



Astronomy Club of Tulsa

# OBSERVER

June 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 Star Party

## When

23 June 2006

## Where

RMCC Observatory



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## President's Message

Tim Davis

Please join us at our next star party on Friday, June 23 at 8:30 PM at the RMCC Observatory. This will be our first summer star party for this year, which always brings out a good crowd. Come join us for a first peek at some of the wonderful sights along the summer Milky Way.

June is here now, with its heat and haze and kids on summer break. It also marks the return of the Milky Way to the evening sky, with so many of the skies beautiful sights sprinkled along it. Our June star party will be a good chance to reacquaint yourself with these wonders, like the Lagoon, Trifid, Swan, Eagle, Wild Duck and Veil, to name a few.

Our May star party was nearly a bust. But a few hardy souls showed up to wait out the clouds and were rewarded with a pretty good night. With most of the day being cloudy and with the holiday weekend coming up, the turnout was only about 7 or 8. But shortly after sunset, the clouds began to thin out and we were able to set up the scopes and enjoy some of the brighter objects for a while. Everyone was anticipating the next day's trip up to Adams ranch for our weekend star party.

The first night of our Adams Ranch star party was a wonderful success. Around 25 people made the trip up to the ranch and set up along the runway at the airstrip. While it was a bit windy, it was clear for most of the night. Everyone enjoyed the dark skies up there and was ea-

ger to do it again. The clouds began to move in on us around 2- 3:00 AM, so everyone turned in about then. Some had campers there; some set up a tent, others stayed in the bunkhouse, and some others packed up and headed back home.

On the second night, Sunday, we had about 15 more show up, many who were there for the first time. Again, we had pretty clear skies till around 3:00 AM, with the added bonus of not being quite as windy as the night before. All in all, I was very happy with the way things turned out for the weekend and with the turnout we had over the two nights. It is a bit of a drive to get there, but it can be very rewarding when you get a night with some of the darkest skies in Oklahoma. Go to the gallery section of our website for some pictures from the star party. If you were there and have some pictures you would like to share, send them to Tom, our webmaster, and he can add them to the gallery.

I am pleased to announce that Teresa Kincannon will be taking over the RMCC Observatory Director position from me. She will now be managing our group events program, which involves scheduling groups that want to come out to the observatory for a private star party, such as scout groups, school groups and church groups. She has been involved with helping with the groups in the past and she will be a very capable manager to keep this community service part of our club running smoothly. Please join me in supporting and encouraging her as she takes on these new responsibilities.

The Okie-Tex website is now up and running for this year. They are now accepting registrations for this year's event, which is Sep 16-24. Go to <http://www.okie-tex.com/> for all

the details.

June's Astronomical highlights:

Jupiter reigns supreme in the evening skies. It is the best planet to view at this time and offers plenty of interest in watching for the red spot and moon transits.

Mercury will be at one of its best evening showings this month, watch for it from around the 5th to the 25th. It will be at its best from the 13th to the 20th.

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

Mars moves in front of the Beehive cluster on June 15 and is near Saturn on the 17th.

This is the last month to get a good look at Saturn before it gets too close to the Sun. On the 17th it will be only 1/2 degree from Mars.

June 3, First Quarter Moon

June 11, Full Moon

June 18, Last quarter Moon

June 21, Summer Solstice

June 23, Star Party at the RMCC observatory

June 25, New Moon

## Land Tidbits

By John Land

Your American Astronomical League. Those of you paying the full adult membership rate also are enrolled as League members. Students may join by adding an extra \$ 5 to their membership fee.

How can I learn more about the Astronomical League?

Amateur astronomers from across the country benefit from perusing the many pages of the Astronomical League's website, [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org). Naturally, this is the place to go if you're looking for information about upcoming events and League news. But there is so much more...

Want to learn all about one of the great League observing programs? Go to [www.astroleague.org/observing.html](http://www.astroleague.org/observing.html). Summer time is a great time to start earning an observing certificate. These programs will give you many hours of enjoyment and challenge to learn the sky well.

Do you know of a worthy candidate for one of the many League awards? Look at <http://www.astroleague.org/al/awards/awards.html>.

Are you interested in buying a particular book about our fascinating hobby? Then go to [www.astroleague.org/al/bookserv/bookserv.html](http://www.astroleague.org/al/bookserv/bookserv.html).

There is even something to help your club function better. Try [www.astroleague.org/al/socaid/socaidid.html](http://www.astroleague.org/al/socaid/socaidid.html)

Make the most of your Astronomical League membership! To find out more about what the Astronomical League offers you, why not log on to [www.astroleague.org](http://www.astroleague.org) today?

Getting ready for Summer Star parties.

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>

**Lands Tidbits** - by John Land Jun 14, 2006

### Welcome Recent New Members:

Justin Dampf, Amanda James, Jamie Dodgion, Terry Miller, Mary Cook, Christine Davison, Richard Smedley, Lu Ann Thompson, Cathy & Sarah McGee

**LAST CHANCE TO BE ON THE 2006 - 2007 OFFICIAL ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE ROLLS.** Each year at the end of June each club must submit an official rooster to the American Astronomical

League. If your membership has lapsed be sure to MAIL in the forms ASAP. If your renewal is coming up you should receive an email reminding you. Those of you still receiving postal newsletters may check your MAILING LABEL for membership expiration date. You may renew online but it is not official until payment is received. 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](http://www.astronomy.com)

**Sky & Telescope** is \$33 / yr [www.skyandtelescope.com](http://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

## **Starry Night Offer**

From: ewood@imaginova.com  
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 11:36 AM  
Subject: Starry Night Blowout Sale- Special Offer to Astronomy Clubs

Dear Astronomy Clubs,

As star party seasons swings into high gear, Starry Night is offering up to \$75 off our award-winning software to help you and your members make the most of your summer stargazing activities.

Take advantage of our blowout sale prices. Starry Night software can be yours for as little as \$19.95.

Click here for more details on the Starry Night Blowout Sale, which ends June 30. (<http://store.yahoo.com/cgi-bin/clink?yhst-49664100110157+56R4Ph+stniso.html>)

You can either print this out as a flyer or email the offer to your members.

Be it cloudy or clear skies, Starry Night software is the perfect companion for observing in the field or exploring at home.

Visit the Starry Night Store for more software and newly added cameras, scopes, and accessories. <http://store.yahoo.com/cgi-bin/clink?yhst-49664100110157+56R4Ph+scopesacc.html>

If you are interested in buying site licenses of our software or large volume discounts, please email Mike Goodman at [mgoodman@imaginova.com](mailto:mgoodman@imaginova.com) or call (952) 653-0493.

Please keep us informed about your upcoming events. Email Emily Wood at [ewood@imaginova.com](mailto:ewood@imaginova.com) for door prize requests or our FREE Welcome to Astronomy Guide.

Clear Skies Every Night,  
The Starry Night Team

### **Astroscan For Sale**

I have a rarely used, like new Astroscan telescope, Plossl F15 lens, Plossl 28 lens, and Barlow lens. \$125

Contact Jim Aldag at 918-706-8674 or [aldags@yahoo.com](mailto:aldags@yahoo.com)

Thanks for the help

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:**

Teresa Kincannon—918.637.1477

**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