

Stars After the Symphony

The second Symphony in the Flint Hills will be held on June 16, on land west of Eskridge. The Kansas City Symphony will perform a 90 minute program under the open skies of the Kansas prairie. The first symphony last year was very popular, which explains why all 6000 tickets for this year's program sold out in the first 24 hours!

The event has expanded quite a bit from the first one. Events start at noon, and include presentations, nature walks, wagon rides, exhibits and –we don't know all of it yet. As I understand it, after the concert last year there was a massive traffic jam. The organizers decided to add additional activities after the concert this year to encourage people to spread out the traffic. They scheduled additional music and a dance area and, at the last minute, a star party. NEKAAL, along with astronomy clubs from Manhattan and Wichita, have been invited to set up telescopes for the night owls. Since the concert will end before sunset, we'll probably just show off scopes at first, then hope the clouds and the crowds participate accordingly. We'll report on the event in the next edition.

We're Moving – AGAIN!

The relocation of the NEKAAL General Meeting goes on!

As most of you know, the construction at Washburn's Stoffer Science Hall has forced us out of our long-time meeting place. Room 103 no longer exists, and while the other large room has been given a reprieve, the building won't be available for some time yet. The Board has been struggling with finding an alternate meeting place that is available to the public and meets our budget (which means, free).

For some time, we've been meeting at the Pizza Hut at 10th and Topeka. While this location smells fantastic, there has been a drastic drop in attendance since our first meeting there. We held our annual Beginner's Program in January at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library. The facilities there were fantastic, and we considered moving the meeting there permanently. Unfortunately for us, the facilities were so good that everyone else wants to use them, too! Despite getting our reservation request in on the first day possible, we still weren't able to get a meeting room for the rest of our meetings.

The Result: depends on the month. The June meeting will be held at Pizza Hut. July-October will move to the library (probably a room on the second floor, but TSCPL reserves the right to move us to another one). There will be a special event in November held at our very own Farpoint Observatory. The locations will be changed on the website as soon as the webmaster's grandson gives her the time to do it.

We apologize for the inconvenience, but we're doing the best we can. In the meantime, if anyone knows of a free, public, safe location with parking that they'd like to suggest, please contact a board member.

Congratulations to Russ Valentine

Russ Valentine has received his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics From The University of Kansas, having graduated in May. Congratulations, Russ!