

Antares



The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

Meeting time: **July 18, 2020 7:00PM**

All club members must pre register for the meeting. This is to enable non club members to attend the meeting as guests. This is to help keep trolls out of our meeting.

Location: *Click here to preregister for the meeting => [Zoom Meeting](#)*

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Speaker: N/A
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 *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: August 15

From the Desk of the KAO President:

Long time club member and past President Ron Bolton has passed away. Ron, you will be greatly missed.

As I understand it, the LAPO is still closed to the public until further notice.

Most if not all our public outreach activities have been cancelled for the calendar year. Some schools and libraries have scheduled their annual event with the condition the event may be cancelled due to the rising cases of Covid-19 in the State of Kansas.

The annual Fall River event has been cancelled that was scheduled for August 21 -22. Public social distancing and mask wearing would be challenging to manage at this public event. For the safety of everyone the event was cancelled.

The Okie-Tex Star Party has not been cancelled yet and scheduled for September 11 - 19 this year. I will keep you posted on the event status.



Stars Up, Lights Down,

Jerelyn Ramirez

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)

Newsletter Items for Publication:

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

Club T-shirts and Mugs available:

Members can order a club t-shirt for \$10, we just need your size and quantity. KAO logo coffee mugs are now available for \$10 each. The club logo is printed on both sides. They are 11 oz. and proceeds will contribute to the library telescope fund.



Virtual Meeting Notes:

Attached is a synopsis of the virtual meeting held for June 20 on Zoom.

Solar and Planetary Items:

Moon Phases:

Last Quarter: July 12

New Moon: July 20

First Quarter: July 27

Full Moon: Aug 3

Last Quarter: Aug 11

New Moon: Aug 18

First Quarter: Aug 25

Full Moon: Sept 2

Planets:

Mercury – In Gemini; rises approximately 5:50am

Venus – In Taurus, rises approximately 3:09am

Mars – In Cetus; rises approximately 11:05pm

Jupiter – In Sagittarius; rises approximately 6:00pm

Saturn – In Sagittarius; rises approximately 6:30pm

Uranus – In Aries; rises approximately 1:00am

Neptune – In Aquarius; rises approximately 9:50pm

Jupiter was at greatest opposition on July 14 in Sagittarius. For the beginner/novice club members: The definition of a planetary opposition is when the Earth will be between Jupiter and the Sun on July 14, meaning Jupiter is at opposition. On that date, Jupiter rises in the east as the Sun sets in the west, remaining visible the entire night. Jupiter will be one of the brightest objects in the night sky. Its four largest moons and cloud bands are easily spotted with even a small telescope.

Saturn will be at its greatest opposition on July 20 also in Sagittarius and about 6.5° east of Jupiter. For the beginner/novice club members: Saturn is directly opposite of the Sun this night in our night sky, and at its closest point to Earth this year. This means it is a great time to check out Saturn through a telescope for great views of its rings and moons!

Saturn will be visible all night, rising and setting opposite our Sun in the night sky. Its disc and rings will be fully illuminated, putting on a spectacular show through even a small telescope. As Saturn's opposition occurs during a New Moon this year, a few of Saturn's fainter moons may be more easily visible.

Attached Jerelyn as provided an explanation of oppositions for our beginner/novice club members. (Exploring the Solar System.pdf). From Jerelyn:

I included a sheet with the scale of the solar system out to Saturn. I marked an X where Jupiter and the Earth are in opposition and another X where Saturn and the Earth are when they are in opposition in their orbit. Yes, the Earth will have moved that far in 6 days. Take a ruler and see how they line up with the Sun and

each of the colored X's respectfully. This is what we call opposition. Jupiter will be at opposition on July 14, and Saturn July 20. It works best if you print out the sheet if you want.

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:

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

C/2020 F3 (NEOWISE): An evening comet in Lynx (Mag 1.6)

<https://theskylive.com/c2020f3-info>

See attachments for an observation report of Comet Neowise

C/2017 T2 (PANSTARRS): An all night comet in Coma (Mag 9.7)

<https://theskylive.com/c2017t2-info>

Event Reports:

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

Currently there are no events due to the pandemic. Check NSN for the latest information.

Upcoming KAO/Public Events:

See NSN for latest information and new events as they are added

If you are looking for something to do astronomy related and the sky conditions are not good or you're looking for something astronomy related in the news or even a virtual activity, there are postings on our calendar that may be of interest to you. There are virtual events, live chats, Webinars, von Karman lectures, Cosmic Coffee Episodes, even observing events. The observing events could include planet oppositions, meteor showers, or greatest elongations. Go to the club's calendar to find out more information about each of the event postings. You can then select any of the listed calendar events and it will display more information about the event. You can scroll forward through the months to see new listings as they are posted. It is unfortunate nearly all live in person events have been canceled due to the pandemic, so this may fill that gap.

Due to the pandemic, Public Events for the next several weeks are canceled.