

Antares



The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

Meeting time: **June 16, 2018** **7:30 pm**

Location: **Lake Afton Public Observatory**

Speaker: **Mark Logan – Science Education Center**
Special Guest: Lonnie Wege (Celestron)

Topic: **Amateur Astronomical Products**

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: **Jerelyn Ramirez** jerelyn.ramirez@gmail.com

Vice-President: **Tony Haidai** thaidai@cox.net

Treasurer: **Paul Ramirez** ramirezpm2@gmail.com

Newsletter/Media: **Kevin Kight** kevin.l.kight@gmail.com

Next Month’s Meeting: July 21 at Lake Afton Public Observatory

Club Updates:

Call for Meeting Speakers:

For those members that wish to create and present during a club meeting, or that have a suggestion for a guest speaker during the fall, contact Club Vice-President: Tony Haidai (thaidai@cox.net)

Newsletter Items for Publication:

Please submit items for publication prior to the 10th of each month to be included in that month's newsletter.

May Club Meeting:

See addendum for a short summary about the April club meeting.

Eyepieces for Sale:

See addendum for a collection of TeleVue Eyepieces club member David Stanislaw is wishing to sell.

Herschel 400:

Joe Castor has earned the Hershel 400 award from the Astronomical League.



Solar and Planetary Items:

Moon Phases:

Last Quarter: June 6
New Moon: June 13
First Quarter: June 20
Full Moon: June 27

Planets:

Mercury – Hidden in solar glare
Venus – Visible in the West After Sunset in Gemini; Sets approximately 11:20 pm
Mars – Visible in the morning in Capricornus rises approximately 12:10am
Jupiter – Visible through the night in Libra. transiting approximately 11:00 pm
Saturn – Visible in the late evening, rising approximately 10:00 pm in Sagittarius, Opposition 6-27 8:00am
Uranus – Visible in the morning; rising at 3:30 am in Aries
Neptune – Visible in the morning, rising approximately 1:30 am in Aquarius

Comets:

Listed below are comets possibly visible in telescopes from the Wichita area (cutoff at magnitude 11). Magnitudes shown are approximate predictions for mid-month. Links are provided for additional information: <http://cometchasing.skyhound.com/>

No Comets are Visible This Month

Event Reports:

If you've participated in a club event, please submit an event report to be included here by the 10th of each month. It doesn't have to be anything formal, just a brief description about the event and how it went. Credit will be given unless you request to be kept anonymous.

Lets Go Camping Event:

See addendum for a short summary about the Lets Go Camping Event held on May 2th.

2018 Symphony in the Flint Hills Event:

See addendum for a short summary about the Symphony in the Flint Hills Event held on June 9th.

Upcoming Regional Events:

Fall River Star Party – Friday, August 10- Saturday, August 11
Fall River State Park & Campgrounds, Fall River, KS 67047
(7:30 PM - 11:59 PM)

Come join us at the annual Fall River event. Join us for an evening of dark skies and deep space viewing. Mars and Saturn will be featured this night with Jupiter and Venus setting in the west just after sunset.

Upcoming KAO/Public Events:

Libraries Rock – June 15

Robert Shryock Park, 2923 Ohio Street, Augusta, KS 67010
7:00 pm
Setup Time: 6:00 PM

Mara Hopkins, from the Augusta Public Library, has reached out to us for another public educational, and observing activity out at the Robert Shryock Park. She will request the park staff to turn out the lights for this event. We will have available for the visitors, at the request from Mara, some educational activities before the sun sets if anyone would like to participate. All naked eyed planets have the opportunity to be visible this night.

See NSN Calender for details.

Four Winds Family Camp Stargazing – June 23

Four-Winds Girl Scout Camp, 9236 S. E. Quivira Road, Leon, KS
9:00 pm
Setup Time: 8:00 PM

The Girl Scouts are hosting a Stargazing event. Lets see if we can get a few volunteers to help out with this event.

See NSN Calender for details.

Full Moon Walk – June 27

Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67220-2200
(9:00 pm – 11:00 pm)

Setup Time: 8:30 PM; See below about registration

When the moon is full, join us for stargazing at Great Plains Nature Center under a rising full moon. Enjoy an evening under the stars and planets.

If you are planning to go on the walk, you must make a reservation (like the public).

If you are ONLY there to assist with stargazing, please e-mail Rachel Roth at GPNC to confirm. rachel@gpnc.org. See NSN Calender for details.

Lake Afton Public Observatory Star Party – July 21

Lake Afton Public Observatory (LAPO), 25000 West 39th South, Goddard, KS 67052
(1:00 pm – 1:30 am)

This is a collaboration with LAPO. Solar activities during the day with other activities through out the day. Having telescopes for the visitors to share with them the wonders of the night sky. This night is two days after a first quarter Moon.

LAPO is looking to schedule this type of astronomy party maybe twice a year to promote the observatory. To make this astronomy party a success we need volunteers. This event will begin before the club meeting. We will still hold the meeting but we'll keep the meeting short. They plan to stay open till 1:00 a.m.

Food will be catered to the area. See NSN Calender for details.

Heights Astronomy Night – November 15

Heights High School, 5301 N Hillside, Wichita, KS
(7:30 PM - 9:00 PM)

Setup Time: 7:00 PM

Heights Astronomy Night at the Heights High School in Wichita Kansas. Come on out to the 6th Annual Astronomy Night. The Kansas Astronomical Observers will be providing telescopes for viewing the night sky. What will we see; well the first quarter Moon will be on display high in the sky right near the planet Mars, both in the constellation Aquarius. If we are lucky we can catch Saturn to the west before it sets in the constellation Sagittarius.

This event is open to all visitors. Come one come all, all are welcome.

If we have clouded out skies we will set up inside and have the visitors look at the telescopes up close and discuss other astronomy related topics.

See NSN Calender for details.

Featured Article:

This article is provided by NASA Space Place.

With articles, activities, crafts, games and lesson plans, NASA Space Place encourages everyone to get excited about science and technology.

Visit spaceplace.nasa.gov to explore space and Earth science!



What Is the Asteroid Belt?

By Linda Hermans-Killiam

There are millions of pieces of rocky material left over from the formation of our solar system. These rocky chunks are called asteroids, and they can be found orbiting our Sun. Most asteroids are found between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. They orbit the Sun in a doughnut-shaped region of space called the asteroid belt.

Asteroids come in many different sizes—from tiny rocks to giant boulders. Some can even be hundreds of miles across! Asteroids are mostly rocky, but some also have metals inside, such as iron and nickel. Almost all asteroids have irregular shapes. However, very large asteroids can have a rounder shape.

The asteroid belt is about as wide as the distance between Earth and the Sun. It's a big space, so the objects in the asteroid belt aren't very close together. That means there is plenty of room for spacecraft to safely pass through the belt. In fact, NASA has already sent several spacecraft through the asteroid belt!

The total mass of objects in the asteroid belt is only about 4 percent the mass of our Moon. Half of this mass is from the four largest objects in the belt. These objects are named Ceres, Vesta, Pallas and Hygiea.

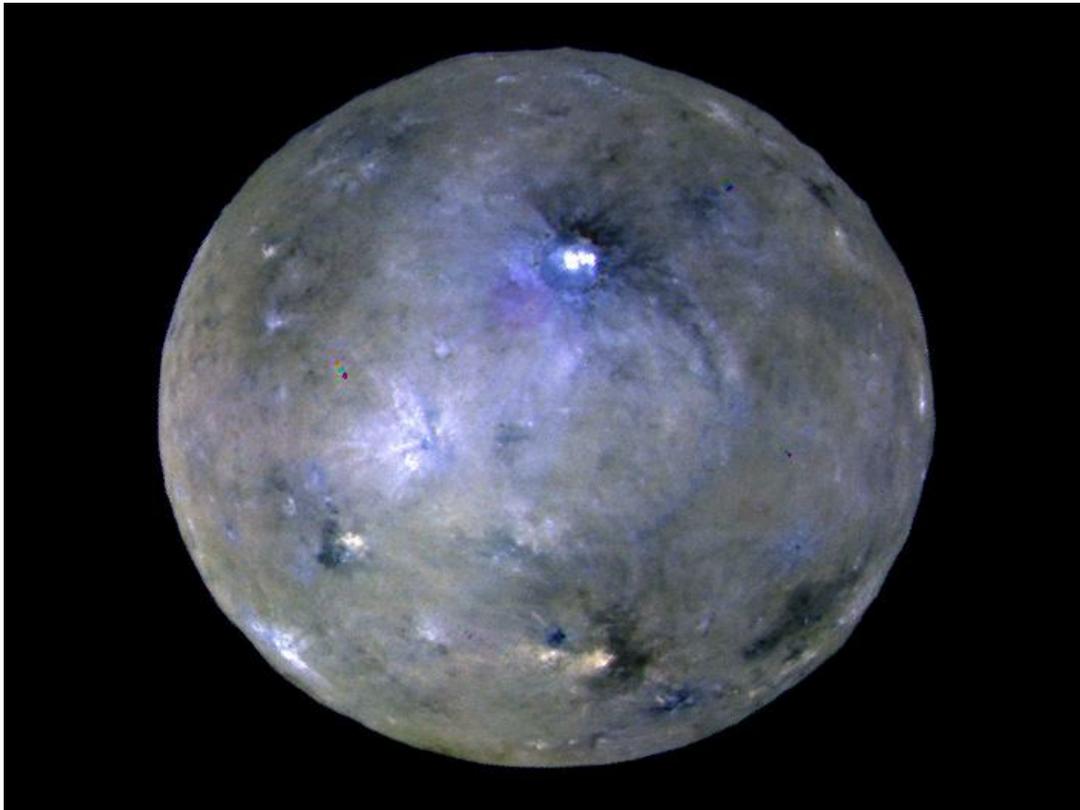
The dwarf planet Ceres is the largest object in the asteroid belt. However, Ceres is still pretty small. It is only about 587 miles across—only a quarter the diameter of Earth's moon. In 2015, NASA's Dawn mission mapped the surface of Ceres. From Dawn, we learned that the outermost layer of Ceres—called the crust—is made up of a mixture of rock and ice.

The Dawn spacecraft also visited the asteroid Vesta. Vesta is the second largest object in the

asteroid belt. It is 329 miles across, and it is the brightest asteroid in the sky. Vesta is covered with light and dark patches, and lava once flowed on its surface.

The asteroid belt is filled with objects from the dawn of our solar system. Asteroids represent the building blocks of planets and moons, and studying them helps us learn about the early solar system.

For more information about asteroids, visit: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/asteroid>



Caption: This image captured by the Dawn spacecraft is an enhanced color view of Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA/MPS/DLR/IDA