

June  
2008



OBSERVER

## Public Star Party

June 6, 2008 7:30PM

RMCC Observatory  
Mounds OK

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Tamara Green

During the warmer months many club members and their guests enjoy gathering at the club's observatory for an evening of observing and visiting with friends. For the new comers to astronomy this is a great chance to see different types of telescopes and enjoy a variety of celestial objects. Our observatory features a 14 inch telescope and a classroom. We also have about 1.5 acres of open ground for setting up your own equipment. This is a great time to begin work on one of the observing certificate programs offered by the Astronomical League. Families are welcome but children MUST be supervised. The Observatory is open at club star parties and other scheduled events. If you plan to go at other times the Observatory Director or a club officer should be notified. Due to our remote location it is not advised for observers to go alone.

I hope to see you there!

Tamara

# Astronomy Club Star Party – Friday June 6th

**Alternate date** will be Saturday June 7th if sky is cloudy on Friday.

Gates open at 7:30 PM

Due to the uncertain weather reports, check your local weather reports for sky conditions. Our club has an excellent resource for predictions of cloud cover on the observe section of our website.

<http://www.astrotulsa.com/Observe/observe.asp>

Since Night time temperatures can still dip to the mid 40's you should plan to bring a jacket.

Some insects have become active so bug repellent may also be needed.

## Beginners Telescope Set Up on Center Pad

*Several of our new members and guests have new telescopes they are trying to learn how to use. We would like to invite you to set up your equipment near the center concrete observing pad. Members lets all take time to meet these novice astronomers and help them get a good start with their equipment.*

*Wireless Internet now available at the Observatory. For laptop users - Rod Gallagher has made arrangements for wireless Internet to be broadcast on the observing field. Details for log on are available at the observatory. This is available for members to use for astronomy, observing and weather information and should not be abused for other types of browsing and gaming.*

***Things to Bring to a Star party.*** *Of course a telescope or binoculars are great for observing but you don't have to have one to enjoy the evening. You don't have to own a telescope to enjoy an observing night. Our members are eager to share their views with others. There will be plenty of people willing to share the view if you just ask. Also bring a red colored or covered flashlight to see your way around. We have plenty of folding chairs and a clean restroom.*



**Children are welcome** but **must be supervised** and must stay on observatory grounds. It's always wise to have an alternate activity such as a favorite book or tapes for younger children who may tire early. Closed toed shoes are preferred and a light jacket as needed.

A donation of \$1.00 per guest would be appreciated to help us maintain the observatory.

<http://www.astrosociety.org/education/podcast/index.html>



NASA has a new monthly video feature on the internet called "What's Up"

Giving you information and background of sights in the evening sky. It also comes with closed captions – transcript or podcast format. Sky charts and other past programs are available for viewing or download. <http://education.jpl.nasa.gov/amateurastronomy/index.html>

## Let's Go Stargazing! <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/letsgo>

A great set of family learning activities is available from Sky & Telescope.

Astronomy doesn't have to be hard. If you simply want to make some sense of what's overhead, learn a few new constellations, see the rings of Saturn through your telescope, and maybe track down a galaxy or two, no formal training is required. Rather, the essence of backyard stargazing is your own curiosity. Armed with that and a clear sky, the only other thing you need is a guide to show you the way.

**PARKING MAY BE AT A PREMIUM.** Reserve Parking is available next door in old ATT lot for those without equipment or planning to leave early. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK VEHICLES near the center observing pad** blocking the view and traffic access.

**SAFETY ISSUE:** When large groups are present it is better to turn on your park lights or headlights on low beam rather than to try driving in or out without lights. Especially if those groups include children. Just warn everyone when you are getting ready to leave. **NEVER** try driving down the hill without lights.

Directions to Club Observing Nights at Mounds Observatory –  
Plan to arrive before dark. We have plenty of chairs and a classroom area.

We have a microwave and you can bring your own snacks. You need to bring your own drinking water!

There is a restroom available but we don't recommend you drink the water. Bring your own telescope or just enjoy sharing the view with some of the members.

Map at <http://www.astrotulsa.com/Resources/Maps/rmccmap.asp>

To get there take Highway 75 South toward Okmulgee. **Watch out for GLENPOOL SPEED TRAPS**

Turn **WEST (Right)** on 241st St South (across from Duck Creek Indian Casino )

Continue on 241st about 6.5 miles ( Its a dirt and gravel mixed road)

As you reach the west end of 241st it turns up a steep hill to the right

As you reach the top of the hill it turns into a paved road.

Continue on pavement about 1 mile and you will see the observatory on the top of the hill.

Children are welcome but must be supervised and must stay on observatory grounds.

Insect repellent is beneficial in the warmer months.

**ALTERNATE DRIVING 251st route to Observatory.** ( See regular route and map below )

This route provides a wider well-paved road and avoids about 3 miles of dirt and gravel as well.

It's a little tricky to find so if you're new you may want to try the direct route listed below instead.

Go one mile south of 241st (Duck Creek Indian Casino)

Look for small green sign that says "Winchester"

You will TURN RIGHT ( WEST ) on 251st. It's not well marked and easy to miss.

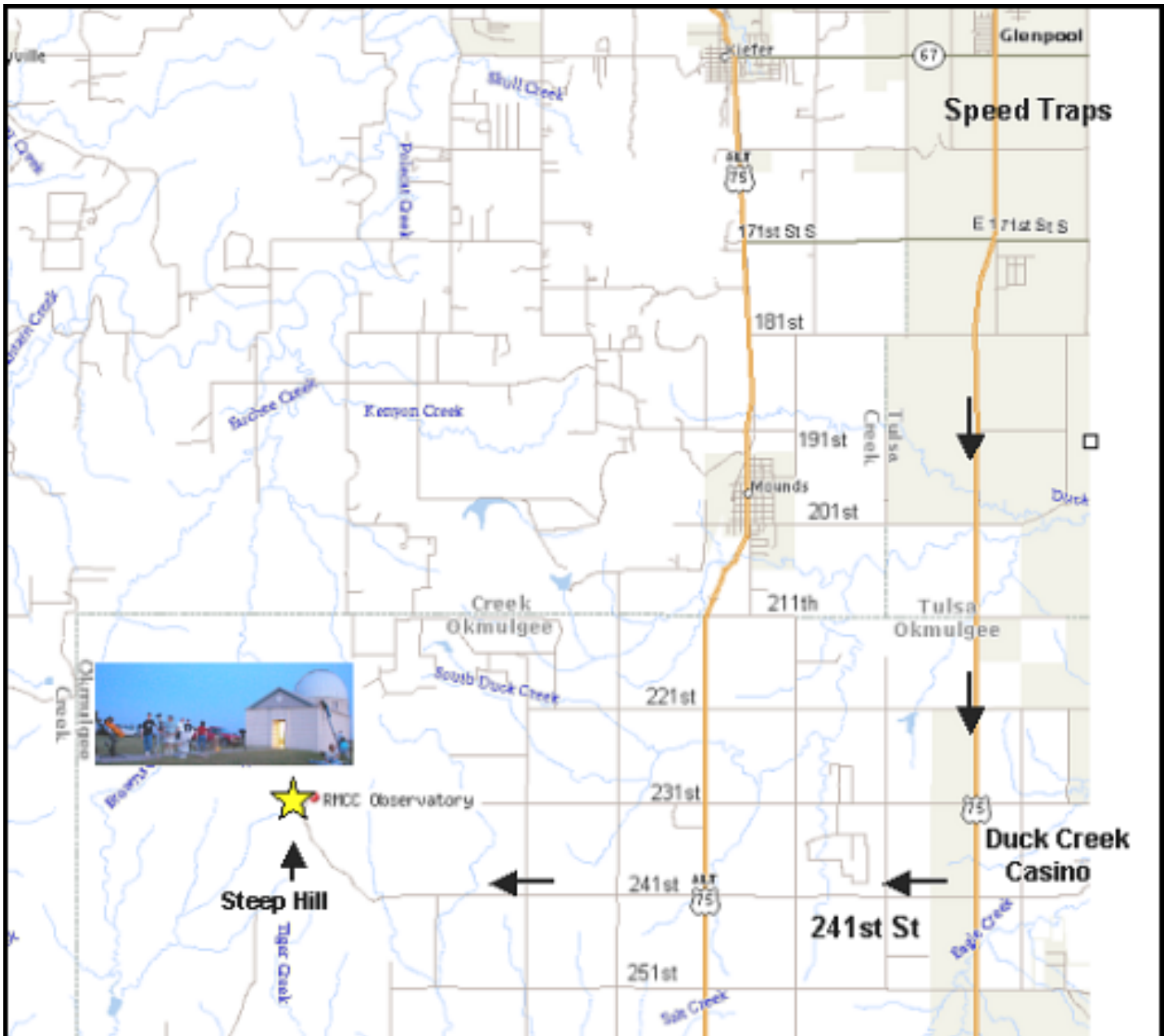
You'll have 3 miles of wide well paved road to old 75 highway.

When you cross old 75 highway. Note your odometer reading.

Go exactly 3 miles more west. Look for N 140 Rd. Its just before a turn and small bridge.

Turn Right - Go 1 mile north on N 140 Rd

Turn Left and proceed west as usual another mile to the road up the hill to the observatory.



# Lands Tidbits by John Land April 2008

**Welcome Recent New Members:** D Michelle Downes, Mike Stinski, Ryan Diggs, Mike Martin, Isaiah Sheese, Tommy Hicks, Catherine Kahbi, Cora James, Justin Guerrero, Caitlyn Legler, Shannon Waggner, Barbara "Bo" Bowles, Joseph W Howard, Damon Green

## Our membership rates for 2007 – 2008

**Adults** - \$ 35 per year includes Astronomical League Membership

**Sr. Adult** discount \$25 per year for those 65 or older includes Astronomical League Membership

**Students** \$ 15 without League membership.

Students \$ 20 with League membership.

The regular membership allows all members in the family to participate in club events but only ONE voting membership and one Astronomical League membership.

If an **additional member of the family** would like to join with voting rights the additional cost is \$15.

Additional League memberships within a family are \$ 5 each.

**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.

**Note:** You may **renew** your **Sky & Telescope** subscription directly with out having to mail in the subscriptions to the club. **NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS** must still be sent to the club treasurer. **Forms are available on the website.**

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

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

**You may forward questions to the club** by going to our 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 email

## Summer Astronomy Events

### ***July 18 & 19 - 66th Annual Astronomical League Convention and Exposition***

Des Moines, Iowa Home Page <http://www.alconexpo.com/>

Registration brochure [http://www.alconexpo.com/ALCON2008\\_ad\\_lowres%282%29.pdf](http://www.alconexpo.com/ALCON2008_ad_lowres%282%29.pdf)

**June 21, 2008** convention of the Mid-States Region of the Astronomical League (MSRAL) will be at the St. Charles Community College campus in Cottleville, Missouri.

<http://asemonline.org/archives/category/upcoming-events/>

**June 26 to July 5, 2008** Heart of America Star Party in SW Missouri hosted by the Kansas City Astronomy club.

<http://www.hoasp.org/>

## CLUB OFFICERS

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
President	Tamara Green	918-851-1213
Vice-President	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Treasurer	John Land	918-357-1759
Secretary	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477

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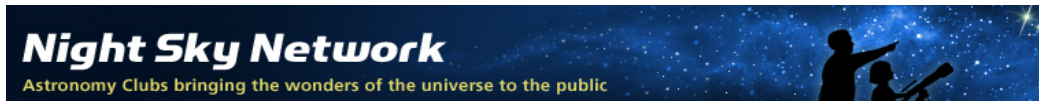
## APPOINTED STAFF

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
RMCC Facility Manager	Craig Davis	918-252-1781
Membership Chairman	John Land	918-357-1759
Observing Chairman	David Stine	918-834-1310
New Members	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Observatory Director	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477
Webmaster	Richard Alford	918-855-9986
Newsletter Editor	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Night Sky Network	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

*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.*

The Astronomy Club of Tulsa is a member of the Astronomical League and the Night Sky Network



<http://www.astroleague.org>

<http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>

*ACT welcomes your questions, suggestions, comments, and submissions for publication.*

*Please send all inquiries to [Newsletter@astrotulsa.com](mailto:Newsletter@astrotulsa.com)*