

About the author.....



Walt Robinson has been a member of the Astronomical Society of Kansas City since 1987, and has been an amateur astronomer since 1964. Since that time, he has served as Observatory Director of both Powell Observatory and the former Elmcrest Observatory, Vice President, and Secretary of the society. He has been a continuous keyholder for Powell Observatory since 1989. His present duties include webmaster for the society's web site. He has presented many programs at the public nights at Powell Observatory, and throughout the community of Bonner Springs Kansas, of which he is a resident.

As a resident of Bonner Springs, he has mentored several senior high school students for their senior class project. Both individuals through the guidance and direction of Walt, built home made telescopes. Those students are now in college pursuing degrees and future careers in planetary science. He has given many programs to area Boy Scout groups, and was an astronomy badge merit counselor for 4 years. For many years he wrote weekly articles about the night sky, for the Bonner Springs Chieftain newspaper.

He is in his second, three year term as vice president of the International Occultation Timing Association, and also serves as their web master since 1995. Through IOTA he also distributes the software written by David Herald for occultation predictions. He is the Secretary of the StarGarden Foundation, and has been instrumental in the design and construction of the Charles Douglas Memorial Observatory at Warrensburg Missouri. He has held positions of President, Secretary/Treasurer, and chairperson for the Great Plains Star Party, of the former Kansas Astrophotographers and Observers Society, located near Parker Kansas.

He has received numerous observing certificates from both the ASKC and the Astronomical League, to include the ASKC Binocular and AstroQuest awards; and the Astronomical League's Herschel 400, Messier (honorary), Lunar, Binocular Messier, Deep Sky Binocular, Southern Sky Binocular, Double Star, Globular Cluster and Meteor Certificates. In 1998 he received the Helen Warkoczewzski Memorial Award, given by the Astronomical Society of Kansas City, for outstanding service to both the society and the astronomical community. In 2004 he received the Mid-States Regional Astronomical League's Amateur of the year award.

He is a regular contributor to the Astronomical League's "Reflector" magazine, the Astronomical Society of Kansas City's Cosmic Messenger publication, and other amateur and professional journals.

During the 2003 Mars opposition, Walt approached the Wal-Mart in his hometown and coordinated with them several on-site public nights, that were well received by both Wal-Mart and the community. Because of this, Walt has been approach by the store to present future public programs to the community at the Bonner Springs location. Through his efforts, having applied for a Wal-Mart Community Grant, StarGarden received the funds to purchase a laptop computer for it's Mobile Astronomy Center for Education (M.A.C.E.) program, which will take astronomy to the schools in the area.

Walt also runs his own "Robinson Lunar Observatory" to spur interest in the moon among amateur astronomers. His recent "lunar light ray" program, brought many amateurs together from across the United States and abroad, to study and observe these events. A recent article written in the Astronomical League's reflector explained the program, and as a result recruited many more interested amateurs into studying the moon.