



The Newsletter of the Kern Astronomical Society No. 549 June 2021

The June meeting has been Cancelled.

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

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

Contact us at kernastronomicalsociety@gmail.com



Reach for the Stars



An Important Message from the Board

To our Membership:

I hope that 2021 finds you safe and well. Months ago, when we suspended club operations we said we would revisit the situation in January, 2021. Well, it is now a new year. With the current state of affairs, it does not look like we will be able to conduct a meeting anytime soon. Therefore, the Board of Directors has decided to continue our suspended status until April or May of 2021. We will continue to follow the state and local recommendations to keep us safe.

Again, thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter. Stay healthy and safe.

Gregory Pytlak

President

2021 Membership

To our Membership:

The KAS Board of Directors has approved a proposal for the club to carry (pay) your membership dues for 2021. If you were a member last year, KAS will renew your membership at our expense. We value your membership and participation.

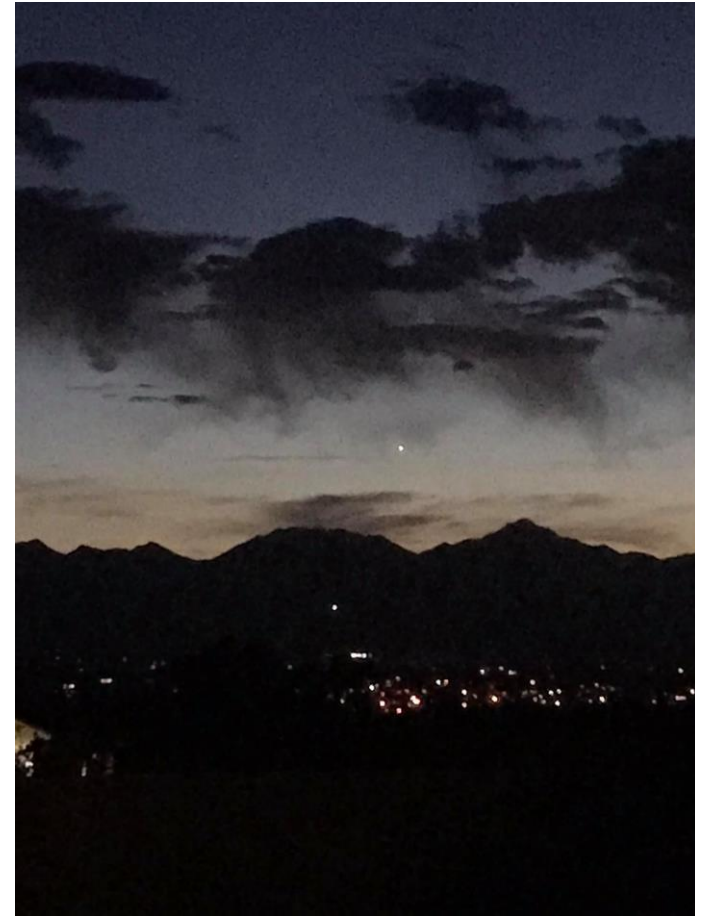
Upcoming Star Parties

Possible dates for Star Parties at Chuchupate are June 5 (Last Quarter Moon) and June 12 (New Moon). Watch for updates via e-mail and/or Facebook.

KAS Astrophotography



A very nice Pinwheel Galaxy (M101) by: Kyle Druey



Venus over the Eastern Sierra Nevada looking west from Ridgecrest by: Debbie Crutchfield Pio

The Evening Sky Map

FREE* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

Sky Calendar – June 2021

Get Sky Calendar on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/skymaps>

- 1 Moon near Jupiter (morning sky) at 13h UT. Mag. -2.4.
- 2 Last Quarter Moon at 7:25 UT.
- 8 Moon at apogee (farthest from Earth) at 2h UT (distance 406,228 km; angular size 29.4').
- 8 Moon near the Pleiades (18° from Sun, morning sky) at 21h UT.
- 10 New Moon at 10:53 UT. Start of lunation 1218.
- 10 Annular Solar Eclipse from 9:50 to 11:34 UT. Greatest eclipse at 10:43 UT. The path of annularity extends across northern Canada, Greenland, and Russia. Partial eclipse in N. America, Europe and Asia.
- 11 Mercury at inferior conjunction with the Sun at 1h UT. Mercury passes into the morning sky.
- 12 Venus 1.5° SSW of Moon (20° from Sun, evening sky) at 8h UT. Mag. -3.9.
- 13 Moon near Mars (38° from Sun, evening sky) at 22h UT. Mag. 1.8.
- 14 Moon near Beehive cluster M44 (evening sky) at 9h UT. The Beehive is a lovely sight in binoculars.
- 16 Moon near Regulus at 4h UT (evening sky).
- 18 First Quarter Moon at 3:54 UT.
- 20 Moon near Spica at 4h UT (evening sky).
- 21 June solstice at 3:32 UT. The time when the Sun reaches the point farthest north of the celestial equator marking the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and winter in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 23 Moon near Antares at 7h UT (evening sky).
- 23 Moon at perigee (closest to Earth) at 9:52 UT (distance 359,956 km; angular size 33.2').
- 23 Mars 0.03° SE of Beehive cluster M44 (evening sky) at 23h UT. Mag. 1.8. Mars will present a beautiful sight as it traverses M44.
- 24 Full Moon at 18:39 UT.
- 27 Moon near Saturn (morning sky) at 12h UT. Mag. 0.4.
- 28 Moon near Jupiter (morning sky) at 22h UT. Mag. -2.6.

More sky events and links at <http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/>
 All times in Universal Time (UT). (USA Eastern Daylight Time – UT – 4 hours.)



SAVE ON RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS • <http://Skymaps.com/store>

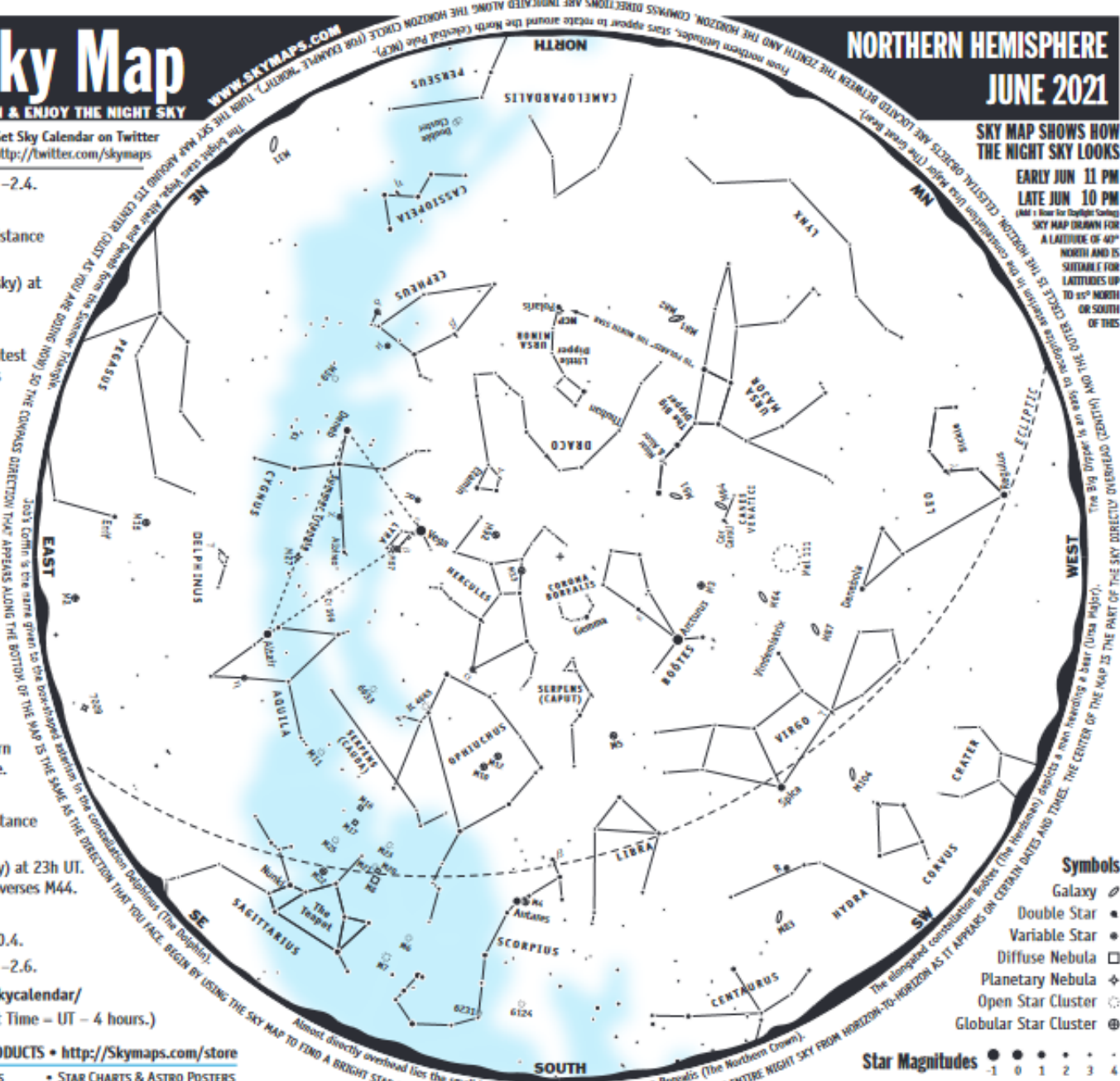
- STAR ATLASES & PLANISPHERES
- STAR CHARTS & ASTRO POSTERS
- BOOKS FOR SKY WATCHERS
- TELESCOPES & BINOCULARS

All sales support the production and free distribution of The Evening Sky Map. Thank you!

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE JUNE 2021

SKY MAP SHOWS HOW
THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS

EARLY JUN 11 PM
 LATE JUN 10 PM
(Add 1 Hour for Daylight Saving)
 SKY MAP DRAWN FOR
 A LATITUDE OF 40°
 NORTH AND IS
 SUITABLE FOR
 LATITUDES UP
 TO 90° NORTH
 OR SOUTH
 OF THIS



Symbols

- Galaxy ☾
- Double Star ••
- Variable Star *
- Diffuse Nebula ☐
- Planetary Nebula ◇
- Open Star Cluster ☆
- Globular Star Cluster ⊕

Star Magnitudes ● ● ● ● ● ●
 -1 0 1 2 3 4

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Almost directly overhead lies the small but distinctive constellation Corona Borealis (The Northern Crown).
 INSTRUCTIONS: THE SKY MAP SHOWS THE ENTIRE NIGHT SKY FROM HORIZON-TO-HORIZON AS IT APPEARS ON CERTAIN DATES AND TIMES.

About the Celestial Objects

Listed on this page are several of the brighter, more interesting celestial objects visible in the evening sky this month (refer to the monthly sky map). The objects are grouped into three categories. Those that can be easily seen with the naked eye (that is, without optical aid), those easily seen with binoculars, and those requiring a telescope to be appreciated. **Note, all of the objects (except single stars) will appear more impressive when viewed through a telescope or very large binoculars.** They are grouped in this way to highlight objects that can be seen using the optical equipment that may be available to the star gazer.

Tips for Observing the Night Sky

When observing the night sky, and in particular deep-sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies, it's always best to observe from a dark location. Avoid direct light from street lights and other sources. If possible observe from a dark location away from the light pollution that surrounds many of today's large cities.

You will see more stars after your eyes adapt to the darkness—usually about 10 to 20 minutes after you go outside. Also, if you need to use a torch to view the sky map, cover the light bulb with red cellophane. This will preserve your dark vision.

Finally, even though the Moon is one of the most stunning objects to view through a telescope, its light is so bright that it brightens the sky and makes many of the fainter objects very difficult to see. So try to observe the evening sky on moonless nights around either New Moon or Last Quarter.

Astronomical Glossary

Conjunction – An alignment of two celestial bodies such that they present the least angular separation as viewed from Earth.

Constellation – A defined area of the sky containing a star pattern.

Diffuse Nebula – A cloud of gas illuminated by nearby stars.

Double Star – Two stars that appear close to each other in the sky; either linked by gravity so that they orbit each other (binary star) or lying at different distances from Earth (optical double). Apparent separation of stars is given in seconds of arc (").

Ecliptic – The path of the Sun's center on the celestial sphere as seen from Earth.

Elongation – The angular separation of two celestial bodies. For Mercury and Venus the greatest elongation occurs when they are at their most angular distance from the Sun as viewed from Earth.

Galaxy – A mass of up to several billion stars held together by gravity.

Globular Star Cluster – A ball-shaped group of several thousand old stars.

Light Year (ly) – The distance a beam of light travels at 300,000 km/sec in one year.

Magnitude – The brightness of a celestial object as it appears in the sky.

Open Star Cluster – A group of tens or hundreds of relatively young stars.

Opposition – When a celestial body is opposite the Sun in the sky.

Planetary Nebula – The remnants of a shell of gas blown off by a star.

Universal Time (UT) – A time system used by astronomers. Also known as Greenwich Mean Time. USA Eastern Standard Time (for example, New York) is 5 hours behind UT.

Variable Star – A star that changes brightness over a period of time.

Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

Altair	Aql	• Brightest star in Aquila. Name means "the flying eagle". Dist=16.8 ly.
Arcturus	Boo	• Orange, giant K star. Name means "bear watcher". Dist=36.7 ly.
δ Cephei	Cep	• Cepheid prototype. Mag varies between 3.5 & 4.4 over 5,366 days. Mag 6 companion.
Deneb	Cyg	• Brightest star in Cygnus. One of the greatest known supergiants. Dist=1,400±200 ly.
α Herculis	Her	• Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.1 & 3.9 over 90 days. Mag 5.4 companion.
Vega	Lyr	• The 5th brightest star in the sky. A blue-white star. Dist=25.0 ly.
Antares	Sco	• Red, supergiant star. Name means "rival of Mars". Dist=135.9 ly.
Polaris	UMi	• The North Pole Star. A telescope reveals an unrelated mag 8 companion star. Dist=433ly.
Spica	Vir	• Latin name means "ear of wheat" and shown held in Virgo's left hand. Dist=250 ly.

Easily Seen with Binoculars

η Aquilae	Aql	• Bright Cepheid variable. Mag varies between 3.6 & 4.5 over 7,166 days. Dist=1,200 ly.
M3	CVn	• Easy to find in binoculars. Might be glimpsed with the naked eye.
μ Cephei	Cep	• Herschel's Garnet Star. One of the reddest stars. Mag 3.4 to 5.1 over 730 days.
Mel 111	Com	• Coma Berenices. 80 mag 5-6 stars in 5 deg. Dist=283 ly. Age=400 million years.
χ Cygni	Cyg	• Long period pulsating red giant. Magnitude varies between 3.3 & 14.2 over 407 days.
M39	Cyg	• May be visible to the naked eye under good conditions. Dist=900 ly.
ν Draconis	Dra	• Wide pair of white stars. One of the finest binocular pairs in the sky. Dist=100 ly.
M13	Her	• Best globular in northern skies. Discovered by Halley in 1714. Dist=23,000 ly.
M92	Her	• Fainter and smaller than M13. Use a telescope to resolve its stars.
ε Lyrae	Lyr	• Famous Double Double. Binoculars show a double star. High power reveals each a double.
R Lyrae	Lyr	• Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 5.0 over 46.0 days.
M12	Oph	• Close to the brighter M10. Dist=18,000 ly.
M10	Oph	• 3 degrees from the fainter M12. Both may be glimpsed in binoculars. Dist=14,000 ly.
IC 4665	Oph	• Large, scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
6633	Oph	• Scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
M8	Sgr	• Lagoon Nebula. Bright nebula bisected by a dark lane. Dist=5,200 ly.
M25	Sgr	• Bright cluster located about 6 deg N of "teapot's" lid. Dist=1,900 ly.
M22	Sgr	• A spectacular globular star cluster. Telescope will show stars. Dist=10,000 ly.
M4	Sco	• A close globular. May just be visible without optical aid. Dist=7,000 ly.
M6	Sco	• Butterfly Cluster. 30+ stars in 7x binoculars. Dist=1,960 ly.
M7	Sco	• Superb open cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Age=260 million years. Dist=780 ly.
M5	Ser	• Fine globular star cluster. Telescope will reveal individual stars. Dist=25,000 ly.
Mizar & Alcor	UMa	• Good eyesight or binoculars reveals 2 stars. Not a binary. Mizar has a mag 4 companion.
Cr 399	Vul	• Coathanger asterism or "Brocchi's Cluster". Not a true star cluster. Dist=218 to 1,140 ly.

Telescopic Objects

ε Bootis	Boo	• Red giant star (mag 2.5) with a blue-green mag 4.9 companion. Sep=2.8". Difficult to split.
M94	CVn	• Compact nearly face-on spiral galaxy. Dist=15 million ly.
M51	CVn	• Whirlpool Galaxy. First recognised to have spiral structure. Dist=25 million ly.
M64	Com	• Black-Eye Galaxy. Discovered by J.E. Bode in 1775 - "a small, nebulous star".
Albireo	Cyg	• Beautiful double star. Contrasting colours of orange and blue-green. Sep=34.4".
61 Cygni	Cyg	• Attractive double star. Mags 5.2 & 6.1 orange dwarfs. Dist=11.4 ly. Sep=28.4".
γ Delphini	Del	• Appear yellow & white. Mags 4.3 & 5.2. Dist=100 ly. Struve 2725 double in same field.
β Lyrae	Lyr	• Eclipsing binary. Mag varies between 3.3 & 4.3 over 12,940 days. Fainter mag 7.2 blue star.
M57	Lyr	• Ring Nebula. Magnificent object. Smoke-ring shape. Dist=4,100 ly.
M23	Sgr	• Elongated star cluster. Telescope required to show stars. Dist=2,100 ly.
M20	Sgr	• Trifid Nebula. A telescope shows 3 dust lanes trisecting nebula. Dist=5,200 ly.
M21	Sgr	• A fine and impressive cluster. Dist=4,200 ly.
M17	Sgr	• Omega Nebula. Contains the star cluster NGC 6618. Dist=4,900 ly.
M11	Sct	• Wild Duck Cluster. Resembles a globular through binoculars. V-shaped. Dist=5,600 ly.
M16	Ser	• Eagle Nebula. Requires a telescope of large aperture. Dist=8,150 ly.
M81	UMa	• Beautiful spiral galaxy visible with binoculars. Easy to see in a telescope.
M82	UMa	• Close to M81 but much fainter and smaller.
M87	Vir	• Supergiant galaxy with supermassive black hole at its core. Dist=53.5 million ly.
γ Virginis	Vir	• Superb pair of mag 3.5 yellow-white stars. Orbit=169 years. At their closest in 2005.
M27	Vul	• Dumbbell Nebula. Large, twin-lobed shape. Most spectacular planetary. Dist=975 ly.

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 ½" f/13 Maksukov-Cassegrain, 4" f/15 Unitron Refractor
- 8" Solar Filter
- Assorted eyepieces

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