

# Antares

---



## The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

---

Meeting time: February 16, 2019 3:00 pm

Location: **Great Plains Nature Center (GPNC)**

Speaker: **Greg Novacek, WSU**

Topic: **History of Lake Afton Observatory**

**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**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Jerelyn Ramirez</b>	<a href="mailto:jerelyn.ramirez@gmail.com">jerelyn.ramirez@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	<b>Tony Haidai</b>	<a href="mailto:thaidai@cox.net">thaidai@cox.net</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Paul Ramirez</b>	<a href="mailto:ramirezpm2@gmail.com">ramirezpm2@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter/Media:</b>	<b>Kevin Kight</b>	<a href="mailto:kevin.l.kight@gmail.com">kevin.l.kight@gmail.com</a>

**Next Month's Meeting: March 16 @ 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 and winter meetings, contact the 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.

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

Club T-Shirts are always available to all club members year around. (or anyone who wants to support the club) \$10 each, indicate size and quantity to Jerelyn Ramirez or Paul Ramirez by email or at club meetings / outings.

## **June Meeting Special Announcement:**

The June Club Meeting has been moved to June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting will still be held at LAPO at the same time of 7:30 p.m.. The reason for the change; this year the Symphony in the Flint Hills (SFH) is holding their event on June 15, our scheduled club night. Several club members (including the President and Treasurer) participate in this all day event which is scheduled to take place in Chase County.

This was brought up at our January meeting and was put to a vote to move our scheduled time a week later rather than cancel, or have someone else facilitate the meeting.

Normally the SFH hold their annual signature event on the second weekend of June without conflicting with our scheduled meeting. This is their 14th annual signature event and this will be our 13th invitation to this event. It is unknown why the SFH has made this change.

Another reminder will be sent out as the June meeting draws closer. The calendar has been updated to reflect the change. You can log onto [NSN](#) or navigate to our [KAO website](#) for this information. This will also be posted on our facebook page.

## **New Club Members:**

We have one new club member from Augusta, KS:

- Mara Hopkins

## Club Membership Renewals:

The Grace Period for membership dues ends on February 28, 2019, please have dues paid before this time so your Antares Newsletters and Reflector Magazine will continue.

Mail to:

Paul Ramirez KAO Treasurer  
106 E. Mount Calvary Rd  
Saint Marys, KS 66536

Dues will be also be collected at the February meeting.

## KAO Volunteer Awards:

A few club members will be awarded for their exceptional volunteer work for KAO. Awards will be presented to those club members who have educated the public with NASA science and participated in the scheduled public events reported on NSN.

## Toolkit Hack Story:

Jerelyn attended a Webinar on the Shadows & Silhouettes Toolkit a few weeks ago, where she shared with the other members who attended, my "Toolkit Hack". NSN interviewed her and posted the "Toolkit Hack" idea as the Featured story on NSN. This article is the Featured story. (When you go to the NSN website you can see the Featured story on the lead page before you log in). See addendum for details.

## January Club Meeting:

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

## Solar and Planetary Items:

### Moon Phases:

**Last Quarter:** January 27  
**New Moon:** February 4  
**First Quarter:** February 12  
**Full Moon:** February 19

**Last Quarter:** February 26  
**New Moon:** March 6  
**First Quarter:** March 14  
**Full Moon:** March 20

### Planets:

**Mercury** – Visible in the evening  
**Venus** – Visible in the morning in Sagittarius; rises approximately 4:50 am  
**Mars** – Visible after sunset West in Pisces; setting approximately 11:20 pm  
**Jupiter** – Visible in the morning in Ophiuchus; rises approximately 3:30 am  
**Saturn** – Visible in the morning in Sagittarius; rises approximately 5:30 am  
**Uranus** – Visible in Aries; Setting approximately 11:30pm  
**Neptune** – Visible in Aquarius; setting approximately 7:50 pm

## Comets:

Listed below are comets possibly visible in telescopes from the Wichita area (approximately cutoff at magnitude 15; if available the observed magnitude is used in favor of the JPL prediction). Magnitudes shown are approximate predictions for mid-month. Links are provided for additional information:

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

**38P/Stephan-Oterma:** A morning comet in Lynx

Magnitude 11.4

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

**C/2018 Y1 (Iwamoto):** An all night comet in Leo

Magnitude 6.7

<https://theskylive.com/c2018y1-info>

**46P/Wirtanen:** A morning comet in Ursa Major

Magnitude: 8.4

<https://theskylive.com/46p-info>

**64P/Swift-Gehrels:** An Evening Comet in Taurus

Magnitude: 11.6

<https://theskylive.com/64p-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:

## **Symphony in the Flint Hills – June 15**

**Chase County, Host:Irma's Pasture**

**Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM**

This year is the 14th Annual Signature Event at the Symphony in the Flint Hills and will be held in Chase County. The theme this year is Ad Astra. The host ranch is Irma's Pasture in Bazaar, Kansas. The private ranchland in Chase County is owned by Mike Stout, board chair for Symphony in the Flint Hills, and his brother, Joe Stout.

This year's theme will shine the spotlight on the state's motto "Ad Astra," with region-wide activities that tie to Jump!Star, a multi-faceted arts program developed by artist George Ferrandi with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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 in the southeast sky at sunset in Ophiuchus about 8° from the two days from Full Moon to the west. Saturn will be rising on the eastern horizon around 10:30 p.m. about an hour before the end of evening twilight.

Please contact the SFH Team Leader Jerelyn Ramirez for questions, your volunteer assignment, parking passes, and other information regarding this event.

**See NSN for details and updates**

## **MSRAL 2019 – June 14-16**

**Rockhurst University, 1100 Rockhurst Road Kansas City, MO 64110**

MSRAL event is being held this year in Kansas City, MO, hosted by The Astronomical Society of Kansas City.

There will be speakers, Vendors, and an Astrophotography Contest.

**For more information go to [www.msral.org](http://www.msral.org) and see attached flyer.**

## **Fall River Star Party – August 2-3**

**Fall River State Park, Casner Creek Campgrounds**

Come join us at the annual Fall River event. Join us for an evening of dark skies and deep space viewing. Jupiter and Saturn will be featured this night too.

Camping is available for all who want to come out for some dark sky viewing. Come for the dark skies and the fellowship. A dinner is planned before the Saturday event for all who attend.

**See NSN for details**

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

### **Messier Marathon #1 – March 1-2**

**Butler County State Lake, Latham, KS 67072**

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.

**See NSN for details**

### **Symphony in the Flint Hills at The Volland Store – March 9**

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

**Time: 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM**

The Symphony in the Flint Hills will be holding an event at the Volland Store in Alma Kansas. The theme is Sky and Stars. Jana Grcevich, an astrophysicist, will be the speaker. We have been invited to take part in the event by setting up some telescopes and have educational outreach for the guests.

**See NSN for details**

## **Messier Marathon #2 – April 5-6**

**Butler County State Lake, Latham, KS 67072**

**This is the backup date for Messier Marathon #1.**

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.

**See NSN for details**

## **Kick-Off Party – May 20**

**Mulvane Public Library, 408 N. 2nd Ave., Mulvane, KS 67110**

The Mulvane Public Library is hosting a Kick-Off Party with informational booths to promote business or events. The Kansas Astronomical Observers has been invited to set up an astronomy educational booth for the event. There will be some hands on activities and visual aids to enhance your astronomy experience.

**See NSN for details**

## **In the Moonlight – June 10**

**Pottawatomie Wabunsee Regional Library, 306 N 5th Street, Saint Marys, KS 66536**

Have you seen the Moon up close? Craters, lunar features, and lunar landing sites are awesome up close. Come by the library in Saint Marys. We will set up on the south parking lot. Experience some lunar fun.

**See NSN for details**

## **Augusta Library– June 28**

**Robert Shryock Park, 2923 Ohio Street, Augusta, KS 67010**

Please come on out to the Robert Shryock Park in Augusta for some awesome observing. The park is located north on Ohio Street. We will have some before the sun set activities. After the sun sets we will be able to see through the telescope at Jupiter high in the sky, and Saturn rising in the east.

We will attempt to locate an asteroid in the asteroid belt; (1) Ceres.

**See NSN for details**

## **Astro Fest 2019 – August 10**

**Lake Afton Public Observatory (LAPO), 5000 West 39th South, Goddard, KS 67052**

**Time: 1:00 PM – 1:00AM**

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 three days after a first quarter Moon. Yes it is a lot of Moon, but most visitors have never looked through a telescope and the Moon is always a huge hit. There will be a nice terminator to visually see some depth to some craters. This is also the 50 year Anniversary of the Apollo lunar landing missions. All six landing sites should be visible, you can point them out with your telescope.

This is the second annual event to promote the observatory. To make this astronomy party a success we need volunteers. They plan to stay open till 1:00 a.m.

So lets help out LAPO by kicking off this astronomy party.

**See NSN for details**



# Featured Article:



## **This article is distributed by NASA Night Sky Network**

The Night Sky Network program supports astronomy clubs across the USA dedicated to astronomy outreach. Visit [nightsky.jpl.nasa.org](https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.org) to find local clubs, events, and more!

### **Hexagon at Night, Quartet in the Morning**

David Prosper

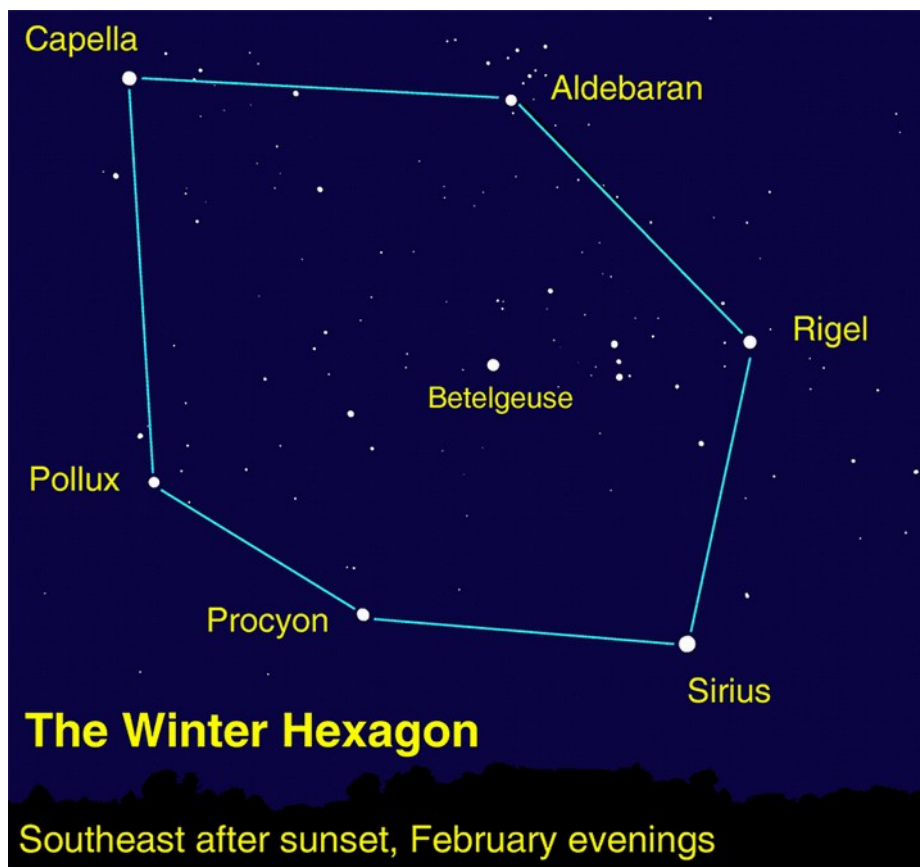
The stars that make up the **Winter Hexagon** asterism are some of the brightest in the night sky and February evenings are a great time to enjoy their sparkly splendor. The Winter Hexagon is so large in size that the six stars that make up its points are also the brightest members of six different constellations, making the Hexagon a great starting point for learning the winter sky. Find the Hexagon by looking southeast after sunset and finding the bright red star that forms the “left shoulder” of the constellation Orion: **Betelgeuse**. You can think of Betelgeuse as the center of a large irregular clock, with the Winter Hexagon stars as the clock’s hour numbers. Move diagonally across Orion to spot its “right foot,” the bright star **Rigel**. Now move clockwise from Rigel to the brightest star in the night sky: **Sirius** in Canis Major. Continue ticking along clockwise to **Procyon** in Canis Minor and then towards **Pollux**, the brighter of the Gemini twins. Keep moving around the circuit to find **Capella** in Auriga, and finish at orange **Aldebaran**, the “eye” of the V-shaped face of Taurus the Bull.

Two naked-eye planets are visible in the evening sky this month. As red **Mars** moves across Pisces, NASA’s InSight Mission is readying its suite of geological instruments designed to study the Martian interior. InSight and the rest of humanity’s robotic Martian emissaries will soon be joined by the Mars 2020 rover. The SUV-sized robot is slated to launch next year on a mission to study the possibility of past life on the red planet. A conjunction between Mars and **Uranus** on February 13 will be a treat for telescopic observers. Mars will pass a little over a degree away from Uranus and larger magnifications will allow comparisons between the small red disc of dusty Mars with the smaller and much more distant blue-green disc of ice giant Uranus.

Speedy **Mercury** has a good showing this month and makes its highest appearance in the evening on February 27; spot it above the western horizon at sunset. An unobstructed western view and binoculars will greatly help in catching Mercury against the glow of evening twilight.

The morning planets put on quite a show in February. Look for the bright planets **Venus**, **Jupiter**, and **Saturn** above the eastern horizon all month, at times forming a neat lineup. A crescent **Moon** makes a stunning addition on the mornings of February 1-2, and again on the 28th. Watch over the course of the month as Venus travels from its position above Jupiter to below dimmer Saturn. Venus and Saturn will be in close conjunction on the 18<sup>th</sup>; see if you can fit both planets into the same telescopic field of view. A telescope reveals the brilliant thin crescent phase of Venus waxing into a wide gibbous phase as the planet passes around the other side of our Sun. The Night Sky Network has a simple activity that helps explain the nature of both Venus and Mercury's phases at [bit.ly/venusphases](http://bit.ly/venusphases)

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



*Caption: The stars of the Winter Hexagon  
Image created with help from Stellarium*