

Antares



The Newsletter of the Kansas Astronomical Observers

Meeting time:

Location: **MEETING CANCELLED**

Speaker:

Topic:

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 18 @ 3:00pm, Great Plains Nature Center

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, Mugs and Calendars available:

There are no astronomy calendars left, members can still order a club t-shirt if they want 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.



Club Membership Update:

Membership is at 52 members.

February Club Meeting:

Attached is a summary of the February meeting.

April Club Meeting:

Due to the dynamic nature of the pandemic, a decision regarding the April meeting will be made at a later date and will be communicated out to members.

Library Telescope Update

Asking for volunteers to help with the donated library telescope project. It would be nice to have a couple club members who will pledge to provide an annual or biannual inspection, cleaning, and adjustments if needed on the donated library telescopes in the Wichita area. I am providing this service to the libraries in the Topeka area. Before a library in the Wichita area can be considered for a donated telescope a club member must agree to provide this service for the library as we provide a support team for these donated telescopes. This member must be comfortable on how to clean the optics and check and perform collimation if needed at least once or twice a year depending on how much the telescope is checked out and handled by the public. A training class can be scheduled for those who would like to learn and help out with this process. The telescope being used is the 4.5" zhumell reflector telescope on a dob mount.



We are still working on the tipping problem and the finder scope issues on the Bushnell telescopes Steve LeDou donated to the club last month. Once we correct those issues they will be considered for donation to a library. Then we can work on training club members on how to maintain this telescope.

Update about SFH Event from Jerelyn:

Jeff Whithorn from the SAC (Salina Astronomy Club) has agreed to take on the Co-Team Leader role for the SFH (Symphony in the Flint Hills) event this year. I will organize the volunteers as usual with information and logistics. Jeff will be the point person on site during the event on event day. Jeff and I, with the blessing of the SFH staff, have come together to do our part for the SFH event. As of now there is no indication they will cancel the event due to COVID-19, we will cross that bridge when we come to it. The Coronavirus may also affect the Conference Paul and I are wanting to attend scheduled for the same weekend in Oklahoma. We can only wait and see what happens.

Solar and Planetary Items:

Moon Phases:

Last Quarter: March 16
New Moon: March 24
First Quarter: April 1
Full Moon: April 7

Last Quarter: April 14
New Moon: April 22
First Quarter: April 30
Full Moon: May 7

Planets:

Mercury – In Aries; hidden in solar glare
Venus – In Aries, sets approximately 11:15 pm
Mars – In Sagittarius; rises approximately 4:30 am
Jupiter – In Sagittarius; rises approximately 4:45am
Saturn – In Sagittarius; rises approximately 5:15am
Uranus – In Aries; sets approximately 10:50pm
Neptune – In Aquarius; sets approximately 7:00pm

Spring Equinox on March 19.

Due to the pandemic, it may be a good idea during the fall equinox instead of this spring to go out to Riverside Park to visit the standing stones they call Stonehenge Jr. If you go in the spring, you'll see the Sun project through the hole onto the the equinox marker on the ground to mark the event. Because of DST the event will be delayed until 1 p.m. in the spring instead of noon. By moving the hands of the clock forward an hour the Sun now lags by 15° (an hour).

Solar week is March 23-27

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/>

C/2017 T2 (PANSTARRS): An all night comet in Perseus (Mag 9.3)

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

C/2019 Y1 (Atlas): An all night comet in pegasus (Mag 8.5)

<https://theskylive.com/c2019y1-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.

Fort Larned Historical Site

Jerelyn has provided a report of the Fort Larned Historical Site Event.

Silver Lake Library Telescope Program

Jerelyn has provided some feedback from Silver Lake about the telescope program.

Upcoming Regional Events:

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

MSRAL Conference 2020 – June 12-14

Jenks High School, 205 East B Street, Jenks, OK 74037
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

This is the Mid-States Regional Astronomical League Conference of 2020. This year it will be held in Jenks, Oklahoma and has officially gone live to register for this event, and will be held on the third floor of the Jenks High School Planetarium in the Math and Science Building located at 205 East "B" Street, Jenks, OK 74037. This event will be held June 12th - June 14th. The Conference is being hosted by the Astronomy Club of Tulsa and Broken Arrow Sidewalk Astronomer. You can register online by following this [link](#). You can make reservations at the Crowne Plaza for their special rate of \$79 per night. They are offering \$10 breakfast vouchers free upon request at the front desk. They are still confirming speakers for the Conference. Go to their website to find out more details about the Conference at the link above.

Symphony in the Flint Hills – June 13

10:00 AM - 11:00 PM

This year is the 15th Annual Signature Event at the Symphony in the Flint Hills and will be held in Wabaunsee County. Ranch location has not been disclosed and will be updated when this information is released.

The region's native building material, limestone, will be the focus of the 2020 Signature Event.

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.

No planets or Moon will be available during this event. Saturn and Jupiter will rise around 11 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering, this [SFH application](#) must be filled out. The updated 2020 volunteer application has not been posted yet. You will not be allowed to enter the site without a volunteer or patron ticket. Please contact the SFH Team Leader [Jerelyn Ramirez](#) for questions about your; volunteer assignment, parking passes, and other information regarding this event.

Upcoming KAO/Public Events:

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

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