

ASTRONOMY CLUB OF TULSA

OBSERVER

Friday July 6, 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.

Stars, Planets, Telescopes and Pot luck supper

Astronomy Club Star Party – Friday July 6th

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

Swap Meet & Pot Luck will start around 7:00 PM

Gates open at 6:30 PM Driving Directions below.

Note: Due to extended rains lately roads may be muddy. The alternate route on 251st offers more paved road.

President's Message by Tamara Green

I hope all of you all are planning a very happy Fourth of July! This month, our star party has been **rescheduled to Friday, July 6**. There will be a swap meet and pot-luck picnic before dark, so if you have any equipment you would like to swap, or some yummy food you would like to share, you are welcome to bring it, and join everyone for some good food, good friends, and good Astronomy (my apologies to Phil Plait)! The festivities will begin at 7:00 PM.

Also, we may be having a group come out on the same night. The young people from the Civil Air Patrol have shown an interest in coming out to the star party. I have heard that this is a group of excellent young people, and if they come, let's please welcome them warmly and be friendly and helpful to them.

Our June star party was attended by only about 7 or 8 of us. The weather was iffy at best, but we managed to peek through a few sucker holes in the clouds and see a few things. I would like to thank everyone who came out and brought yummys. It was still a fun evening, and hopefully this month's star party will not be hindered by any more of this nasty, dismal weather. I don't know about the rest of you all, but I am growing a little weary of Oklahoma's Monsoon Season!

I hope to see all of you all there and look forward to observing with you! Clear Skies!

Welcome Recent New Members:

Scott Muckleroy, Mickey Smith, Peter Grzesik

To join the club or renew your membership go to: <http://www.astrotulsa.com/Club/join.asp>

NOTICE: The CLUB PHONE NUMBER 688-MARS IS NO LONGER IN SERVICE.

AT&T informed us that they were discontinuing service to that type of cell phone. This became effective July 1, 2007. Since most of our club contacts come in over the Internet or by direct contact with an officer, we decided not to upgrade to a more expensive cell phone service that would see very little use. To contact one of the club officers you may use the numbers at the end of the newsletter or use the email page on the club website.

Asteroid Occultation Observers wanted!

Asteroid Occultation In Tulsa – July 9th 11:16 PM

9.9 magnitude Asteroid 192 Nausikaa will pass directly in front of the 8.7 magnitude star Hipparcos 92988. The 215 km wide shadow of this event passes directly over the Tulsa area. Our club has been contacted by NASA astronomer Paul Maley to see if we can assist in scientifically valuable observations. If several people located throughout the area can make simultaneous observations much can be learned about the size and orbit of this asteroid. You'll need to locate the star a few nights prior to this event. If you would like to participate or send in your observations contact Bard Young at 918-607-3701

For Details on making useful observations and Finder charts are available at:

<http://astrotulsa.com/Observe/NausikaaOccultation07-09-2007.pdf>

Events on July 6th starting at 7:00 PM



Pot Luck Picnic The club will provide plates, plastic ware, cups & ice. You bring Food, drinks and lots of desserts!



Telescope and Accessories Swap Meet

This would be a great time to look for bargains on eyepieces, and accessories or trade for someone else's surplus items. Bring plenty of cash and change.



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. We keep the observatory grounds mowed and treated but it is always wise to **bring along some extra insect repellent** to keep the critters from having their own personal picnic feasting on you. If you like to lie out and enjoy the stars bring along a trap or blanket. If you stay late **sometimes a jacket is welcome** before dawn. Be sure to bring **your**

own drinking water or something non-alcoholic to drink and **snacks to keep you going** into the night. We do usually have a coffee pot brewing. 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.



Beginners Constellation Sky tour around 9:30 PM.

We would like to encourage our new members and guests to join us for a brief orientation to the club's observatory. We would also like to give you a short introduction to telescopes and some of the sights you might see while observing. Later in the evening we will have an informal laser guided tour of the constellations. Please sign our observatory guest book when you visit and sign up for our club mailing list of future events. A **donation of \$1.00 per guest** would be appreciated to help us maintain the observatory.

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.

Planets: Earth reaches Aphelion (its greatest distance from the Sun) on July 6th at 7:00 PM.

Perihelion is on January 4th. Three planets make for outstanding observing opportunities. In the western sky **Venus** has just passed conjunction with **Saturn** and headed for a **July 12 conjunction with the star Regulus in Leo**. This is a great time for Observing Venus in its crescent phase before it disappears from the evening sky in mid August. The **crescent moon** joins the trio July 16 & 17th. See Sky at a glance

<http://skytonight.com/observing/ataglance>

Jupiter is well placed for viewing in the SE. On July 6th the Great Red Spot will be in the center of the planet at 9:54 PM. For those of you with computer programs you can set the longitude of the GRS to 119 degrees to get accurate estimates on your programs. Jupiter is always a pleasure to observe. At low powers you can see its four brightest moons. Even in an hour or two you can see a change in their positions. At medium powers several dark brownish cloud bands can be seen on Jupiter. If the seeing is good you may even see a darker brown oval in one of the cloud bands. This will be the Great Red Spot. GRS is a giant storm nearly three times the size of Earth that has persisted for over 400 years. It varies in color from a dull red to its present color of dusky brown. It is only visible for about 3 hours at a time when it is near a transit crossing the center of the planet To calculate the best times for seeing the Great Red Spot try the calculator tool at:

http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/objects/planets/Transit_Times_of_Jupiters_Red_Spot.html

Note: Tulsa Daylight time is (Universal time) **UT – 5 hours** so 02:54 UT = 21:45 Tulsa time



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>

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.

Astronomy Club of Tulsa
<http://www.AstroTulsa.com>

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