**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/](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 Sept. 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/](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.
- Aug. 13 – Perseid meteor shower pre-dawn
- Mars – evening sky until May; eastern sky in morning after Sep.
- Saturn – evening 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