

Antares



The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

Meeting time: June 17, 2017 7:00 pm

Location: **Lake Afton Public Observatory**

KAO Website: <http://www.kaowichita.com>
The Night Sky Network: <http://www.nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov>
The Astronomical League: <http://www.astroleague.org>

If you have comments or suggestions for an article in the newsletter, e-mail them to:
kevin.l.kight@gmail.com *Please begin the subject line with "Antares"

Current Club Officials

President:	Fred Gassert	(316) 721-2225	Homelevator@msn.com
Vice-President:	Richard Meredith	(316) 794-2827	
Treasurer:	Bryan Rocky	(316) 218-8512	brocky@cox.net
Newsletter/Media:	Kevin Kight	(252) 599-0429	kevin.l.kight@gmail.com

Next Meeting: July 15 at Lake Afton Public Observatory

Club Updates:

Newsletter:

Effective this month, Harold Henderson has transferred newsletter/media responsibilities to Kevin Kight.

Officer Elections:

Club Officer Elections are coming up in October. Nominations of officers begins this month and closes in September. If you are interested in becoming an officer, see one of the current club officials.

Solar and Planetary Items:

Moon Phases:

Last Quarter: June 17
New Moon: June 24
First Quarter: August 1
Full Moon: August 9

Planets:

Mercury, Venus, Uranus and Neptune are pre-dawn

Mars – sets approximately 9:40pm

Jupiter – Easy to find in Virgo (evening)

Saturn – Rises approximately 8:30pm in Ophiuchus (Opposition was on June 15)

June 20 is the Summer Solstice/ First Day of Summer at 11:24pm CDT.

Comets:

Listed below are comets possibly visible in binoculars/telescopes (cutoff at magnitude 11). Magnitudes shown are approximate predictions for mid-month. Links are provided for additional information:

C/2015 ER61 (PANSTARRS): A morning comet located in Pisces. Magnitude 10.4
<https://theskylive.com/c2015er61-info>

C/2015 V2 (Johnson): An evening comet located in Virgo. Magnitude 6.9
<https://theskylive.com/c2015v2-info>

Event Reports:

Memorial Day Weekend:

On Sunday May 28, there was an impromptu viewing at Lake Afton. Though the observatory itself was closed, approximately half-a-dozen telescopes were out on the pad behind the building until nearly midnight. The night was very clear and the seeing was average. A few people outside of the club also showed up and were introduced to the night sky. Among the objects observed were: C/2015 V2 (Johnson) [located near Izar on Bootes], several galaxies near Virgo (such as the Black-Eye Galaxy[M64]), M81 and M82, M108 and M97 in Ursa Major. Saturn and Jupiter were also visible. Phil hooked up a video camera to a television and resolved several eddies in the belts of Jupiter, and surely got some amazing lunar images. The Cassini Division in Saturn was easily visible in a 12 inch telescope that another member and brought out. All in all, a pretty good observing night.

Symphony in the Flint Hills:

On Saturday, June 10th the Symphony in the Flint Hills took place at Deer Horn Range in Geary county, near Junction City. Members from KAO and SAC volunteered for the event. An astronomy tent was setup with 4 talks about astronomy: Life in the Universe, Constellation Tour, Space Rocks, and The 2017 eclipse. Outside during the day we had several solar scopes and a scale model of the solar system setup. It is estimated that 100's of people showed up during the day to attend the talks and even more to look at the sun (which happened to be completely featureless in white light and had one small filament in H-alpha) prior to the symphony. After the symphony had ended, there was an observing session with 8 telescopes setup to look at Jupiter, Saturn ,the Moon and Alberio. Several people had never seen Saturn or the moon through a telescope, so we had lengthy lines for over 2 hours after the concert ended. During the evening we estimate that at least another 700 people may have showed up, maybe as many as 1000 between the 8 telescopes. We finally packed up and left at 12:30. All in all a good concert and a good day/night of outreach to over 2600 people.



Solar Telescope Observing



“Space Rocks” Talk With Jerelyn and Fred



The Symphony



SAC and KAO Waiting for the Crowds after the Symphony

Upcoming Regional Events:

Okie-Tex Star Party

The 34th Annual **Okie-Tex Star Party** will be on **September 16-24, 2017**. Registration at: <http://www.okie-tex.com/registration.php>

International Observe the Moon Night

The 2017 date is **October 28**.

Upcoming KAO Public Events:

Family Camp – June 17

Four-Winds Girl Scout Camp, 9236 S. E. Quivira Road, Leon, KS
(9:00 PM - 11:00 PM)

This will be a traditional Girl Scout viewing night at 4-Winds

Trefoil Traditions – June 27

Starwoods Scout Camp, 7850 S 103 street west, Clearwater, KS 67026
(9:00-11:00pm)

This is a traditional Girl Scout viewing night at Starwoods.

Augusta Public Library – June 30

Augusta Public Library, 1609 State Street, Augusta, KS 67010
(8:00PM Setup, 8:30 PM)

This is a stargazing event for the Augusta Public Library. We will set up some telescopes to observe.

Eskridge Public Library – July 3

Eskridge Public Library, 115 S Main Street, Eskridge, KS 66423
(9:30 AM Setup, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

Come by and find out about the Solar Eclipse coming on August 21st. Learn how to view the eclipse safely. Find out where you can go to see totality.

Full Moon Walk – July 8

Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67220
(9:00pm - 10:00pm)

Please RSVP to Rachel Roth rachel@gpnc.org if you are planning to attend on behalf of KAO.

Fall River Star Party (July 21 – 22)

Fall River State Park, Township Road 50B, Fall River, KS 67047

The 2017 Fall River Star Party will be July 22. (KAO club event and camping is on Friday July 21. public outreach on Saturday 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM at Casner Creek Campground)

St. Mary's Public Library – July 26

Saint Marys Public Library, 306 N 5th Street, Saint Marys, KS 66536
(1:30pm)

Eclipse Information

Augusta Public Library – July 29

Augusta Public Library, 1609 State Street, Augusta, KS 67010

(11:00am)

Eclipse Information