



Astronomy Club of Tulsa

OBSERVER

September 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

8 September 2006

Where

Room M1 inside Keplinger Hall, the Science & Engineering Building at TU. Enter the parking lot on the East Side of Keplinger Hall from Harvard and 5th Street. This will take you directly toward the staircase to enter the building. Room M1 is the first room on the left.



President's Message

Tim Davis

Please join us at our general meeting at TU this Friday, September 8th, at 7:30 PM. Room M1 at Keplinger Hall, 5th and Harvard. Our speaker will be Professor Dylan Brennan from Tulsa University. He will speak about plasma physics and also on a theory about the electromagnetic structure of accretion disks (galaxies, solar systems, planetary rings) with current flow.

September promises to be a busy month for our club. We start with our first TU general meeting after the summer break on the 8th. Then it's our star party on the 15th. Then it's the Okie-Tex star party on the 16th-24th. And throw in several group events at the observatory, and whew! There will plenty to keep us busy this month.

Our speaker for the meeting will be Dylan Brennan, who has just come to Tulsa University to begin teaching this year. He promises to have an interesting talk for us that will be in laymen's terms, so that everyone will be able to understand and learn about what he is doing in physics.

Also at this meeting, we will announce that we will be holding the club elections at the October general meeting, rather than at the dinner meeting in November. This was how it was done in the past, and will allow more people to participate in the elections. If you are interested in running for an office, or a board member position, please come to the meeting and let us know

what you would be interested in, so that we can add your name to the ballot. If you can not make the meeting, then please let any of the club officers know by way of email. All of the current officers and board members will be seeking reelection with the following exceptions; Vice-President Jerry Mullennix will be seeking a board member position, and board member Tamara Green will be running for Vice-President.

Our August star party was a wonderful night of stargazing. With clear skies, warm temperatures, and a big group of people, it turned out to be a classic summer star party. Around 40 people showed up that night. We also had around 15 new people out that night, and we held a short introductory meeting to welcome the new people and visitors. We will be doing this at each star party, so if you are new to the club or visiting for the first time, please try to attend the meeting that will be held shortly after sunset at each star party.

The night after our star party, on Saturday, August 26th, we held our first training class for the new observatory telescope. Despite the rain, the class went on as planned with only a few cancellations. I began the class with a section on opening and closing the observatory, then we went up to the dome and continued with how to operate the dome. Then Rod Gallagher took over and ran through the instructions on how to operate the Meade 14" RCX400 telescope. With all the rain, we could not open the dome and actually use the scope, so we just ran through the steps in the classroom. I want to thank everyone who ventured out that night to attend the class in less than ideal conditions. We will hold another class in the near future, and I will send out an email announcement when we can find a date for it. It is likely to

be in October sometime, as September is already so busy, as I mentioned before.

Fall Messier Marathon

Most of you are familiar with the Spring Messier Star Party that TUVA puts on in March of each year, well this year TUVA and the Astronomy Club of Tulsa is going to have a Fall Messier Star Party at the TUVA site. The date is October 21, so mark your calendars. Tom McDonough has made a Messier sequence for the night with finder charts that you can access and print off at <http://astrotulsa.com/pub/FallMessierMarathon2006.pdf>

Make plans to try and view all the Messier objects in one night and also catch the Orionid Meteor Shower at its best. More on the Fall Messier Marathon in Octobers News Letter.

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 today?

Working on an observing project or observing certificate? What to image your favorite object? "What's Up, Doc" can help you plan your observing experience. It features monthly lists of observable objects for each certificate plus an extensive observing spreadsheet to customize your own observing. <http://www.astronomyclub.org/wud.htm>

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/>

Lands Tidbits

By John Land

Welcome Recent New Members: Lieuko Nguyen - several of us enjoyed visiting with Lieuko at the August star party.

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 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 re-

newal 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.

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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 \$ 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.

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 (\$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.

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