



The Newsletter of the Kern Astronomical Society No. 566 November 2022

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### *KAS Open Meeting*

*First Friday of  
Every Month*

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*Round Table Pizza,*  
*4200 Gosford Road,  
Suite 101, Bakersfield, CA*

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

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**Our regular monthly meeting will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at Round Table Pizza at 4200 Gosford Road.**

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](mailto:kernastronomicalsociety@gmail.com)



**Reach for the Stars**



## Upcoming Meetings

November – Briley Lewis – “Life in the Universe”  
December – Annual Christmas Party  
January – Goldstone  
February – TBD  
March – The Precession of the Equinox – Tim Stoner

## November Events

November 8 – Total Lunar Eclipse  
November 19 – Last quarter moon star party at Chuchupate.  
November 24 – Thanksgiving  
November 26 – New moon star party at Chuchupate.

## November Speaker: Briley Lewis – “Life in the Universe”

My name is Briley Lewis, and I'm a NSF fellow and 5th year graduate student (now, PhD candidate!) at the University of California, Los Angeles studying Astronomy & Astrophysics. I grew up in Southern California, and am the first in my family to go for a PhD.

I graduated from Columbia University with my B.A. in Astrophysics (Class of 2018), just earned my M.S. in Astronomy & Astrophysics at UCLA, and am now working on my Ph.D. I have previously worked at the American Museum of Natural History in NYC, and also at Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, MD. I'm interested primarily in exoplanets and the solar system.

## November 2022 Total Lunar Eclipse

Event	UTC Time	Time in Bakersfield*	Visible in Bakersfield
Penumbral Eclipse begins	Nov 8 at 08:02:15	Nov 8 at 12:02:15 am	Yes
Partial Eclipse begins	Nov 8 at 09:09:12	Nov 8 at 1:09:12 am	Yes
Full Eclipse begins	Nov 8 at 10:16:39	Nov 8 at 2:16:39 am	Yes
Maximum Eclipse	Nov 8 at 10:59:11	Nov 8 at 2:59:11 am	Yes
Full Eclipse ends	Nov 8 at 11:41:36	Nov 8 at 3:41:36 am	Yes
Partial Eclipse ends	Nov 8 at 12:49:03	Nov 8 at 4:49:03 am	Yes
Penumbral Eclipse ends	Nov 8 at 13:56:09	Nov 8 at 5:56:09 am	Yes

\* The Moon is above the horizon during this eclipse, so with good weather conditions in Bakersfield, the entire eclipse is visible.

## Membership Renewal

We thank you once again for taking this extraordinary journey with us! We sincerely hope that you will continue exploring the Universe with us by renewing your membership! There is so much more to discover! Renew your membership and renew your commitment to science!

Thank you,

Diane Franco

It's time for membership renewal. Just \$25 gets you and your family membership in the Kern Astronomical Society for the following year. Renewing now really helps us budget for next year's activities and future speakers. You can renew at the meetings (cash or check) or use the form at the end of the newsletter and send it with a check to our mailbox address. The benefits of membership are listed in the InfoShare section at the end of the newsletter.

## KAS Annual Christmas Party

We will be holding our annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at our regular meeting place at Round Table Pizza at 4200 Gosford Road. Bring a dessert to share. We will have a table set up for a "dessert bar". Pizza and drinks can be ordered as usual. The party starts at 6:30 pm just like our regular meetings.





## 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.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE  
NOVEMBER 2022

CELESTIAL OBJECTS

Sky maps  
.com

## Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

Altair	Aql	• Brightest star in Aquila. Name means "the flying eagle". Dist=16.7 ly.
Capella	Aur	• The 6th brightest star. Appears yellowish in color. Spectroscopic binary. Dist=42 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.
Algol	Per	• Famous eclipsing binary star. Magnitude varies between 2.1 & 3.4 over 2,867 days.
Fomalhaut	PsA	• Brightest star in Piscis Austrinus. In Arabic the "fish's mouth". Dist=25 ly.
Pleiades	Tau	• The Seven Sisters. Spectacular cluster. Many more stars visible in binoculars. Dist=399 ly.
Hyades	Tau	• Large V-shaped star cluster. Binoculars reveal many more stars. Dist=152 ly.
Aldebaran	Tau	• Brightest star in Taurus. It is not associated with the Hyades star cluster. Dist=66.7 ly.
Polaris	UMi	• The North Pole Star. A telescope reveals an unrelated mag 8 companion star. Dist=433 ly.

## Easily Seen with Binoculars

M31	And	• The Andromeda Galaxy. Most distant object visible to naked eye. Dist=2.5 million ly.
M2	Aqr	• Resembles a fuzzy star in binoculars.
η Aquilae	Aql	• Bright Cepheid variable. Mag varies between 3.6 & 4.5 over 7,166 days. Dist=1,200 ly.
M38	Aur	• Stars appear arranged in "pi" or cross shape. Dist=4,300 ly.
M36	Aur	• About half size of M38. Located in rich Milky Way star field. Dist=4,100 ly.
M37	Aur	• Very fine star cluster. Discovered by Messier in 1764. Dist=4,400 ly.
μ Cephei	Cep	• Herschel's Garnet Star. One of the reddest stars. Mag 3.4 to 5.1 over 730 days.
Mira	Cet	• Famous long period variable star. Mag varies between 3.0 & 10.1 over 332 days.
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.
IC 4665	Oph	• Large, scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
6633	Oph	• Scattered open cluster. Visible with binoculars.
M15	Peg	• Only globular known to contain a planetary nebula (Mag 14, d=1"). Dist=30,000 ly.
Double Cluster	Per	• Double Cluster in Perseus. NGC 869 & 884. Excellent in binoculars. Dist=7,300 ly.
M25	Sgr	• Bright cluster located about 6 deg N of "teapot's" lid. Dist=1,900 ly.
253	Scl	• Fine, large, cigar-shaped galaxy. Requires dark sky. Member of Sculptor Group.
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

γ Andromedae	And	• Attractive double star. Bright orange star with mag 5 blue companion. Sep=0.8".
7009	Aqr	• Saturn Nebula. Requires 8-inch telescope to see Saturn-like appendages.
7293	Aqr	• Helix Nebula. Spans nearly 1/4 deg. Requires dark sky. Dist=300 ly.
γ Arietis	Ari	• Impressive looking double blue-white star. Visible in a small telescope. Sep=7.8".
η Cassiopeiae	Cas	• Yellow star mag 3.4 & orange star mag 7.5. Orbit=480 years. Sep=12".
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.
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.
M1	Tau	• Crab Nebula. Remnant from supernova which was visible in 1054. Dist=6,500 ly.
M33	Tri	• Fine face-on spiral galaxy. Requires a large aperture telescope. Dist=2.3 million 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.
M27	Vul	• Dumbbell Nebula. Large, twin-lobed shape. Most spectacular planetary. Dist=975 ly.

The Evening Sky Map (ISSN 1839-7735) Copyright © 2000-2022 Kym Thalassoudis. All Rights Reserved.

## 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

## Privileges and Benefits of Membership in the Kern Astronomical Society

- 1) Hold an elected position as an Officer or Board Member in the Society
- 2) Vote in the election process and on business at meetings
- 3) Go on sponsored field trips to various astronomy related events (i.e. Mt Wilson Observatory, Panamint Springs Dark Sky, etc.)
- 4) Membership in the Astronomical League which includes subscription to Reflector Magazine
- 5) Discount for Sky and Telescope Magazine
- 6) Access/use of club telescopes and related equipment / Help with use of equipment by members
- 7) You are covered under the Society's insurance at related events

## KAS Club Officers/Board Members

President:	Gregg Pytlak	<a href="mailto:gpytlak@yahoo.com">gpytlak@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President:	Diane Franco	<a href="mailto:dianef02@yahoo.com">dianef02@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Ron Church	<a href="mailto:Church.Ron@irpcsp.com">Church.Ron@irpcsp.com</a>
Secretary	Rod Guice	<a href="mailto:stargazer10000@gmail.com">stargazer10000@gmail.com</a>
Star Party / Event Coordinator	Darren Bly	<a href="mailto:dcbly@bak.rr.com">dcbly@bak.rr.com</a>
Member at Large	John Hester	<a href="mailto:jh191623@gmail.com">jh191623@gmail.com</a>
Member at Large	Darrell Miller	<a href="mailto:dqmpsm2@yahoo.com">dqmpsm2@yahoo.com</a>
Educational Committee Chair		
Educational Youth Ambassador		
Newsletter Editor	Timothy Stoner	<a href="mailto:desert_enduro@hotmail.com">desert_enduro@hotmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Ivan Aburto	<a href="mailto:ivanaburto88@gmail.com">ivanaburto88@gmail.com</a>

# Kern Astronomical Society

## New Membership/Renewal 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My check # \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Yearly Membership \$25

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

You can also mail this form and check to:

**Kern Astronomical Society**  
**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”: \_\_\_\_\_