

## 2015 Information

### Arkansas Tech University (ATU) Astronomical Observatory – Russellville – 2015

The Observatory is open to the public just after sunset for about an hour the first Tuesday of each month (weather permitting) during the 9 month academic year September through May excluding January. The observatory courtyard is adjacent to McEver Hall – [map](#) at <http://www.atu.edu/map/>

If the clouds cooperate by staying away, the observatory will be open to the public in fall 2015 on:

Tuesday Sept. 1 – 8:00–9:00pm; Sunday Sep. 27 – 8 – 10 pm for total eclipse of the moon

Tuesday Oct. 6 – 7:00–8:00pm; Tuesday Nov. 3 – 6:30–7:30pm; Tuesday Dec. 1 –6:00–7:00pm

### UCA (Conway) – 2015 Schedule

2015 UCA Planetarium Show 7 pm on Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 1, [summer break], Sep. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

2015 UCA Telescope Viewing after dark on Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, Apr. 15, [summer break] Sep. (8–10 pm), Oct. 21 (7–9 pm), Nov. 18 (6–8 pm)

### Faulkner County Library – Conway – 2015 Schedule

Tu 7/28 – starting at 8:30 pm – viewing of Saturn and the Moon (Stephen Meeks)

A series of four star-gazing evenings 7–8 pm – Finding your way in the night sky (Kaye R. Clanton)

M 9/21 – Autumnal Equinox, Saturn on the Plane of the Ecliptic

M 10/19 – Orionid Meteor Shower, Meteors, Meteorites, Meteoroids, Asterisms

M 11/16 – Leonid Meteor Shower, Moon Phases

M 12/14– Geminid Meteor Shower, Winter Solstice, Comets, Andromeda Galaxy, Milky Way Galaxy

### Other Locations – 2015

Woolley Hollow and Pinnacle Mountain State Parks – 8 or 9 until 10 or 11 pm – check web site for exact time (dependent on time of sunset) – [Ar.gov > Visitors > State Parks](#) (search for star party)

Lake Fort Smith State Park on Oct. 10 from 7 to 10 pm

Pinnacle Mountain State Park on Apr. 25, May 16, Jun 20, Jul. 18, Aug. 15, Sep. 5, Oct. 17

Withrow Springs State Park on Sep. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 11 from 8 to 9:30 pm

Woolley Hollow State Park on Mar. 21, Jun. 6, Nov. 7

### 2015 Astronomical Happenings

For the latest news (or current objects to observe), check the [Central Arkansas Astronomical Society](http://www.caasastro.org/) web site at <http://www.caasastro.org/>

Equinox & Solstice: Mar. 20, Jun. 21, Sep. 23, Dec. 21

Mid to late Feb. Venus & Mars together low in the west at dusk

Feb. 20 – Venus moves up past Mars

Apr. 4 – Total Lunar Eclipse 7 am CDT for 7 or 8 minutes (visible in western U.S.)

Venus and Jupiter – evening sky until July; eastern sky in morning after Sep.

Jul. 1 – Venus & Jupiter near each other in the west in the early evening.

July – Saturn NW of Antares in the evening; Mercury, Uranus, Neptune in the morning sky.

July 14 – **Pluto** – After a 9-year journey, the New Horizons spacecraft will fly past Pluto on July 14.

– – – For NASA photos of Pluto, go to [NASA Web Site](#)

Aug. 13 – Perseid meteor shower pre-dawn

Mars – evening sky until May; eastern sky in morning after Sep.

Saturn – morning sky early in year; rises at midnight by March; in evening until Nov.

Sep. 27 – Total Lunar Eclipse starts approx. 11:15 pm CDT for >1 hr (visible in most of U.S.)

– – – – Partial eclipse starts 8:08 pm; total eclipse starts 9:11 pm

– – – – Total eclipse ends 10:23 pm; partial eclipse ends 11:27 pm

Note: In Conway, start of eclipse was visible through broken clouds that soon covered the sky. Perhaps people northwest of Conway had better viewing conditions.

Oct. 17–26 – Venus, Jupiter, & Mars close together before dawn