



Astronomy Club of Tulsa

# OBSERVER

January 2007

<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

12 January 2007

## 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

Tamara Green

Happy new year everyone! Our next meeting will be on Friday, January 12, 2007 at TU in Keplinger Hall, Room M1, at 7:30 PM. Our guest speaker for this month will be **Tom Kovach** from **Astronomics** in Norman, OK. He will be on hand to bring us the very latest in Astronomy equipment, including exotic equipment, best sellers, accessories, and recommendations for equipment for amateur astronomers of varying levels of experience, ability, and knowledge. This promises to be fun and informative, and might just get some of you drooling all over yourselves and fighting the urge to reach for your checkbooks! So come to our January 12th meeting and see all the latest and greatest stuff! Due to the parking and construction situation, I would suggest parking either in the Law School parking lot located near the West end of Keplinger Hall, or in the ACAC (Allen Chapman Activity Center) lot just South of Keplinger. This month's presentation will be well worth the walk!

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and is ready for a really exciting year for the Astronomy Club of Tulsa! As you probably know, 2007 marks our 70th Anniversary! This is a cause for celebration! And we do have some exciting plans for that in the works.

But before I get to that, I want to personally thank everyone who has offered me support, encouragement, and not to mention patience during my recent transition as your new President. I really want to thank everyone for this wonderful opportunity to serve you all in this capacity, and I give you my word that even though I will have to learn as I go along, I will do my absolute best to be the best President I can be for you. I look forward to working with you all to help this club continue to move forward and succeed in all of our endeavors.

I also wish to extend my deepest apologies for the unfortunate cancellation of last month's meeting, due to the con-

flict with the Jenks/Enid 6A State Championship game. The guest speaker who was scheduled for that meeting, Dr. Yun Wang, has graciously agreed to come and visit us at a later meeting to be announced in the near future. Her presentation, entitled "The Dark Side of the Universe", promises to be a really fun as well as educational talk. It is our hope that everyone will enjoy this exciting presentation, and believe me, I, along with your other Officers and Board, are doing everything we can to get the word out and build this up for a really great attendance!

The Geminid meteor shower watch party on December 15 was very nice! Nine of us showed up to watch the show. Most of us were there until about Midnight, when, according to David Stine, the meteor count was 200! David and Steve Chapman stayed until around 2 AM, when the clouds rolled in, and their final count was 308!! David reported that most of the meteors were in the magnitude 0 to -2, and the brightest was -6!

Our star party on Dec. 15 ended up turning into an astro-social in the classroom, due to the clouds completely covering the sky, despite the forecasts of clear skies and lows in the 50's. However, we did have about 20 people show up, with new people among them who showed an interest in the club! I would like to thank Craig Davis for being at our observatory since 3 PM Friday afternoon, fixing the toilet and cleaning up the classroom to make it look really nice, and Bob and Marcia Boston for the yummy cookies and popcorn!

As I said in my earlier paragraph, 2007 is our Big 70th Anniversary Year! Plans are in the works for a public event for spring, and an event for Astronomy Day. Your club Secretary, Teresa Kincannon, is cooking up some really good ideas for both, and is open to suggestions and ideas from all of us. So if you have a really good idea for either or both feel free to let Teresa know. And of course, any volunteers to help out with these will be greatly appreciated!

I, along with your other Officers and Board, want to assure you all that our club is moving forward and we will all work together to continue to advance the delightful science of Astronomy in every way we can. We look forward to enjoying our events, star parties, and meetings with everyone and to a great and memorable 70th Anniversary.

## Club Logo Merchandise



**Items bearing the club logo can now be purchased at our online store:**

<http://www.cafepress.com/astrotulsa>

**A portion of each sale goes to the club's general fund. It's a great way to promote and support ACT!**



### Dr. Wang Rescheduled for February's Meeting

Dr. Yu Wang, Associated Professor and Cosmologist from the University of Oklahoma has been rescheduled to speak at our February 2nd meeting after December's meeting was cancelled. Dr. Wang's research is at the forefront of astronomical research into Dark Matter and Dark Energy. You won't want to miss Professor Wang's presentation "*The Dark Side of the Universe*". This is the first visit that I can remember of a Cosmologist to the Astronomy Club of Tulsa, so let's have a big turnout.

Denny Mishler  
dmish@cox.net

## Lands Tidbits

By John Land

**Night Sky** magazine Ceasing publication. Received the sad news that the Night Sky magazine produced by Sky and Telescope will cease publication with its Feb 2007 issue. <http://skytonight.com/news/4884391.html>

**Sky and Telescope** has new address: After 50 years at the same address Sky and Telescope magazine has moved its headquarters to a larger more modern facility. The new address is 90 Sherman St, Cambridge, MA 02140 They have recently been a part of New Track Media company but assure us that they will maintain the same high level of quality articles that have made the magazine such a success for the last 65 years. Club members should still make their renewals through the Tulsa Club to get a substantial club subscription discount. They also have recently changed their Internet Website name to <http://skytonight.com/> so some of your old bookmarks may have to be changed to find familiar features on the new website. For those of you looking for a weekly update of breaking news in astronomy, register your email on the Sky & Tel website for a number of options including a weekly bulletin plus several new features coming out in 2007.

**Welcome Recent New Members:** Chelsea Pierce, Robert McCallum

For 2006 we had 97 Long time members, 37 new members in 2006, 48 expired memberships In addition we had 86 guests request information through our astronomy club website.

**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.

**Magazine subscriptions Renewals:** Several of you may be receiving renewal notices for you Astronomy or Sky & Telescope. If you renew through the club you get a substantial discount. Go to the website and fill out the renewal form then print it off and mail it in with your notice and envelope from the magazine. Or you may fill out and mail in the form below.

**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.

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.

### **Address Corrections- Email changes - Questions:**

You may forward questions to the club by calling 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.

### **OFFICERS**

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### **BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Steve Chapman  
Craig Davis  
Rod Gallagher  
Richard Alford  
Owen Green  
Jim Miller  
Denny Mishler  
Tony White  
Jerry Mullennix

### **APPOINTED STAFF**

**RMCC Observatory Director:**

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Craig Davis—918.252.1781

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### **Astronomy Club of Tulsa**

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