

## Arkansas-Oklahoma-Kansas Section Fall 2010 Meeting Minutes

October 29-30th was the date of the annual Arkansas Oklahoma-Kansas AAPT section meeting which was held in Kansas City, MO at the Kansas City Convention Center and at Avila University, also just across the border in Kansas City MO. The AOK section organized and hosted a physics day for the Regional NSTA meeting on Friday October 29th and then had a small sectional meeting at Dr. Jim Johnson's facility at Avila. The NSTA meeting was very well attended by high school teachers throughout the region with the day's activities well attended by a number of participants at the conference. Karen Williams from East Central Oklahoma University gave the initial presentation for the day. A modified version of her "ethics in science" workshop was presented to the group. This workshop contains a number of "case study" scenarios in which participants discuss the "what would you do?" aspect of each case study. Karen and her teaching colleague Carl Rutherford have given this in many forms at various meetings across the Midwest and always provide useful and updated information on the ethical dilemmas that affront us daily as scientists. Carl Rutherford, ECU then made the second presentation for the day. Carl's workshop was based upon using the Galileo telescope in the classroom and laboratory setting. Carl supplied a large classroom set of these simple yet quite useful telescopes to the participants to take apart, reassemble and use in a similar manor to how Carl uses them in his introductory astronomy classes at ECU. Additionally he provided a number of interesting and unique handouts for hands on and "eyes on" star viewing activities. The third presentation of the day was given by AOK section representative Todd Leif. Leif demonstrated his use of video analysis in the community college setting. The workshop presentation included information from the livephoto physics project and the use of Vernier Software's Logger Pro video features. The session had nearly 70 teachers attend and it brought the morning session of the physics strand to an end. The afternoon session was started by Phillip Scott AOK Section's HS representative for Oklahoma and McAlister High School's award winning science/physics teacher. He gave his presentation on building your own telescope and observatory at your own high school setting. The group focused on the various requirements to build such a unique instructional space at your high school and gathered much useful information during the session. Scott has made his presentation at previous AOK section meetings and as always it was well received. Dr. Bruce Mason from the University of Oklahoma was the second presenter in the afternoon session. Dr. Mason is the project director for the ComPadre physics digital library. The presentation was used to show the membership of the NSTA the various components of the digital library, some of its possible uses and methods to be a part of the organization and gathering of successful physics lessons to be housed at the site. Mason has been working with the ComPadre project for a number of years and is oftentimes asked to make these presentations throughout the country as a part of his "duties for AAPT" who are co-PI's on the digital library initiative. The final project of the afternoon was demonstrated and discussed by Dr. Steven Meier from the University of Northwestern Oklahoma. Dr. Meier is a regional coordinator and host for the BEST Robotics Program in Oklahoma and lower Kansas. The program is designed to effectively attract students to fields of study and careers in engineering, science and technology. One of the significant features of the program is that students at participating high schools don't have to come up with a lot of money for robotic parts, they only have to become a part of the BEST community and the kits supply everything allowed to create Robots on an even playing field. Numerous members of the NSTA were in attendance at this program which concluded a successful "Physics Day Strand" as part of the NSTA Regional Conference. AOK members went their separate ways after the afternoon session finished.

Saturday Morning approximately 20 members of the AOK gathered at Avila University for a morning coffee and doughnut session with a number of presentations made by the Kansas State University Physics Education Research Group as well as presentations by the host Dr. Jim Johnson and additional

AOK members. The business meeting ended the day's activities as Section Representative Todd Leif discussed the last two AAPT national meetings, as well as the upcoming winter 2011 meeting to be held at Jacksonville, Florida. The membership agreed to move the current slate of officers into additional one year terms since the section had participated in this tandem NSTA meeting this fall. Next year's President will be C. Dianne Phillips of the University of Arkansas at Benton. She will host the meeting at a time yet to be determined sometimes in the Fall of 2011. The next person to host the AOK section meeting will be Dr. Steven Meier at Northwestern Oklahoma University. This meeting will be in the fall of 2012. The future Kansas host was yet to be determined. The AOK AAPT physics teachers would like to thank Jim Johnson our Missouri neighbor for hosting the Fall 2010 meeting.

<http://web.phys.ksu.edu/AOK/>

—Todd R. Leif, Section Representative



Top Left: Phillip McAllister assists in workshop.  
Top Right: Jim Johnson demonstrates to two members of AOK tensile strength of phone books.

Left: Bruce Mason looks on as Carl Rutledge mounts a Galileoscope during his workshop for NSTA