



The Newsletter of the Kern Astronomical Society

No. 532

January 2020

## ***KAS Open Meeting***

***First Friday of  
Every Month***

January 3, 2020 @  
[Round Table Pizza](#),  
4200 Gosford Road,  
Suite 101, Bakersfield, CA

Dinner & Social 6:30 pm  
Meeting/Program 7:30 pm

[Round Table Pizza](#): You are now able to order online or through the phone prior to arriving to the monthly meeting, by doing so you will receive customer rewards.

<http://www.roundtablepizza.com/rtp/>

[661-397-1111](tel:661-397-1111)

## **New Members / Membership Renewal**

- You can join / renew at our monthly meetings with cash, check, or credit card
- You can join / renew by mail using the form at the bottom of the newsletter

Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/syzygy/>

Visit our Web Page at <https://www.KernAstronomical.org>

Contact us at [kernastronomical@gmail.com](mailto:kernastronomical@gmail.com)



**Reach for the Stars**



## This Month's Events

# JANUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Years Day	2	3 	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Religious Freedom Day	17	18
19 National Sanctity of Human Life Day	20 Martin Luther King Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monthly Meeting at Round Table Pizza
- Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – New Moon Star Party at Chuchupate
- Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting at Doubletree

## Upcoming Programs – Winter / Spring 2020

- January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tim Elam – San Andreas Fault
- February 7<sup>th</sup> – Terry Himes – Climate Change
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Angela Dorsey – Atomic Clock
- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Omer Blaes – The Pyramids
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – Tim Stoner – The Analemma



## KAS Annual Christmas Party







# Popular Autumn Objects

by Walter Albrecht

Autumn has officially arrived and new sky objects can be observed. The weather has started to cool and there is a good chance we will have some clear nights until the winter weather arrives.

Our first object is the Andromeda Galaxy, otherwise known as M31. It is probably the most famous galaxy outside of the Milky Way Galaxy. It was discovered centuries before the invention of the telescope as it is a naked eye object in dark skies. Early astronomers thought it was a nearby nebula but the 100 inch telescope at Mt. Wilson resolved individual stars thus establishing the existence of other galaxies outside our own. In a 6 inch telescope you will see a fuzzy patch of light. It can be found near the great square of Pegasus.



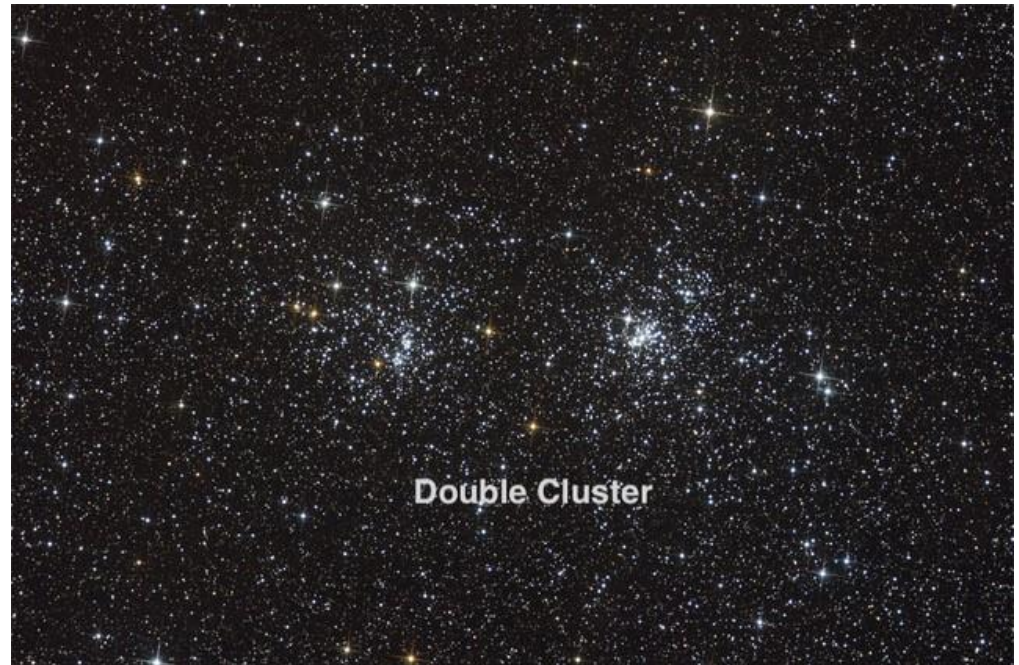
Andromeda Galaxy



Our next object is the double star Gamma Andromedae otherwise known as Almach. This double star is 260 light years from Earth. One star is orange and the other star is blue. The blue star is much hotter than the orange star and is actually three stars orbiting each other. Almach is in the constellation Andromeda. A challenge would be to see if you can see two components of the blue star



Our final object is the double cluster in Perseus. The double cluster is actually two open clusters of stars that are near each other. A low power eyepiece in a telescope will give you a good view. You can also see the double cluster in a pair of binoculars. It is possible to see them with your naked eye in a dark sky location. They are 7,400 light years from Earth.



#### Bibliography:

Watson, Brent. (1995). Finder Charts of Bright Telescopic Objects  
Mallas, John H., Kreimer, Evered. (1978). The Messier Album Houston

## Sequoia Dark Sky Festival 2020

The 2020 dates for Sequoia Dark Sky are September 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Book early if you plan to stay at the lodge.



Summer Milky Way at Sequoia Dark Sky: by Walter Albrecht

## KAS Astrophotography



Triangulum Galaxy (M33): by Kyle Druey



Double Cluster (NGC 869 & 884): by Kyle Druey

# KAS Sky Patrol Program

by Walter Albrecht



The KAS Sky Patrol is a program that will provide many activities to introduce KAS members to the exciting world of amateur astronomy. In order to complete the program you will need a copy of the sky patrol workbook. Workbooks will be available at our monthly meetings. There are two levels in the KAS Sky Patrol program. Level one has activities that can be completed in the city or suburbs. Level two activities will probably need to be completed in a dark sky location. Members are eligible to receive pins for completing the requisite number of activities in each level.

The KAS Sky Patrol can be completed by any KAS club member. Just complete at least 5 activities from level one and you will receive a pin. Complete at least 5 observations from level two and you can receive a second pin.

Many tasks are inspired by the Sky Puppies Observing Club from the Astronomical League. Should a child under the age of 11 wish to tackle the Sky Puppies Observing Club they will need to go online to the Astronomical League website for further information. The Astronomical League will issue a pin if you complete their Sky Puppies program. Remember that all KAS members are also members of the Astronomical League. Please see a KAS board member for further information.

Please note that the KAS Sky Patrol is a great family project and parents are encouraged to help their children complete the various tasks. Some of the projects can be developed into science fair or STEM fair projects.

For more information on the Astronomical League: <https://www.astroleague.org/>



## Kern Astronomical Society InfoShare

Since 1956, the Kern Astronomical Society has promoted community awareness of current events in astronomy, and provides a forum for sharing of knowledge and experiences among amateur astronomers. Annual membership is \$25.00 which also provides membership in the Amateur Astronomical League, access to their newsletter (Reflector Magazine), and participation in observational programs.

### Star Parties and Outreach

The Kern Astronomical Society typically has two Club Star Parties each month depending on the weather. Our Club Parties are held on Saturdays nearest the New Moon. We also host Public Star Parties at various locations around town during April - October. These parties are held on Saturdays nearest the first quarter Moon. In addition, we also host Lunar, Solar, and Planetary viewing for Public Schools. Requests may be directed to our Star Party Coordinator.

### Club Equipment

The Kern Astronomical Society has telescopes and accessories (listed below) available for loan to Club Members in good standing. Members are encouraged to borrow the different types of telescopes in stock (especially if you are considering purchasing one). Trying out different sizes and types of telescopes can help you make an informed decision about purchases. If you have a Club telescope in your possession, you will be expected to participate in at least one public star party.

- 6" f/6, 8" f/6, 10" f/5.6, 13" f/4.5 Dobsonian telescopes, Parks Jovian 90, 3 1/2" f/13 Maksukov-Cassegrain, 4" f/15 Unitron Refractor
- 8" Solar Filter
- Assorted eyepieces

### KAS Board Members

President:	Gregg Pytlak	ggpytlak@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Diane Franco	dianef02@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Mary Hanel	hanel1125@att.net
Secretary:	Angel Gil	angel.gil3021@email.bakersfieldcollege.edu
Star Party Coordinator:	Darren Bly	dcbly@bak.rr.com
Star Party Coordinator:	Darren Bly	dcbly@bak.rr.com
Educational Committee Chair	Walter Albrecht	melchior1472@gmail.com
Educational Youth Ambassador	Claire Im	claire2133@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Timothy Stoner	desert_enduro@hotmail.com

# Kern Astronomical Society

Membership New/Renewal    March 2020/2021

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:\* \_\_\_\_\_

My check# \_\_\_\_\_ for (or cash) the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

(Check box)

Yearly Membership    ☒    \$25    March 2020 – March 2021

Make checks payable to: KAS (or) Kern Astronomical Society

You can also mail form and check to:

**KAS**  
**5501 Stockdale Hwy #10241**  
**Bakersfield, CA 93389**

\*\* Please provide the email address where you wish to receive the KAS newsletter (if different than above)

“SYZYGY”: \_\_\_\_\_