buy 3 for \$23 or 5 or \$ 37 They will be

available to those attending the club meeting on a first come first served basis. If you cannot attend the meeting contact John Land to reserve a calendar.

2005 Royal Canadian Observers Handbooks - will be available this year at \$16.50 each. We only have 5 copies left and will sell them until they run out. Can reorder if we have 10 or more additional orders. The Canadian Observer's handbook has been the recognized source of astronomical events and tables since 1911. You find easy to read monthly charts detailing events for 2005 plus many pages for observing planets, comets and asteroids. For details see www.rasc.ca

Welcome to our new members: Amanda Kersey, Darwin (Butch) Woodall, Billy Hewitt - Amanda is a High School student at Cassia Hall - Please take time to encourage our Youth interested in Astronomy.

ON LINE Club Memberships and Renewals: Club memberships are \$25 per year for adults and \$15 per year for students.

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
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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 \$29 for 1 year or \$55 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/> The club has coupons for a free issue

Address Corrections - Email changes - Questions: You may forward questions to the club call our message line at 918-688-MARS (6277)

by email membership@astrotulsa.com

Please leave a clear message with your name, phone number, your question - along with address or email Please make email subject lines that address your question. The spam filters may DELETE emails without clear identification!

2004 Club membership and Budget report

John Land - Treasurer

Currently the club has 150 members.
 Annual Report of Accounts as of Oct 26, 2004.

First National BA - Checking	\$1,207.90
First National BA - Savings	\$1,376.57
Total Liquid Assets	\$2,584.47
AG Edwards Accounts	Oct 26, 2004
Continental Money Mkt	\$2,144.87
40 Shares- Fanne Mae	\$2,765.00
Franklin Fund 3048 shares	\$7,377.94
Total Club investments	\$12,287.81
Total Club accounts	\$14,872.28

Astronomy Club of Tulsa membership (\$25/year) includes membership in the Astronomical League and subscription to ACT's "Observer" and AL's "Reflector". "Astronomy" (\$29/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

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BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Teresa Kincannon
Rod Gallagher
David Stine
Tom McDonough
Rocky Keys
Steve Chapman

APPOINTED STAFF

RMCC Observatory Director:

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RMCC Facility Manager:

Craig Davis—252-1781

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John Land—357-1759

Observing Chairman:

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Richie Shroff—835-3565

Webmaster:

Tom McDonough—665-1853

Astronomy Club of Tulsa

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<http://www.AstroTulsa.com>

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