



THE SYZYGY

The Newsletter of the Kern Astronomical Society

No. 496 March April 2016

March 4, 2016

***First Friday of
Every Month***

March 4, 2016 @
[Round Table Pizza](#),
4200 Gosford Road,
Suite 101, Bakersfield, CA

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

- *Messier Marathon (Mike Ponek)*
March 12 and 16
- *Wind Wolves Nature Preserve*
(Mike Ponek and Darren Bly)
Saturday March 19

Dues Point Reached – Sky Humanity

Dues are due in March, \$24.00 per person to be registered with Astronomical League. Dues can be paid at meeting or remitted to Andrea Drake, 5700 March Meadows, Bakersfield, CA 93313. Make checks payable to Kern Astronomical Society. Include any e-mail address changes.

April 1st, 2016

We will have Dr. Bonnie Buratti, Senior Research Scientist Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California on April 1st. She will talk about Dawn and Rosetta Missions. That should be very interesting, no fooling.

Feb. 26th, Mar. 4th, 11th, Panorama Preserve Science Camps
and Apr. 1st. Solar Outreach 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

March 3rd – Bimat School, 8600 Northshore Dr. 6 - 8 pm

March 5th and 12th Dark Sky Nights, Chuchupate (Messiers)

March 17 – Richland School, 331 Shafter Ave., Shafter 6 - 8 pm

March 18 – Harris Elementary, Bakersfield 6 - 8 pm

March 19 – Wind wolves Preserve 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (Solar)

Mar. 23 Penumbral Eclipse 2:30 am

Mar 24 KAS Board Meeting

Apr. 1. General Meeting

(Bonnie Buratti – JPL)

Apr 2 & 9 Dark Sky, Chuchupate

Apr. 16 Public Outreach, Bluffs

April 1st – Meeting with Guest Speaker Bonnie Burratti

Senior Research Scientist at the Jet Propulsions Lab in Pasadena. She will speak on the Dawn and Rosetta Missions.

April 28th KAS Board Meeting, all are welcome!

KAS Solar Outreaches at Panorama Preserve

Our solar outreach group will be one of the stations for school tours to the Panorama Preserve below the bluffs. The dates are Feb. 26, Mar. 4, Mar. 11, and Apr. 1. Each one is on a Friday. Setup is at 8:00 am and we should be finished by noon. The students will be in groups of about 12 to 15 depending on the size of the school. It is good to have as many solar scopes as possible in case we have clouds, and viewing time is limited or intermittent. The students get a good briefing on eye safety with the sun and the importance of having filters through which to look. Then they are divided into groups to look at the sunspots and prominences.



Photo Courtesy of Don Belflower

Wind Wolves Festival Solar Outreach

This year, the Wind Wolves Nature Festival will be held at the preserve on March 19th and 20th. **We will be participating on the 19th.** While the festival will run from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm we may not get started with the solar viewing until after 9:00 am or when the sun clears the trees. Last year we were set up on the south side of the main building. If you are bringing a scope consider parking in close proximity to that side of the headquarters. Last year we were able to use temporary parking in the upper parking lot to unload equipment, though it was a bit hectic unless you arrived early. Bring your own food and water, hats and sunscreen. Weather will determine your outerwear. The window for solar viewing will probably end around 4:00 pm. Admission is free.

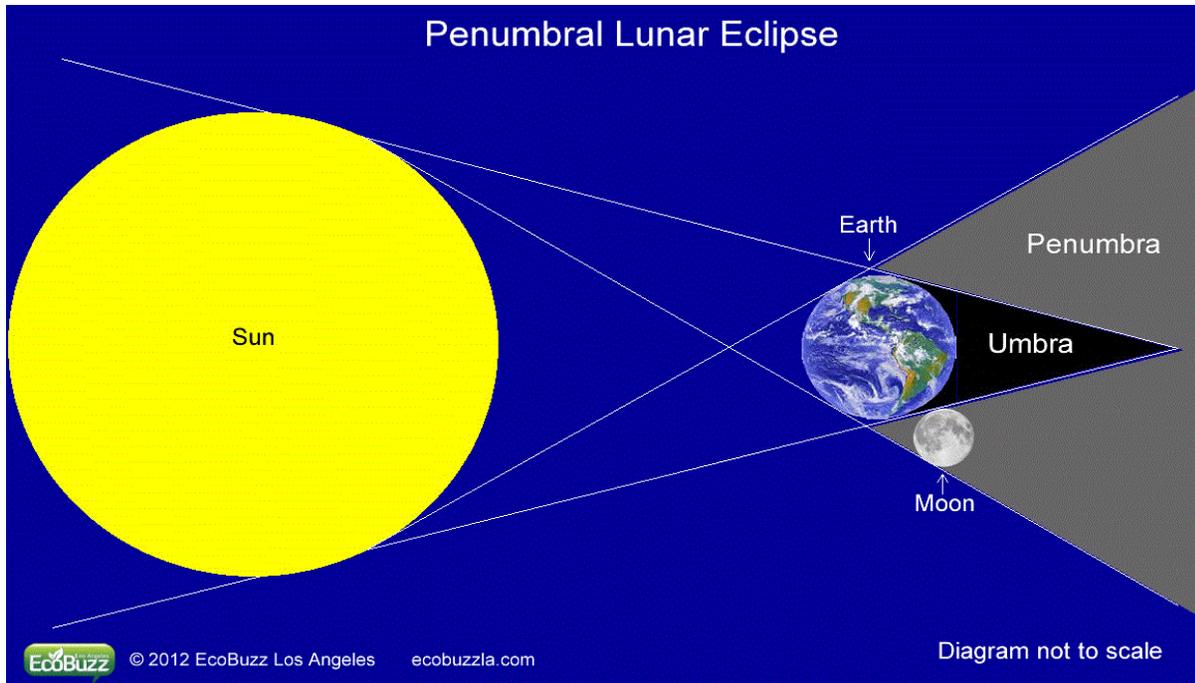
If needed, check our calendar for a map. More can be found out about the preserve at wildlandsconservancy.org. If you click on the picture about the nature festival you will go to a

page with a video at the bottom of the 2015 festival featuring our own Darren Bly and some of the telescopes from last year's event. Even if you do not have a solar scope, this can be a fun outing with plenty of activities, and you can stop by and see how we are doing. We should have both white light filter telescopes for sunspots and PST's for solar prominences and filaments. All of the telescopes use special filters to protect your eyes.

Penumbral Eclipse – March 23

In contrast to a full or partial lunar eclipse where the Earth is positioned between the sun and the moon and casts its dark, umbral shadow, in a penumbral eclipse the Earth will cast a silvery gray shadow on the moon. The moon continues to receive direct shine from one edge of the sun while a shadow is created by the Earth blocking light from the other edge of the sun. The Earth itself does not actually get in the way, only part of its shadow. While it begins quite early on Wednesday, it ends at a reasonable time.

Begins	2:37 am
Maximum (about $\frac{3}{4}$)	4:47 am
Ends	6:54 am



For Sale:

Pro-Optic 11x70 Binoculars \$45
 BAK-4 Prisms
 Multi-Coated Optics
 Field of View = 4°
 Weight = 45 ounces
 These binoculars can be handheld
 and are great for astronomy.
 Comes with hard case.
 Contact Walter at 837-4649



Who We Are (kernastro.org)

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 \$24.00 which also provides membership in the Amateur Astronomical League, access to their newsletter (*Reflector Magazine*), and participation in observational programs.

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 buying one. Using different telescopes and discussing the pros and cons of the different styles will facilitate making a choice that is right for you. If you have a club telescope it is expected that you will participate in at least one Star Party.

- 6" f/6, 8" f/6, 10" f/5.6, 13" f/4.5

Club Star Parties

The Kern Astronomical Society usually has 2 star parties per month depending on the weather. Our club star parties are held on Saturdays. Our primary date is the weekend of the new moon, with the secondary date being the Saturday before or after the new moon which is least effected by the moon's light.

We also host outreach star parties for schools and other organizations upon request. In addition, we host public outreach star parties in public locations like the Panorama Bluffs Walking Park usually during the warmer months on a Saturday near a first quarter moon. You may get current information from our coordinator, Darren Bly, or by checking the society's calendar.