

# Antares

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## The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

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Meeting time: **September 15, 2018**      **7:30 pm**

Location: **Lake Afton Public Observatory**

Speaker: **None Scheduled**

Topic: **N/A**

**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](mailto:kevin.l.kight@gmail.com)    \*Please begin the subject line with "Antares"

### **Current Club Officials**

**President:**                    Jerelyn Ramirez      [jerelyn.ramirez@gmail.com](mailto:jerelyn.ramirez@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:**        Tony Haidai            [thaidai@cox.net](mailto:thaidai@cox.net)

**Treasurer:**                Paul Ramirez          [ramirezpm2@gmail.com](mailto:ramirezpm2@gmail.com)

**Newsletter/Media:**    Kevin Kight            [kevin.l.kight@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.l.kight@gmail.com)

**Next Month's Meeting:** **October 20 @ 3:00pm, Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC)**

# **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](mailto:thaidai@cox.net))

## **Newsletter Items for Publication:**

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

## **New Club T-shirts available:**

Club T-Shirts are in for those who ordered one, they can be picked up at the meeting. Make check out to KAO if you plan to pay by check.

## **Club Membership Update:**

We have a total of 1 new club members since our last meeting, they are:

- Steve LeDou from Kechi, KS

Current head count of 66 club members.

## **August Club Meeting:**

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

## **Astronomy Calendars are now available:**

Contact [Paul Ramirez](#) to reserve your calendar today. Supply is limited but we can order more if needed. Paul ordered 25, 16 have been reserved for those who have responded. They will be available at the club meeting.

## **September Club Meeting Telescope Workshop:**

We have seen a public interest for this Workshop. We have new club members who would like to learn about how to set up a telescope and learn the constellations and stars. How to use a star chart and star hop to the hidden object in deep space. So calling out to our experienced members to share your wealth of knowledge to our new members and guests. Let's help our new members with their journey to become better astronomers. We have several new members who are new to the hobby, what a better way to share your expertise to your fellow club member. And what a better way to learn from a pool of experienced amateur astronomers in our club. How fun is that! We could use anyone with experience to help out with this Workshop. The Workshop will go over on how to setup and use a telescope, read star charts, identify a few constellations and stars.

# Solar and Planetary Items:

## **Moon Phases:**

**Last Quarter:** September 2  
**New Moon:** September 9  
**First Quarter:** September 16  
**Full Moon:** September 24

**Last Quarter:** October 2  
**New Moon:** October 8  
**First Quarter:** October 16  
**Full Moon:** October 24

## **Planets:**

**Mercury** – Visible in the east before sunrise in Leo; Rises approximately 6:30 am

**Venus** – Visible in the west After sunset in Virgo; Sets approximately 9:00 pm

**Mars** – Visible throughout the night. In the east after sunset in Capricornus rises approximately 5:45pm

**Jupiter** – Visible in the South in Libra. Setting approximately 10:20pm

**Saturn** – Visible in the South after sunset in Sagittarius, setting approximately 1:00am

**Uranus** – Visible in Aries; rising at 10:40 pm

**Neptune** – Visible in the morning, rising approximately 7:30 pm in Aquarius

# Comets:

Listed below are comets possibly visible in telescopes from the Wichita area (approximately cutoff at magnitude 15). Magnitudes shown are approximate predictions for mid-month. Links are provided for additional information:

<http://cometchasing.skyhound.com/>

**21P/Giacobini-Zinner:** An early morning comet in Auriga moving through Gemini.

Magnitude 7.5

<https://theskylive.com/21p-info>

**48P/Johnson:** A morning comet in Pisces Austrinus

Magnitude 12.8

<https://theskylive.com/48p-info>

**66P/du Toit:** A morning comet in Pisces Austrinus

Magnitude 13

<https://theskylive.com/48p-info>

**38P/Stephan-Oterma:** An early morning comet in Orion

Magnitude 12.4

<https://theskylive.com/38p-info>

**37P/Forbes:** An early morning comet in Pisces  
Magnitude 14.5  
<https://theskylive.com/37p-info>

## **Event Reports:**

If you've participated in a club event, please submit an event report to be included here by the 10<sup>th</sup> 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:**

## **Upcoming KAO/Public Events:**

### **The Volland Store – November 3**

**The Volland Store**, 24098 Volland Rd, Alma, KS 66401

(6:00 PM)

**Setup Time:** 5:00 PM

This is an observing event for the guests of the Volland Store. Dark sky and good horizon all around.

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:



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## **A Trip Through the Milky Way**

By Jane Houston Jones and Jessica Stoller-Conrad

Feeling like you missed out on planning a last vacation of summer? Don't worry—you can still take a late summertime road trip along the Milky Way!

The waning days of summer are upon us, and that means the Sun is setting earlier now. These earlier sunsets reveal a starry sky bisected by the Milky Way. Want to see this view of our home galaxy? Head out to your favorite dark sky getaway or to the darkest city park or urban open space you can find.

While you're out there waiting for a peek at the Milky Way, you'll also have a great view of the planets in our solar system. Keep an eye out right after sunset and you can catch a look at Venus. If you have binoculars or a telescope, you'll see Venus's phase change dramatically during September—from nearly half phase to a larger, thinner crescent.

Jupiter, Saturn and reddish Mars are next in the sky, as they continue their brilliant appearances this month. To see them, look southwest after sunset. If you're in a dark sky and you look above and below Saturn, you can't miss the summer Milky Way spanning the sky from southwest to northeast.

You can also use the summer constellations to help you trace a path across the Milky Way. For example, there's Sagittarius, where stars and some brighter clumps appear as steam from a teapot. Then there is Aquila, where the Eagle's bright Star Altair combined with Cygnus's Deneb and Lyra's Vega mark what's called the "summer triangle." The familiar W-shaped constellation Cassiopeia completes the constellation trail through the summer Milky Way. Binoculars will reveal double stars, clusters and nebulae all along the Milky Way.

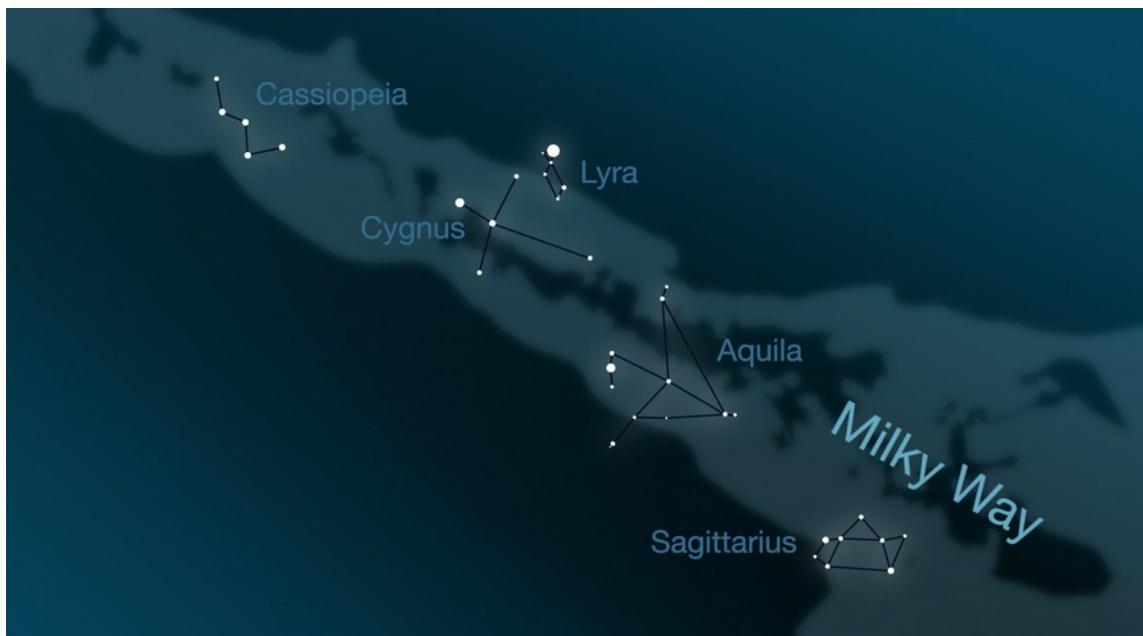
Between Sept. 12 and 20, watch the Moon pass from near Venus, above Jupiter, to the left of

Saturn and finally above Mars!

This month, both Neptune and brighter Uranus can also be spotted with some help from a telescope. To see them, look in the southeastern sky at 1 a.m. or later. If you stay awake, you can also find Mercury just above Earth's eastern horizon shortly before sunrise. Use the Moon as a guide on Sept. 7 and 8.

Although there are no major meteor showers in September, cometary dust appears in another late summer sight, the morning zodiacal light. Zodiacal light looks like a cone of soft light in the night sky. It is produced when sunlight is scattered by dust in our solar system. Try looking for it in the east right before sunrise on the moonless mornings of Sept. 8 through Sept 23.

You can catch up on all of NASA's current—and future—missions at [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)



*Caption: This illustration shows how the summer constellations trace a path across the Milky Way. To get the best views, head out to the darkest sky you can find. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech*