

In the Houston (Texas) metropolitan area, amateur astronomy is rich and active. Among area astronomy clubs are the [Fort Bend Astronomy Club](#) , [Houston Astronomical Society](#) , [Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society](#)

and

[North Houston Astronomy Club](#)

. Houston Community College students also gather to enjoy and learn about astronomy with their own club, the Star Squad. Club meetings are valuable opportunities for members and visitors to learn about astronomy and share experiences. As all the Houston area clubs hold their meetings on different Friday nights, almost every week of the year sees an astronomy club meeting somewhere in the area.

Many amateurs are heavily involved in sharing the wonders of the night sky with the public at star parties, school gatherings and at the [George Observatory](#) in [Brazos Bend State Park](#) . Some Houston area amateur astronomers have been recognized for the quality of their astrophotographs in venues such as

[Astronomy Magazine](#)

,
[Sky and Telescope Magazine](#)

and

[NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day](#)

. Others, such as members of the

[Fort Bend Astronomy Club's Asteroid Discovery Team](#)

(A-Team) contribute to the body of scientific knowledge by discovering asteroids. Still others track the behavior of variable stars, the motion of comets, or hunt other galaxies for elusive supernovas.

Members of the Fort Bend Astronomy Club's A-Team will use the Rice University / Houston Community College Telescope at [McDonald Observatory](#) to search for Kuiper Belt Objects (KBOs). The Kuiper Belt, which is located at the most distant reaches of our Solar System, is thought to be the source of comets and leftover material from the formation of the Solar System.

Discovering and studying the behavior of these objects could reveal clues about the Solar System's beginnings and expand our knowledge of the population of this region of the Solar System.

