



The Newsletter of the Kern Astronomical Society No. 569 February 2023

KAS Open Meeting

***First Friday of
Every Month***

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

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

**Our regular monthly meeting will be held on
February 3rd 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

Reach for the Stars



February Speaker – Dr. Michael Malaska – Mapping Titan

Dr. Michael Malaska is a scientist in the Planetary Ices Group at NASA/JPL. He obtained his undergraduate degree in chemistry from MIT, his PhD in chemistry from UC Berkeley, and performed postdoctoral research in neurochemistry at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville in Florida. After a 20 year career in the pharmaceutical industry inventing new medicines, images of Titan's alien surface sent down by the Cassini spacecraft ignited his passion in planetary science. He went from being an interested amateur, to a volunteer researcher, and ultimately changed his career to planetary science and astrobiology. His current research program combines laboratory simulation, spacecraft remote sensing, and field geology to explore and understand Saturn's moon Titan. He has done field work in North Carolina, the Mojave Desert and Salton Sea in California, the Greenland Ice Sheet, and an extremophile sulfide cave in southern Mexico.



Upcoming Meetings

February – Michael Malaska - Mapping Titan

March – Rambling through the Winter Sky – Tim Stoner

April – Tim Elam - San Andreas along Gorman

May – Mark Zaslove – Astrophotography

February Events

February 11 – Last quarter moon star party at Chuchupate.

February 18 – New moon star party at Chuchupate.

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.

January 23, 2023

President's Statement to Membership regarding dues, the budget and income

My fellow KAS members,

As you may know your Board of Directors is working very hard to put a budget together for the upcoming year. As I have mentioned in the past few meetings, our main source of revenue is from the dues we pay as members. Without this income, it is very difficult to budget for our expenses.

So I am appealing to you, to please keep your membership current and, if you have not already, please pay your dues as soon as possible. To those of you who have already paid, thank you very much, your support is critical to our success.

Your Board of Directors will keep you posted on the budget process as it moves along.

Respectfully yours,

Gregg Pytlak, President

Kern Astronomical Society

Comet ZTF (C/2022 E3)

Reference: Sky and Telescope

Comet ZTF (C/2022 E3) also known as the Dazzling Green Comet will make its closest approach to Earth on February 1 at 26 million miles. The comet is visible in binoculars and a pretty sight in modest telescopes. However, the moon phase in early February is not favorable for naked eye observation. Current visual magnitude estimates put Comet ZTF near magnitude 5 but it will fade as February progresses,

By early February the comet is well placed for viewing in the evening sky. It slides about 1.5° southwest of Capella on the evening of February 5th, the night of full Moon. The following evening it brushes close to Zeta (ζ) Aurigae. While the compact nuclear region will miss the star by $\sim 10'$, the fluffy coma may temporarily engulf it. Mars gets a visit on the night of February 10–11 when the comet cruises about 1.5° northeast of the planet for observers in the eastern half of the Americas. West Coast viewers will see them just 1° apart. The two bodies, one golden-orange, the other green and turquoise, should make a fine color contrast in time-exposure photos. Come Valentine's Day (February 14th), Comet ZTF will have faded to about magnitude 7.0 and glow in a moonless sky around 1.5° east of Aldebaran in Taurus.



Photo by: Michael Jaeger

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	gpytlak@yahoo.com
Vice President:	Diane Franco	dianef02@yahoo.com
Secretary	Rod Guice	stargazer10000@gmail.com
Star Party / Event Coordinator	Darren Bly	dcbly@bak.rr.com
Member at Large	John Hester	jh191623@gmail.com
Member at Large	Darrell Miller	dgm2@yahoo.com
Educational Committee Chair		
Educational Youth Ambassador		
Newsletter Editor	Timothy Stoner	desert_enduro@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Ivan Aburto	ivanaburto88@gmail.com

KAS Membership

10/1/2022 to 9/30/2023

Date: _____

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Dues for this year: **\$25**

Cash: _____

Check: # _____

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

Mail to: **Kern Astronomical Society**
5501 Stockdale Hwy #10241
Bakersfield, CA 93389

Optional Family Information:

Spouse: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

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

"SYZGY": _____