

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, fall is here which brings cooler nights and lots of new objects to observe. Darkness comes earlier allowing for the starting of observing sessions earlier. If hot weather and late nights have kept you from getting out under the night sky then dust off those telescopes and come on out. This weekend would be a great time to join us at FPO for the club open house. We have been having a good turnout for the open houses this year resulting in the addition of a few new members.

Mark your calendars for the October and November meetings. The October meeting speaker will be Brian Thomas of Washburn University. He will speak on the NASA grant he just received "Death From Above! Astrophysics and Life on Earth". The November meeting will be at FPO, snacks furnished by the board. This will be a chance for you to see the observatory. We will also dedicate the 18" telescope that was given to the club by Nancy Cole in memory of her husband Walter Cole.

The Holiday party will be December 13th at the Peppertree Club House (same place as last year). The function will be from 3:00 until 6:00. This is a covered dish event. Come for a good time, food and discussions of all things astronomical. The elections of the 2010 board and officers will be held at this meeting.

Nomination forms are included in this issue of The Observer and will also be posted on the members Yahoo group. Please have your nominations back to Russ by November 6th. This year we will post those nominated to an office and/or board position on the members Yahoo group. If you see your name in nomination and do not wish to serve please contact a board member by November 13th. Final ballots will then be made available for you to use to cast your vote for the 2010 board. Also be thinking of who you would like to nominate for "Astronomer of the Year" and "Rising Star."

The 14" Meade and the 18" JMI telescopes are up and running, they have provided some great views at the last several club outings. The club could use some more eye pieces and accessories for these telescopes. If you have any unused equipment or money (Ha! Ha!) that you would like to donate to the club, please contact a board member or bring it to a club meeting. Donations may be tax deductible.

Clear Skies
Brad Hutton, President NEKAAL