



OBSERVER

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

This picture was taken at our star party 8-10-2007 at the observatory.

This picture was taken and submitted by Steve Chapman.



I would like to invite every club member to submit their favorite astronomy related pictures. These can be a few astronomy friends as above or your CCD images. If we get a good response then we can make it a permanent resident here at the Observer. Jerry

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Tamara Green

Greetings to All Y'all!

Now that it has finally quit raining....:)

We have a couple of good things to look forward to in August! First of all, the Astronomy Club of Tulsa is doing something this month that probably has not been done before, and that is start our regular club meetings back up again in AUGUST instead of in September!

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The Astronomy Club of Tulsa is a member of the Astronomical League.

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MONTHLY MEETING INFO

- FRIDAY AUGUST 24TH AT 7:00 PM
- LOCATED IN THE PHILLIPS BUILDING AUDITORIUM
- GUEST SPEAKER GEORGE FLICKINGER FROM CHANNEL 2 WEATHER



Now that we have the room at Tulsa Community College, Metro Campus, our first meeting will be on FRIDAY, AUGUST 24TH AT 7:00 PM. It will be in the Phillips Building, in the auditorium. The directions and map of the campus should be on our website long before then, if they are not already! It is my hope that all of you all will enjoy this wonderful new location as well as I will!

We also will have a great guest speaker for our August meeting! Meteorologist George Flickinger from Channel 2 has graciously agreed to give a presentation on weather and how it affects astronomical observing. Weather has always played a very important role in what we do as amateur astronomers. It can affect what we are able to see, what we are not able to see, and sometimes it determines whether or not we can even go out at all, as the first half of this summer has proven! His presentation will be on weather and how it behaves, therefore determining what we will be able to see when we go out to observe. This promises to be a fun as well as informative presentation, so I hope you will all come and enjoy it! It will certainly be a treat, and a valuable enhancement to our hobby, to learn how the atmosphere behaves and what we can look for as skywatchers!

Don't forget our star party on Friday, August 10th. In the event weather plays a role in a bad way, we will have Saturday, August 11th as the back-up night. Since this is the last of the Summer parties, before Fall comes and it gets dark earlier and earlier, we will do a pot-luck dinner as well, so if you have a dish to share, you are welcome to bring it to add to the repast. If not, that is fine too, just bring your smilin' self and have a good time with good food and good friends and hopefully some awesome observing!

For those of you who were able to attend the weekend star party at the Adams Ranch last month, we all had a really wonderful treat! For those of you who weren't, well, we really wish you could have been there! Friday night wasn't so good, with the skies clouding over after only a couple of hours or so, but, getting to see and hold the METEORITES found by James Coul-dron, and the rare sight of a BALD EAGLE flying literally just a few feet over the hangar and right over our heads made up for that!!! I don't know about the rest of y'all, but I have personally never in my life seen such a bird that up-close and personal! Nor have I gotten to see, let alone hold in my hands, a large meteorite, up until then!

On Saturday, we got to see a breathtakingly beautiful bluff just 3 miles from the bunkhouse. A large, sprawling, basin-like area that is nothing but pure, untouched prairie as far as the eye can see! Saturday night was much better for observing. The sky was wonderfully clear the whole night! The Milky Way was breathtaking as well, we could see the dark lanes in it, and what was

not dark lanes shone brightly! Many people saw the famous Red Spot on Jupiter, among other night-sky favorites! Some of us, myself and Owen included, stayed up literally all night, from dusk to dawn watching the sky and exchanging uproariously funny jokes! I enjoyed watching the Pleiades and Mars come up, and just before 5:00 AM, we were treated to a nice bright pass of the shuttle! A wonderful weekend! We will most definitely have to have another Adams Ranch weekend soon!

I hope to see everybody at our star party and again at our August meeting!

Clear Skies,

Tamara Green

MAKING A STAR PARTY PLANNER

By Ann Bruun

When you see a dark sky with a zillion stars showing it's easy to get overwhelmed. Particularly if you are just getting started in astronomy – no, scratch that, this still happens to me and I've been in the club for several years. A crystal sky can make my mouth drop open and my brain lock up. This is where a good Star Party Planner comes in.

Before the star party, in the daylight, when your mind is clear, write a list of objects you want to look for. A good place to start is the Messier list. I also make notes while I'm reading my astronomy magazines about objects they suggest. You have to be careful that the object they are talking about is within reach of your scope. I've gotten very excited about objects only to find out they are looking at them with a huge scope. Pursuing these can be very frustrating.

The nice thing about the Messier list is these objects are visible in any telescope and most are visible with binoculars. There are Messiers available in every season and people who have been observing for decades are still looking at them.

On my Star Party Planner I write the name of the object, where it is and how I can find it in my own words. I use a star chart or astronomy program to figure out how I can get to the object. For



instance I might write, "Form a line from Delta to 70 Ursa Major and the double star is just beyond." It is much easier to locate objects if you have plotted how to get to them ahead of time. Also make a note to look for any special features you may have read or heard about, such as shape or color.

I also separate my objects by time, if there will be planets available at dusk I put those first. If I will be looking for items in a constellation that doesn't come up until later I write a time when it will be high enough to start perusing.

I usually make a list of 10 to 20 objects and I often don't get through them all. Of course you don't have to stick to your list either, but it gives you something to return to when the sky starts getting too big. You might find creating a Star Party Planner is almost as much fun as observing.

TALL-GRASS OBSERVATIONS

By Ann Bruun

M97- Owl Nebula in Ursa Major. Very faint. There are three stars that form a lopsided box when you add M97 to them.

M108-Galaxy in Ursa Major. Within 1°32' of Beta in Ursa Major. Edge on. Within 1° of the Owl nebula. Within 1/2° of the star that forms the triangle with the Owl Nebula.

M109-Galaxy in Ursa Major. 38' from Gamma. It can supposedly be seen with binoculars right near Gamma.

M40-Double Star in Ursa Major. Form a line from Delta to 70 Ursa Majoris and the double star is just beyond. A barred galaxy NGC 4290 is nearby and can be seen with a 4 inch scope at 11.5 mag.

M98 -Galaxy in coma Berenices. Straight out from Leo's butt. 1/2° from 6 Coma Berenices. Nearly edge on gives a thin elongated glow with a star like center.

M99-Galaxy in Coma. Less than 1° from 6 Coma. Face on spiral, small scopes show an oval glow with bright center.

M100-Galaxy in Coma. Go NE from 6 Coma, follow two pointer stars to M100. It is a very faint glow in spite of its large size.

M85-Galaxy in Coma. 2° North of M100 you will find 11 Coma a 4.7 mag. star. Just over a degree East of 11 Coma is M85. It is an elliptical galaxy.

M13-Globular in Hercules. Between Eta and Zeta in Hercules.

M92-Globular in Hercules. On the side with Pi and Eta, to the North.

M57-Planetary Nebula in Lyra. Between Beta and Gamma.

M56-Globular Cluster in Lyra. Between Gamma Lyra and Albireo. Just a bit over half way to Albireo.

M29-Open Cluster in Cygnus. A poor open cluster best seen with binoculars or low power.

M39-Open Cluster in Cygnus. Large and sparse containing only 30 members. It looks good in binoculars. Use low magnification.

M27-Planetary Nebula in Vulpecula. Dumbbell nebula. Between the tip of Sagitta and 13 Vulpecula A very bright planetary nebula. Can be found with binoculars.

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME

Dewey Smith

Stephanie Diedrich

Chris & Elodie Birdwell

Scott Muckleroy

Mickey Smith

Peter Grzesik

Jack Wells

Raymond Cope



well, finding objects for them. The log sheets are still available in the Obs. desk with usually eight different types of objects, more credits if you got busy. This was probably the most enjoyable observing work I have ever done.

.... With the public it's like a box of chocolate....

May I suggest: If you want a crash course in learning the sky... Help with our groups at our RMCC Observatory, and other outside scheduled groups. Contact: Teresa

People attack log work with all types style: The busy anti social recluse,

To, the social talker ~ no matter what - it could takes years to complete.

In particular, I enjoy working besides an Engineer. Many of the programs taking no longer than: days, weeks or hours, once becoming proficient. Gerry Andries ran the Observatory while during the majority of my nine years of work. He was the best, running interference.

With 'The Messiers', you're going to look at them anyways...log them! KC <http://www.astroleague.org/observing.html>

SECRETARIES CORNER

By Teresa Kincannon

Looking for clear skies, the past month the ACT board has emailed several times hoping for a chance to do some observing. We have had to cancel groups and any plans for doing astronomy. All of this weather has not kept us from being in touch. The following are some of the items sent through emails for discussion:

Too much water in mounds has made a mess at the observatory. We had a notice that the roads were mud and even the observatory grounds that usually drain well were quite saturated. In addition, our observatory is in need of plumbing repairs: the sink drain is not working. (This is a call to any member with plumbing skills; please contact John Land or Craig Davis.)

We received a call from James Cauldron, manager of the ranch facility we use at the Tall Grass Prairie. He found what seems to be a meteorite. We sent him information to try to have the rock

like object in question assessed by an expert. So far we know it is highly attracted to a magnet and seems to be very dense. Both of these characteristics would make the object a candidate for investigation.

Our July star party was changed to July 6, 2007 due to the clubs plans on going to the ranch the following week end which was our scheduled star party. We plan on having a swap meet and pot luck picnic before sunset. A special group of young people from the Civil Air Patrol have requested to come to the star party. With the majority of the board accepting the arrangement, we will have around 30 extra people joining us.

The 688-MARS number is no longer in existence. John Land was contacted that our plan was expiring and he tried to work out something considering a few other companies. After reviewing the few calls made to the number, we decided the website is sufficient and since it is usually the contact for groups and information on the club, the 688 number is simply not worth the expense.

There may be a few meeting changes for this fall. Because it seems to be such a long stretch between meetings, we are considering an August meeting. Also we need to consider arranging the meetings in September to match our traditional public meeting on the Friday closest to the full moon and the star party closest to the new moon. Because we do not have to be concerned about traffic and ball games at TCC metro, our new location, we can plan these meetings with our traditional arrangements. As a board we will be meeting this week to approve of the new dates. Be sure and watch the changes from the website.

Rod Gallagher has done it again: posted some amazing images on his website. The images were taken during the Messier Marathon in TUVA and also The Heart of America Star Party. This time he has posted images of Saturn, the moon, the whirlpool galaxy, and several others. All, of course, are very high quality and beautiful. To view these images go to: http://web.olp.net/vgallagher-olp/New_Images.htm



One more thing: Gary and Cherie Thomas is one of our couples that we have not seen as often lately. They are busy with their new baby boy, Tristan.

---teresa kincannon, ACT Secretary/Group Director



Lands Tidbits

by John Land April 10, 2007

Time is Running out to register for OkieTex Star party - Oct 6 to Oct 14

This event is held in the tip of the Oklahoma Panhandle under some of the darkest skies in America. Many of our Tulsa area members attend this event.

www.okie-tex.com

Lands Tidbits – by John Land Aug 24, 2007

Welcome Recent New Members:

Scott Muckleroy, Mickey Smith, Peter Grzesik, Jack Wells, Gerald Miller, Raymond Cope

New Subscription renewal procedure for Sky & Telescope

Sky & Telescope outsourced their subscriptions mailings and renewals to a company in Florida.

As a result of this change you may renew your Sky & Telescope subscription directly with out having to mail in the subscriptions to the club treasurer. You may have already notice the new address if you received a renewal notice. You will still receive the club discount rate of \$ 32.95 per year. Sky & Telescope will send out a list annually to verify club membership. You may also phone in your renewal at 1-800-253-0245. You will need to know your subscription number when you call. The new change should make renewing your subscription more convenient and allow you to use your credit card. The down side seems to be that it has added about an extra month to getting renewals and new subscriptions started. So send renewals in at least 2 months before they expire.

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS must still be sent to the club treasurer. Forms are available on the 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. Sky & Telescope may be renewed directly to the company. If you have an individual mem-

bership you may 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

Sr. Adult discount \$25 per year for those over 65 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

Sky & Telescope is \$33 / yr

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 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

MEMORIES OF A VISIT TO STONEHENGE

By Denny Mishler

A shaft of light sprang through a hole in the clouds. The pace quickened as my wife Barb and I drove west. The excitement mounts. We are bearing down on legendary Stonehenge, 30 miles distant with sunset approaching. Ten miles to go and the clouds are beginning to lift from the horizon. All day long it has been complete cloud cover, but now there is hope of seeing a sunset at Stonehenge. Not much time left.

Suddenly, we come over a hill and there it stands. It is so real. The road sweeps right by the circle and Stonehenge is upon you before you are ready. I roar into a parking lot on the right. Grabbing my camera bag and running from the car, I head for a position about 100 yards away to get a shot of the sun between the stones. I stop and turn, no not far enough. I must run further. Finally here it is ... the perfect spot. A giant sun is perfectly balanced between the stones. I fire off my camera shots and then finally I can relax. It's one of the great sights of a lifetime. Barb catches up. Together we stand in silence, awed by the sight before us.

As the sun sets and we walk back to the car I am thankful. This is the only chance of seeing Stonehenge at Sunset and we've been given a grand performance. Over the next week I hardly see the sun at all. But I don't care. I saw a sunset at Stonehenge.

Denny Mishler





Night Sky Network

Astronomy Clubs bringing the wonders of the universe to the public



ASTRONOMY CLUB OF TULSA

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For information, comments or suggestions about this newsletter please contact Jerry Mullennix (Editor) at the address above or by email at Astro.newsletter@pantherenergy.us

GRAVITY
ITS NOT JUST A GOOD IDEA, IT'S THE LAW

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.

Were on the web
www.astrotulsa.com

CLUB OFFICERS

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Vice-President	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Treasure	John Land	918-357-1759
Secretary	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477

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RMCC Facility Manager	Craig Davis	918-252-1781
Membership Chairman	John Land	918-357-1759
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New Members	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Observatory Director	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477
Webmaster	Tom McDonough	918-665-1853
Newsletter Editor	Jerry Mullennix	918-237-8220
Night Sky Network	Teresa Kincannon	918-637-1477

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

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Craig Davis

Rod Gallagher

Jerry Mullennix

Owen Green

Jim Miller

Denny Mishler

Tony White