

Antares



The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

Meeting time: **March 17, 2018** **3:00 pm**

Location: **Great Plains Nature Center**

Speaker: **Danny Mattern** – Butler County Community College Physics Instructor
Topic: **Mars 2020 Rover Mission**

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: April 21 at Great Plains Nature Center

Club Updates:

Membership Dues:

Just a reminder, membership dues for the 2018 year are due.

Meeting Speakers:

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

Newsletter Items for Publication:

Please submit items for publication prior to the 7th of each month to be included in that month's newsletter.

February Club Meeting:

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

Solar and Planetary Items:

Moon Phases:

Last Quarter: March 9
New Moon: March 17
First Quarter: March 24
Full Moon: March 31

Planets:

Mercury – Visible in the West After Sunset; Sets 9:00pm
Venus – Visible in the West After Sunset; Sets 8:40pm
Mars – Visible in the morning rises approximately 3:00am; in Sagittarius next to Saturn
Jupiter – Visible in the morning; rises at 12:30am in Libra, transiting 5:30am
Saturn – Visible in the morning; rises approximately 4:00 am in Sagittarius
Uranus – Sets approximately 10:00pm in Pisces
Neptune – Hidden in Solar Glare

Comets:

Listed below are comets possibly visible in telescopes (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 7th 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.

Upcoming Regional Events:

Messier Marathon #1 – Friday, March 16 – Saturday, March 17
Butler County State Lake, Latham, KS 67072
(7:00 PM - 7:30 AM)

Lets stay up all night to try and find all the Messier objects in one night. March is the best time to try this attempt. Now all we need a clear sky. So come on out and try to find as many Messier objects as you can. If finding Messier objects is not your thing you can still join the fun and observe whatever you like.

Messier Marathon #2 – Friday, April 13 – Saturday, April 14
Butler County State Lake, Latham, KS 67072
(7:30 PM - 7:00 AM)

Lets stay up all night to try and find all the Messier objects in one night. This is the backup data for the Messier Marathon #1. Now all we need a clear sky. So come on out and try to find as many Messier objects as you can. If finding Messier objects is not your thing you can still join the fun and observe whatever you like.

Symphony in the Flint Hills - Saturday, June 9

Rosalia Ranch, Northeast Ivanpah Road, El Dorado, KS 67042

Setup Time: 10:00 AM

This is an all day event. Telescopes are set up for solar viewing while educational outreach presentations are held inside the educational tent before the concert begins. This is a collaboration with the Salina Astronomy Club. At the conclusion of the concert patrons come by for some evening viewing. Jupiter will be high in the sky at sunset. It is possible to view the GRS (Great Red Spot) after 11:00 p.m. This will be a Moon free event. Saturn will be rising on the eastern horizon after the sun sets with Venus in the west.

Contact Jerelyn about this if you are interested in volunteering.

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:

Blue Moon Walk – March 31

Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67220-2200

(8:30 pm – 10:30 pm)

Setup Time: 8:00 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. This full Moon is a "Blue Moon" event. Why is it a "Blue Moon"? Two full Moons occurred in the same month.

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.

Holst The Planets – April 14

Century II Concert Hall, 225 W Douglas, Wichita, KS 67202

(8:00pm)

Setup Time: 9:00 PM; See below about event

We have been invited to partner in a collaboration with the Wichita Symphony on the second day of this two day event as an after concert event in front of the Century II Concert Hall. The concert is called Holst The Planets and will be preformed while cosmic images from NASA and photography by astronomer José Francisco Salgado are projected above the Orchestra.

We do have a planned educational program for the public during this event if you want to participate but is not required. The program is easy and a lot of fun for you and the visitor. The program relates to how telescopes are time machines. You can contact Jerelyn for more information if you're interested. jerelyn.ramirez@gmail.com

Venus will have set when the concert lets out, but Jupiter will be making a showing after 10 p.m. The concert is expected to last for about 1.5 hours, so around 9:30 p.m. is when the concert will be over. We may have visitors come by sooner that didn't attend the concert. Planning to be set up no later than 9 p.m.

Holst The Planets – April 15

Century II Concert Hall, 225 W Douglas, Wichita, KS 67202

(3:00pm)

Setup Time: 4:00 PM; See below about event

We have been invited to partner in a collaboration with the Wichita Symphony on the second day of this two day event as an after concert event in front of the Century II Concert Hall. The concert is called Holst The Planets and will be preformed while cosmic images from NASA and photography by astronomer José Francisco Salgado are projected above the Orchestra.

We do have a planned educational program for the public during this event if you want to participate but is not required. The program is easy and a lot of fun for you and the visitor. The program relates to how big the NASA telescopes are. This is a great hands on activity for the visitors. We will also go over the life cycles of stars, I will have a banner with this information also handouts for the visitors. You can contact Jerelyn for more information if you're interested. jerelyn.ramirez@gmail.com This will be mostly be a daytime event, although it could stretch into evening.

The concert is expected to last for about 1.5 hours, so around 4:30 p.m. is when the concert will be over. We may have visitors come by sooner that didn't attend the concert. Planning to be set up no later than 4 p.m. The Sun doesn't set until 8:09 p.m. and twilight ends at 9:38 p.m.

Full Moon Walk – April 29

Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E. 29th Street North, Wichita, KS 67220-2200

(8:30 pm – 10:30 pm)

Setup Time: 8:00 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, Please use the link to the left to e-mail Rachel. It will open an automatic e-mail message window. Please fill in your name and e-mail address in the appropriate spaces. Don't forget to fill in the date you plan to volunteer for. Thank you in advance for your contribution.