



Astronomy Club of Tulsa

# OBSERVER

July 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

21 July 2006

## Where

RMCC Observatory



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## President's Message

Tim Davis

Please join us at our next star party on Friday, July 21 at 8:00 PM at the RMCC Observatory. We will also be dedicating our new telescope for the observatory with a ceremony at 8:00 PM. Our new Meade 14" RCX400 telescope is being installed this month in the observatory dome. Come join us as we start a new era at the observatory with this new instrument.

July has arrived and summer is in full swing now. With our nation's birthday behind us, and some much needed rain here and there, we can look forward to some clear summer nights to enjoy the treasures along the summer Milky Way. We are working hard now to get the new telescope installed in the observatory for the dedication ceremony at the July star party. We have had a number of people that have lent a hand in getting the observatory ready for this new telescope. My thanks goes out to everyone who has helped with this project. This new telescope will bring a new dimension to our observatory. It will be a very impressive instrument to use with our group events that we hold at the observatory, and will be much safer for the small children to use, as they will not have to climb up a tall ladder to look in the eyepiece. It will also allow us to eventually set up an imaging system for use by club members. This will be something that will be added in

the future. This telescope will bring state of the art equipment and optics to our observatory and we are very excited to finally get a chance to use it.

Our June star party had to be postponed from Friday night to Saturday due to cloudy weather. Saturday started out a little cloudy as well, but cleared off very nicely by sunset. And what a night it turned out to be! With dry air moving in from the north and light winds, the sky was one of the darkest in recent memory with very little sky glow from Tulsa. Around 20 people showed up, and we had about a dozen scopes set up, with a handful of new members and visitors. Turned out to be a very good night, I only wish everyone in the club could come out on a night like that to enjoy one of those rare, nearly perfect, dark skies that we can occasionally get here.

The Tulsa Air and Space Museum's Planetarium has been open now for several months. If you have not been out to one of the shows, I would encourage you to do so. It offers a good way to get the general public a taste of astronomy in a unique way that can only complement what we do. So go out and help support this facility so that all in the area can benefit from it for a long time to come.

July's Astronomical highlights:

Jupiter continues to be the main attraction 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 passes through inferior conjunction on the 18th and will not be visible until late in the month in the dawn sky.

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

Mars is low in the west after sunset and is a tiny target now. It will be near the star Regulus on July 21/22.

Saturn sinks into the Sun's glare by month's end as it approaches conjunction in early August.

July 3, First Quarter Moon

July 3, Earth at aphelion, farthest point from the sun in it's orbit

July 10, Full Moon

July 17, Last quarter Moon

July 21, Star Party at the RMCC observatory

July 25, New Moon



[http://  
www.cafepress.com/  
astrotulsa](http://www.cafepress.com/astrotulsa)

## Lands Tidbits

By John Land

**The Astronomical League** has many resources for new and experienced observers?

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/socaidid/socaidid.html](http://www.astroleague.org/al/socaidid/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.

23rd Annual Okie-Tex Star Party Sept 16 to Sept 24th This premier week of star gazing is held on the high plains at the tip of the Oklahoma panhandle. Many of our members enjoy visiting with fellow astronomy enthusiast while enjoying some of the darkest skies anywhere. Details at <http://www.okie-tex.com/>

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:** Len Turner, Pat and Jo Ellen Sutter, Ronald McDaniel, and Robert Anderson.

**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 re-new 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.

### 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](http://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:**

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**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>

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