



Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas



P.O. Box 25162 ★ Dallas, Texas 75225-1162

www.texasastro.org www.tasobserving.org

The Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas (TAS) is a group of individuals sharing and promoting their common interest in astronomy. People with all levels of interest are welcome to join us; novice and veteran observers, telescope makers, and "armchair" astronomers can meet and learn from our members. TAS is a member of the national Astronomical League (AL).

Meetings are held on the 4th Friday of each month at Richland College, 12800 Abrams Road, in Sabine Hall Science Building at the west end of the campus, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome--you need not be a member to attend! The meetings include programs presented by members or guest speakers, a planetarium show of the current "Constellation of the Month," a traveling library from which members may withdraw books, and items for sale, such as t-shirts, books, and observing aides.

A Novice Astronomer's group currently meets on the second Tuesday of each month at St. Mark's School of Texas. At these meetings, newcomers can meet other members of the club in an informal atmosphere, learn more about the club, get tips on observing, and find out more about astronomy in general. For more information, please visit the TAS Web site or contact the New Member Coordinator listed on the back of this page.

The TAS Web site has current information, including a calendar of events, astrophotography by members, maps to the meeting sites, library listings, and current topics at <http://www.texasastro.org>. The club's public observing coordinator also maintains a Web site with information on star parties and other club observing events. You can access the observing website at <http://www.tasobserving.org>. You can also send an E-mail message to the club's general e-mail address: info@texasastro.org.

The benefits of membership include a subscription to *The Spectrum* (the club's monthly newsletter) and the Astronomical League's quarterly national newsletter, *The Reflector*. Dues are \$35.00 per year. Family members can be added as voting members for \$4.00 per person (maximum \$12.00 per family). The two largest astronomy magazines offer discounted subscriptions to members. *Sky & Telescope* magazine through TAS is \$32.95 per year and *Astronomy Magazine* is \$34.00 (subject to change without notice). Dues are prorated on a quarterly basis for the fiscal year.

Membership also allows you access to the club's 40+ acre dark sky observing site in Atoka County, Oklahoma. Located about 100 miles north of Dallas, this site offers a fine location to pursue observational and photographic astronomy. Concrete pads with electricity are available for general use at no charge, and there are also restroom facilities, city water and ample area to camp overnight. The site is locked by a combination lock, and you will be provided the combination upon joining.

As mentioned above, members may withdraw books from the club's library. You can access the current library inventory on the TAS web site. The librarian brings a representative sampling of books to the general meetings, but if you want to be sure that the book you are interested in will be brought, and for more information, contact the Librarian.

TAS also supports the following Special Interest Groups (SIGS):

- SIGAP – Astrophotography
- SIGFREID - Planetarium Operators
- ATMSIG - Amateur Telescope Makers
- Silicon SIG - CCD users
- Sketch SIG - Sketching Observations
- SIGMA – Member Activities

Please note that it is your responsibility as a member to inform the TAS Membership Coordinator if any of your contact information, such as address, phone number(s), and/or e-mail address, is changed.

Club events include:

- ★ The **Annual Picnic** held every September at the club's Atoka, Oklahoma observing site. Includes outdoor cooking, door prizes, and lots of fun. A nominal fee is charged for the cookout.
- ★ Club participation in the organization of the **Texas Star Party**, known worldwide as one of the premier national gatherings of amateur astronomers.
- ★ **Public Star Parties** held at various sites around the Dallas area. Club members are encouraged to bring their telescopes and other observing aides, and help the general public discover the universe.
- ★ Club participation in **Astronomy Day**, an annual event typically observed in the Spring and sponsored by the Astronomical League.
- ★ Annual TAS **Swap Meet**, where members can both buy and sell books, eyepieces, and other accessories.
- ★ Annual **Christmas Party** (held in lieu of the December general meeting) featuring a dinner and speaker. Topics in previous years have included theories on the Christmas Star and Dr. Harlen Arp. A nominal fee is charged for the dinner.

TAS Board of Directors (2005 - 2006)

Officers

Dave Hutchison	President	214-684-4319	TASPrez@comcast.com
Patsy Patten	Vice President	214-562-0278	ppatten266@aol.com
Howard McCalla	Secretary	214-553-8170	hmccalla@yahoo.com
Graciela Gomez	Treasurer	972-964-5253	gragomez@verizon.net
James Sullivan	Membership/ALCor	972-276-5833	j_sullivan48@comcast.net
Dan Doyle	Observing Site Manager	972-784-8466	starmandan@hotmail.com
Tim Johnson	Librarian	214-696-4655	stargazertj@yahoo.com

Directors

Todd Caldwell	Observatory Manager	972-642-3200	tmcaldwell@comcast.net
Max Corneau	Spectrum Editor	469-338-9310	MaxIPTer@aol.com
Sam Gayle	TX IDA Coordinator	972-289-9370	samwise1@hotmail.com
Maggie Hutchison		972-618-3140	HutchTX@comcast.net
Joe Mungo		972-471-0480	Joe.Mungo@siemens.com
Joe Vines	Public Observing Coordinator	972-365-7766	joevines@dcccd.edu
Lonnie Wege		972-432-8784	lonnie@wege.tv

For more information, contact:

AL Observing Coordinator	Richard Brown	rabrown44@verizon.net
Novice Astronomer Coordinator	Steve Balog	balog@smtexas.org
Observing Site Lease Coordinator	Howard McCalla	hmcalla@yahoo.com
TAS Store	Jane Sawyer	j3463@aol.com

Novice Astronomer Meetings

About the Novice Astronomer Meetings

Novice Astronomer Meetings provide an informal introduction to The Texas Astronomical Society of Dallas (TAS), and astronomy in general. New members can now complete their orientation in 6 months with meetings focusing on pertinent astronomy, telescope and observation topics. A multimedia astronomy show follows each meeting in the St. Mark's School Planetarium. These lively sessions will provide a flexible structure where members, new or old, can increase their understanding of the night sky in an enjoyable yet fact filled experience. The 6-month cycles are repeated beginning every September and March. Members can begin at any point in the cycle.

Meetings are held on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of every month at St. Marks School of Texas from **7:30 PM -- 9:00 PM**. Steve Balog is your host and can provide informed answers based on many years as an astronomy/planetarium educator and amateur observer.

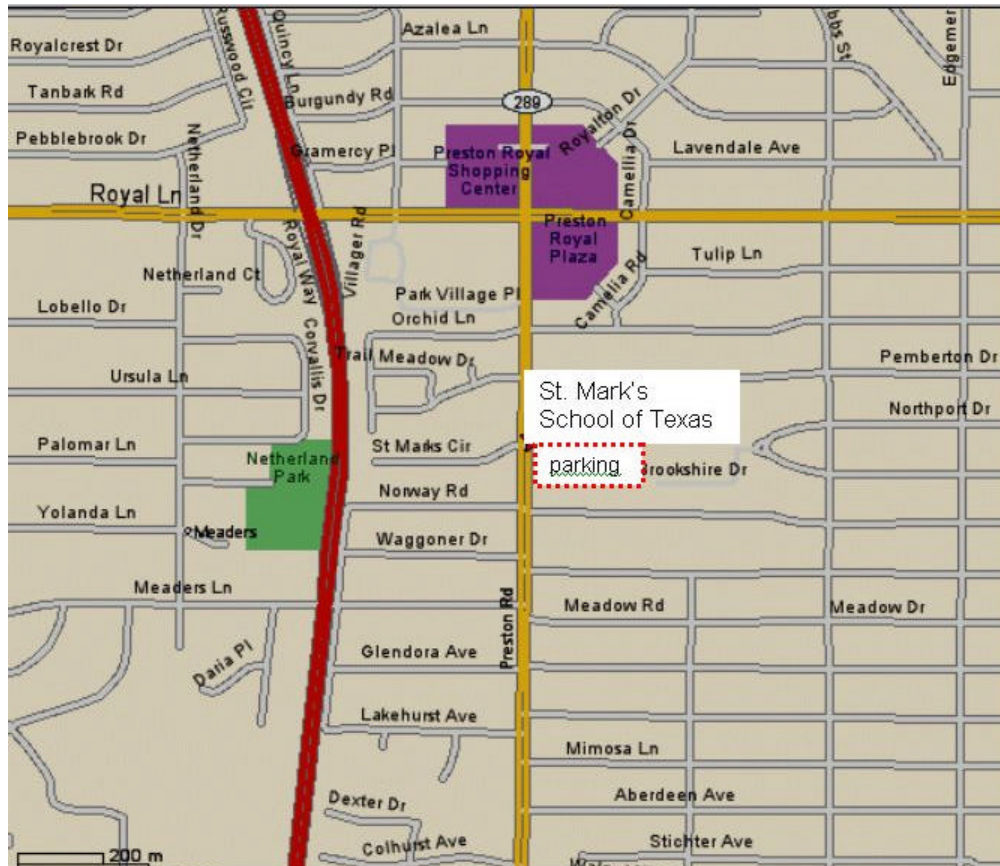
Membership is NOT required to attend.

Family Shows!

Each month, St. Marks also hosts a special planetarium show for all ages. These shows are scheduled separately from the New Members' meetings. Click [here](#) to view the 2004-2005 season.

Directions

St. Mark's School of Texas is located south of Royal Lane on Preston Road, just east of the tollway. Visitors should enter the south campus parking lot (marked by a yellow gate) off Preston Road just north of Norway Street. Enter the double brown doors at the back of the science building to classroom S106.





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NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Date ____/____/____

Name of Primary Member _____

Names of Family Members _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZipCode _____ - _____

Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Amateur Radio (HAM) Call Sign _____

Spectrum to be delivered via: **Postal Mail** **E-Mail** **Both**

The information in this box is not published nor made available to anyone except club officers and directors. It is not mandatory, but can greatly assist them in cases such as short notice of a schedule change to an activity by not requiring them to make all calls in the evening. Check below to authorize publication in the annual membership directory and/or release to other members.

Office Phone (____) _____ - _____

Mobile (____) _____ - _____

Pager (____) _____ - _____

E-mail address _____

OK to Release/Publish:

Primary Member Dues:(\$35.00 For pro-rated dues, see next page)..... \$ _____

Family Member dues: (\$4.00 **per person, to a maximum of \$12.00 per family**) \$ _____

Sky & Telescope subscription (\$32.95) \$ _____

Astronomy subscription (\$34.00) \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to TAS or Texas Astronomical Society and mail with this application to:

James Sullivan,
TAS Membership Coordinator
1314 Shorehaven Drive

Office Use: Check # _____ NMP MC/C NB(s)

Membership Application Information

Primary Dues:

The TAS fiscal year runs from August 1 to July 31. All memberships and *Sky & Telescope* subscriptions expire on July 31. Dues are prorated on a quarterly basis as shown in the following table:

Joining:	Dues:	Paid through:
August September October	\$35.00	July 31 of the current fiscal year
November December January	\$26.00	July 31 of the current fiscal year
February March April	\$17.50	July 31 of the current fiscal year
May June July	\$35.00	July 31 of the following fiscal year

Family Dues:

Family memberships allow other members of your family all the privileges of TAS membership including the right to vote on club issues and in elections. Family dues are \$4.00 per additional person, with a maximum family dues of \$12.00, and they are not prorated. Only one copy of each issue of the *Spectrum* and *Reflector* newsletters is sent to the family.

Sky & Telescope and *Astronomy Magazine* Discounted Subscriptions:

Sky & Telescope Magazine and *Astronomy Magazine* offer TAS members a discounted subscription rate. TAS keeps none of this money, but is required to handle all collection and forwarding of funds for these discounted subscriptions. Therefore, you pay TAS and the subscription is handled by the TAS Treasurer directly with the publisher. In order to receive the discounted rate, both magazines require that you be a club member when your subscription begins and that you subscribe for no less than one (1) year.

The discount rate for *Sky & Telescope* is \$32.95 per year (regularly \$42.95).

The discount rate for *Astronomy* discount rate is \$34.00 per year (regularly \$42.95).

Magazine subscriptions are independent from TAS memberships. You can begin your subscription(s)

upon joining or wait until a later date. Subscription rates are subject to change without notice.