



NEXT KAS GENERAL MEETING
Friday May 3rd, 2013 @ Round Table Pizza
4200 Gosford Rd Bakersfield 93313
Dinner & Fellowship: **6:30 pm** Meeting: **7:30 pm**



PROGRAM AT MEETING
A TEAM FROM BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE COMPETING IN THE
NATIONAL STUDENT SOLAR SPECTROGRAPH COMPETITION

TRAVIS BURNS TJ MONSIBAIS
MARK RALLS STEPHEN WIGHT

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

“To promote the Science of Astronomy”, That is their goal. They “foster astronomical education, provide incentives for astronomical observation and research, and assist communication among amateur astronomical societies. We want people to get access to telescopes, whether it is through their local astronomical society, school, or their own instruments, and use them to view the beauty in the heavens.”

The Kern Astronomical Society is proud to be a member the Astronomical League (AL). We are one of 240 astronomy societies across the nation that use this resource for bettering their knowledge and increasing their love of the celestial bodies.

Among many things, the Astronomical League provides many different observing programs. These programs are designed to give a direction for your observations and to provide a goal. The programs have [awards and pins](#) to recognize the observers’ accomplishments and for demonstrating their observing skills with a variety of [instruments and objects](#).

Each Program offers a certificate based upon achieving certain observing goals and is recognized with a beautiful award pin. You are required to observe a specific number of objects of a specific group with a specific type of instrument.

Some of the Programs include:

- Beginner Constellation Hunter, Meteor Program, Deep Sky Binocular
- Intermediate Earth Observing, Globular Cluster, Sun-Spotters, Herschel 400
- Advanced Planetary Nebula, Open Clusters, Master Observer Award

[WWW.](#)

- [See the full program list here](#)
- [Astronomical League site](#)

THE KERN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY INFOSHARE

WHO WE ARE

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 \$20.00 which also provides "Sky and Telescope" and / or Astronomy magazines at reduced rates. More information on our web site. The KAS will e-mail The Syzygy free of charge to any educator; just contact the editor.

CLUB STAR PARTIES

The Kern Astronomical Society usually has 2 Club-Star Parties per month depending on the weather. We also host public Star parties upon request.

Our Star Parties are held on Saturdays.

The primary date is the weekend of new moon with the secondary date being before or after new moon. You may get current Star Party information from our coordinator, Darren Bly.

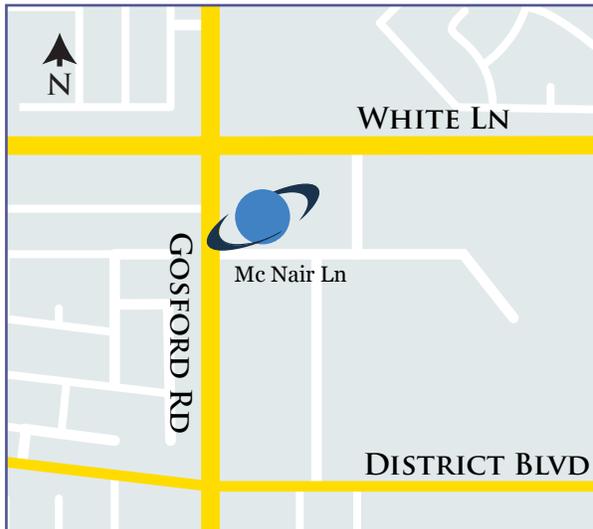
NEXT MEETING

The KAS holds their Monthly meeting the 1st Friday of every month.

Round Table Pizza in the "Meeting Room"

Diner & Fellowship: **6:30 pm**; Meeting: **7:30 pm**

4200 Gosford Rd. #101, Bakersfield 93313, (661) 397-1111



KAS CLUB TELESCOPES

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 scopes in stock (especially if you are considering purchasing one-checking out and trying different types will help you make an informed purchase decision). If you have a Club scope in your possession, the KAS expects you to use it by participating in at least one Star party.

- 6" f/6, 8" f/6, 10" f/5.6, 13" f/4.5 Dobsonian scopes
- Parks Jovian 90, 3-1/2" F-13 Maksukov-Cassegrain
- 4" f/15 Unitron Refractor
- 8" solar filter
- Eyepieces up to 2" wide

Kern Astronomical Society
on [FaceBook](#)



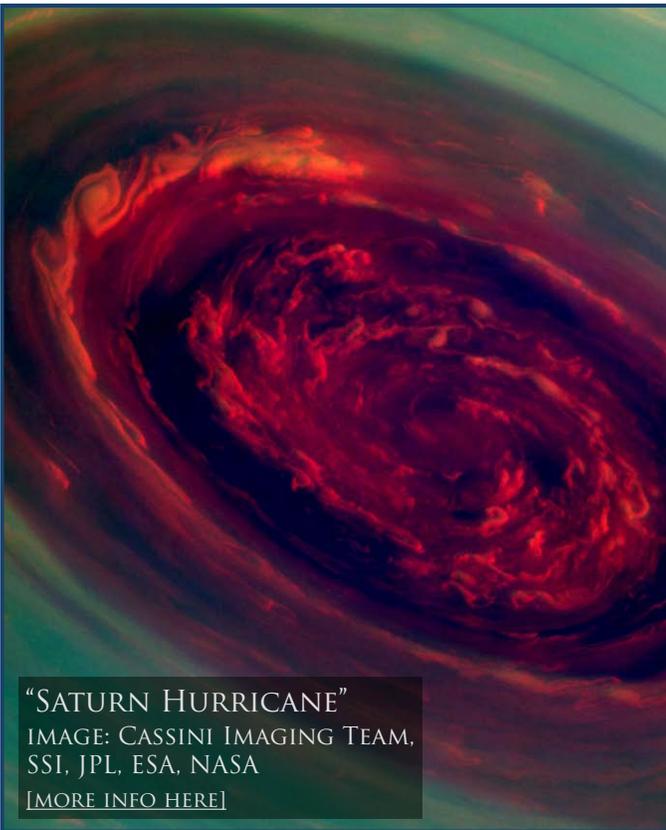
KAS CONTACTS

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The Syzygy: Florencio A. Ortiz	661-378-7391	KAS_Syzygy@yahoo.com



MAY 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
28 moon ↑ 11:11 pm moon ↓ 8:33 pm sun ↓ 7:40	29	30	1	2 	3 ○ KAS Meeting	4 ○ Lockwood 7:00p
5 moon ↑ 3:24 am moon ↓ 3:58 pm sun ↓ 7:46	6	7	8	9 	10	11
12 moon ↑ 7:54 am moon ↓ 10:21 pm sun ↓ 7:51	13 ○ Lockwood 7:00p	14	15	16	17 	18 ○ Russo's Bookstore 7:30p
19 moon ↑ 2:18 pm moon ↓ 2:02 am sun ↓ 7:57	20	21	22	23	24 	25
26 moon ↑ 9:55 pm moon ↓ 7:18 am sun ↓ 8:02	27	28	29	30	31 	1



"SATURN HURRICANE"
IMAGE: CASSINI IMAGING TEAM,
SSI, JPL, ESA, NASA
[MORE INFO HERE]

Our star party site is 50 miles south of the Hwy 99 and Rosedale Hwy. Take Hwy 99 south to I 5 exiting at Frazier Park (exit #205) turning right on to Frazier Mountain Park Rd (going west). 3.7 miles west on Frazier Mountain Park Rd to the four way flashing stop.

If meeting us beforehand at "Caveman's Pizza": At the flashing light turn right on to Monterey Way for .1 miles then left on Mt. Pinos Way for about 300 feet. Caveman Cavey's Pizza is on the left. To get to the star party site from Caveman's go west on Mt Pinos Way for 1.4 miles and turn right back on to Frazier Mountain Park Rd. Go west on Frazier Mountain Park Rd for 1.9 miles and turn left on to Lockwood Valley Rd. Drive down Lockwood Valley Rd. for .9 miles and turn left on to Frazier Mountain Rd and in to the Chuchupate Ranger station. Drive up Frazier Mountain Rd, thru the ranger station, about .5 miles the star party site is on the right.

If you are going directly to the star party site, 7pm: At the flashing light continue west on Frazier Mountain Park Rd 3.3 miles and turn left on to Lockwood Valley Rd. Drive down Lockwood Valley Rd. for .9 miles and turn left on to Frazier Mountain Rd and in to the Chuchupate Ranger Station. Drive up Frazier Mountain Rd, thru the ranger station, about .5 miles the star party site is on the right.

In less than two weeks three teams of young scientists and engineers from Bakersfield College will be traveling to Bozeman, Montana to compete against other college and university teams from across the nation in the National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition. Student teams design, build, and test optical instruments to answer questions about the Sun or use sunlight to investigate some science question about the Earth. One of the three teams from Bakersfield College is using their spectrometer to measure the amount of surface-level ozone, one of the common pollutants in our Bakersfield area air that contributes to asthma and other respiratory problems. Ozone way up high in the stratosphere is the "good ozone" because it blocks much of the ultraviolet light from the Sun from reaching the Earth's surface. Without the ozone layer in the stratosphere, multi-cellular life on the Earth's surface would not be possible and a lot of the water molecules would be broken apart--yes, that stratospheric ozone is definitely "good ozone" but we don't want it down where we breathe because of its nasty effects on our lungs. The team measuring ozone will compare the amount of ozone above Bakersfield with that above Bozeman and later with other parts of California.



Although at first glance it looks like the National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition has a narrow goal of spectroscopy of the Sun, the real goal is to train future scientists and engineers in how to solve problems as a team by working on a real-world science question. Most of the students who participate will probably not go into space science but the experience gained and techniques developed from the competition will be invaluable in whatever future science and engineering problems we'll need them to solve for us. Reading any newspaper shows that we're certainly going to need a lot of home-grown expertise in STEM fields for the future challenges in this county and state and, heck, in our inter-connected world.

This is the first year that Bakersfield College will participate in the competition and we're sending not just one team but three teams. The three teams have received NASA mini-grants to build the spectrographs within the set budget of the mini-grant but the students are going to need your help with travel/lodging costs to the competition judging event in May. At least one of the student teams needs to raise their own money to go to the competition as they are not eligible for special program funding of their travel and lodging costs (over \$1900 for a team of 4). If you or your company would like to encourage these future Bakersfield scientists and engineers, please contact the Bakersfield College Foundation with whatever financial help you would like to provide (it'll even be tax-deductible).

WWW.

- [about Bakersfield College Team](#)
 - [National Student Solar Spectrograph Competition](#)
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