

KANSAS ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVERS

Dear Fellow Sky Observer,



Thank you for your interest in joining the Kansas Astronomical Observers (KAO). KAO exists to educate the public about objects and events in the night sky, as well as, to explore and enjoy the wonderment that lies therein. Our members have a wide variety of interests. Some are beginning to serious stargazers, while some are into imaging the celestial objects. Others can be regarded as advanced telescope builders. We have a few members who enjoy outreaching to the public. The experience is quite diverse and all types are welcome.

Meetings:

KAO meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Lake Afton Public Observatory (25000 W 39th South, Goddard, KS 67052). All meetings are open to the public.

During the summer (**May thru September**), KAO meets at **7:30 p.m.** Members are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs, telescopes and to set-up on the "observing pad" behind the observatory. The Lake Afton staff routinely advertises these Saturdays as "Bring Your Own Telescope" night.

In the winter (**October thru April**), at **3:00 p.m.**, is when we typically schedule a speaker or presentation every month.

Membership dues are \$5 per year. We invite additional members of the family household to join. See page two for more details.

Members of KAO are automatically members of the Astronomical League (AL). AL is a non-profit organization promoting the Science of Astronomy. By becoming a club member, you become part of the largest astronomy organization in the world consisting of over 240 astronomy societies. Some of the many perks from AL, is a 10% discount from astronomy books sold through AL, another is the Observing Clubs, where you can earn certificates of accomplishments.

Benefits of membership:

News items:

- Receipt of our club newsletter: [Antares](#)
- Receipt for the Astronomical League's quarterly magazine: [The Reflector](#)

Discounts:

- Club rates for [Sky & Telescope](#) and [Astronomy](#) magazines
- Club discount price for [Astronomy](#) magazine's annual Astronomy calendar
- Club rates for the bi-monthly magazine [Star Date](#) from McDonald Observatory
- 50% Club Membership discount for New Club Members who are Novice / Beginner Astronomers once they complete the Beyond Polaris Award Program offered by the Astronomical League; Must complete within the first 2 years of membership, see page 2 for more details

Access:

- Access to club telescopes including a Coronado PST (solar filtered), 10" Dobbs, 14" Truss Dob, and a SunSpotter (solar projector)
- Access to the Night Sky Network (a Jet Propulsion Laboratory project funded by NASA promoting Educational Outreach to the public on NASA Science)

Two KAO Recognition award programs:

1. Educational Outreach to the public using ToolKits provided by Night Sky Network on NASA Science
2. Volunteering time outreaching to the public by sharing the night sky or helping in any capacity on behalf of KAO

Sincerely,



Fred Gassert
President – Kansas Astronomical Observers
fgassert@lakeafton.com



KANSAS ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVERS



Single Member Annual dues:

\$5 per person

For Multi-Member Family Households:

\$5 for each additional household member

All minors, 17 or under, must be sponsored by a Primary Adult Member;

All members will also be members of the Astronomical League

Membership to the Astronomical League include the following entitlements:

- Quarterly subscription to The Reflector magazine
- Participation in the Observing Programs
- 10% discount for Astronomy Related Books through the Astronomical League

Beyond Polaris

Beyond Polaris Program from the Astronomical League; this program is ideal for Novice/Beginner astronomers who are new members to our club. Upon completion of this program the member will earn a 50% discount on their dues for the following membership year.

The Beyond Polaris Observing Program was designed for anyone who enjoys looking at the sky but has no astronomy background. Their main interest is to better understand the constellations, their stories, name a few stars and then to share this information with their family and friends. All the observations are accomplished with the unaided eye. You can go to this website for more information.

<https://www.astroleague.org/content/beyond-polaris-observing-program>



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Please complete the form below with your current mailing and email address. To save on mailing costs KAO only sends the newsletter "Antares" via email. The Reflector can either be received digitally or mailed to your house. The printed newsletter will be available at the club meetings for members to read. Please indicate your preference below.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please list additional member's email addresses on back if needed

PHONE NUMBER: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE, how many are: Adults _____ Children, 17 and under _____

Children must be sponsored by an adult

ADDITIONAL MEMBER NAMES: _____

Please note children's names

HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR ASTRONOMY SKILL LEVEL? BEGINNER / NOVICE ☐ MODERATE ☐ ADVANCED ☐

Do you want access to the Night Sky Network portal? Yes _____ No _____

Night Sky Network (NSN) is an educational outreach program sponsored by NASA to educate the public using NASA science. NSN has provided us with fun and easy to use hands on toolkits. Selecting yes will give you access to the scheduled events on the calendar where you can RSVP or find more information if you want to participate or volunteer for these events. Volunteering is not a requirement once you gain access to this website. Signing up is also a convenient way to receive messages for upcoming events in real time as they are scheduled.



How do you want to receive the AL magazine "Reflector"? Printed _____ Digital _____



Send payment to the address below or pay at the monthly club meeting, or at LAPO:

Please do not send cash in the mail, make check payable to:

Lake Afton Public Observatory (LAPO/KAO)



Fred Gassert
KAO Club Treasurer
220 N Wood Ave
Wichita, KS 67212

For Administration use only:

Date Received _____ Payment _____