

Antares



The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

Meeting time: **March 18, 2017** **3:00pm**
Location: **Great Plains Nature Center**

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:
hhfamily@cox.net *Please begin the subject line with "Antares"

Current Club Officials

President:	Fred Gassert	(316) 721-2225	Homeelevator@msn.com
Vice-President:	Richard Meredith	(316) 794-2827	
Treasurer:	Bryan Rocky	(316) 218-8512	brocky@cox.net
Newsletter/Media:	Harold Henderson	(316) 687-0113	hhfamily@cox.net

Now listing our public events at: <http://events.kansas.com/> and
<http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/kmuw/events.eventsmain>

Next Meeting: April 15 at Great Plains Nature Center

Planetary items:

Moon Phases:

Full Moon: March 12
Last Quarter: March 20
New Moon: March 28
First Quarter: April 3
Full Moon: April 11

Planets:

Mercury – (evening) Max. Solar sep. on Apr.1
Venus – (not viewable) Inferior Conjunction Mar. 25
Mars – (evening) apparent size 4.4 arc-sec.
Jupiter – Opposition on Apr. 7
Saturn – (morning) rises at 2:40am
Uranus – (evening) apparent size 3.4 arc-sec.
Neptune – (morning) rises at 6:54am
Pluto – (morning) rises at 4:09am

As you can tell from the above data, Jupiter “season” is here now!

Club Events

Messier Marathon 2017 (#1) – March 24-25 – **Butler State Fishing Lake**

Our first installment of the Messier Marathon this year will be on **March 24 and 25** at the Butler State Fishing Lake. To get there you take 400 East from Wichita to Leon. (see attached page for directions)

- The GPS coordinates are [37.545826, -96.692608](#)

If you plan to attend one or both nights please let me know. This is a primitive area. Only amenity is an outhouse. You can tent camp or bring a camper and whatever food you need. Steve Schoonover and I will both be there both nights. If you need better directions, let me know.

My cell number is 833-2399 - Fred

Night Sky Network Annual Awards for Outreach Events

At this time of year, we recognize our members who have graciously given their time at Night Sky Network events, to help others learn about our great hobby. This year we had 24 volunteers log 136 times for a total of almost 450 hours and 2,700 miles. The Night Sky Network Recognizes those who log at least five events with a Certificate of Appreciation and a lapel pin. We also recognize those who logged four events. Thank you to all who participated. Remember you need to log the events you help with.

Congratulations to: Edward Bierens, Kay Ferris, Kris Flory, Fred Gassert, Harold Henderson, Richard Meredith, Brent Newton, Jerelyn Ramirez and Steve Schoonover on receiving this outreach award.

Also achieving notable status: John Bierens , James Fullerton and Paul Ramirez

Local Public calendar:

Messier Marathon 2017 (#1) – March 24-25 – **Butler State Fishing Lake**

Winfield Public Library – April 7 – **605 College St, Winfield KS** (6pm-8pm)

They are asking club members to bring telescopes to provide stargazing as an “add-on” to the exhibit: *Discover NASA: From Our Town to Outer Space*

Messier Marathon 2017 (#2) – April 29 – **Kaufman Oil Lease** (private)

Full Moon Walk – April 10 – **Great Plains Nature Center** (7:00pm)

Events also on: May 10, June 8, July 8, August 7, September 5, October 5.

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

Regional events:

Texas Star Party 2017

The 39th Annual **Texas Star Party** will be on May 21-28 near Ft. Davis, Texas.

Symphony in the Flint Hills - June 10

(Location to be determined)

Fall River Star Party

The 2017 Fall River Star Party will be July 22. (KAO club event is on Friday July 21) More information as this event gets closer.

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.