



The Starry Messenger

THE BIGGEST & BEST IN THE METROPLEX!

Post School Year Attendance Report



We are proud to report an increase in school attendance to the Planetarium! A large number of schools from all school districts in the DFW metroplex do field trips at the Planetarium. They watch

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket, Black Holes, Astronaut, and many other shows aimed for K-12 space science education.

The school year is over, but the Planetarium doors are open! We promise every visit will be an unforgettable experience. Below are a few reasons why you should visit:

1. See the night sky as you can never see it from the city due to light pollution.
2. Meet the scientist. Ask questions about the things that get you curious.
3. Experience our Digistar4 planetarium by visiting another planet, another star or galaxy. Travel in space faster than the speed of light!
4. The Planetarium is located in the ground-breaking research building. Come see what scientists are doing.

Triple Conjunction



Be sure to watch the western sky this month after sunset, as Mars,

Planetarium Travel Mug Offer



Be the first to purchase one of our new Planetarium travel mugs! Starry Messenger members will receive a special discount on these great mugs!

Purchase a travel mug by August 22nd and we will give you a complimentary ticket to the Planetarium. Don't want to make the drive? We can mail your mug to your home for \$10 plus shipping (\$5.00).

Limited quantities are available; so get yours before we run out! This offer ends on August 22nd or when all the mugs have sold.

Travel mug purchases can be made by phone at 817-272-1183, [email](#) or in person before any public show.

When sending us email requests for mugs, please provide a phone number where you can be reached for over the phone credit orders.

If you are calling to place your order, please have your credit card ready.

The Truth About Sunspots



Will increased sunspot activity effect the Earth? We've been getting that



Venus, and Saturn move closer together in the constellation Leo.

To find the planets, look for the backward question mark of Leo's face, low in the West after sunset. The three planets will be visible to the southwest of Leo's face. They will appear as three very bright objects that don't twinkle.

The brightest is Venus, the hottest planet. Look for a red one too, that's Mars! And of course Saturn will be the third bright object in that area of the sky. It is always a great sight through telescopes and binoculars.

On August 1st these planets will be right next to each other in the sky. Watch this and other great celestial objects [here](#).

You may even catch a glimpse of Mercury in the West as the sun sets, so head outside early and take a look at the closest planet to the Sun!

Support the Planetarium: Become a Member!



Memberships are a great way to get involved with the Planetarium and help

support our mission, and it comes with great benefits!

Benefits Include:

- Free tickets to the Planetarium
- Discount to our Star Store gift shop
- Free star maps
- Invitation to our annual "Reach for the Stars" event

Membership Categories:



question a lot lately, due to rumors that the Sun will output a record

number of sunspots destroying our magnetic fields, ozone and eventually, all life on Earth. But rest easy, we have the truth.

Sunspot activity has regular cycles of maximum and minimum that repeats every 11 years. In 2009, the sun experienced a minimum, and it will not reach an expected peak until 2013. However, there is no evidence to suggest that it will be a stronger peak than usual. We have been very slowly coming out of the solar minimum with no more than 1 or 2 sunspots visible at a time.

Sunspot activity has been recorded since 1610 when Galileo turned his telescope to the sky, and are fairly accurate showing this 11 year cycle repeating regularly.

To read more about sunspots, please visit the Marshall Space Flight Center [website](#).

Members Corner: Paul Paulus



Dr. Paul Paulus is enjoying a sabbatical year and is spending time catching up on his research. He has spent quite a bit of time in Israel and Holland

collaborating with colleagues in those countries.

As a Dean of Science, he was privileged to be part of many new initiatives and developments. One of the most exciting was the opening of the Chemistry and Physics Building and the Planetarium.

"These are beautiful state of the art

Star - \$40 - Receive 2 FREE tickets to each new show.

Solar System - \$60 - Receive 4 FREE tickets to each new show.

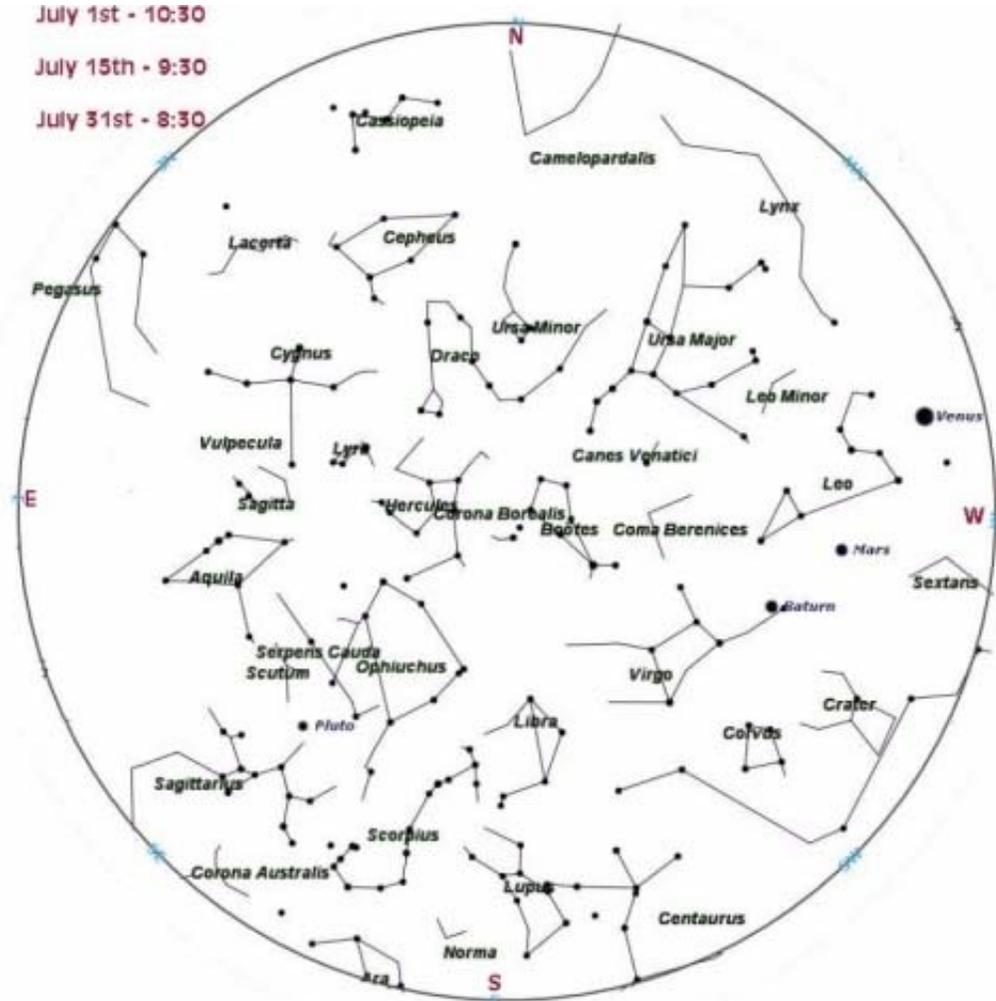
Star Cluster - \$100 - Receive 6 FREE tickets to each new show.

Galaxy - \$1000 - Receive 8 FREE tickets to each new show, plus a personalized chair in the Planetarium!

[Apply](#) online today!

facilities in the heart of the campus and have been a great source of pride. It has been a great success in attracting a broad variety of visitors from the general public, UTA students, and school children. With the new upgrades in the equipment and new programs, the planetarium is better than ever."

"Personally, the Planetarium is a place where my wife Laurie and I love to come to enjoy the wonders of space. It takes us to a world of beauty, mystery and excitement. The planetarium brings out the 'kid' in us because it taps our basic curiosity about the world around us."



Planetarium at UT Arlington
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