



The Sonora Astronomical Society's SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS

APRIL 2024

April Meeting Details

DATE: April **CANCELED** for Eclipse
MEETING TIME: 0:00 PM
PLACE: La Posada Rec Center & Zoom
MEETING SCHEDULE:
(6:30 ZOOM Waiting Room Available)
7:00 Meeting Intro and Welcome
7:10 Featured Presentation Followed
by Club Activities/Business

Next Member Star Parties

DATE: Thursday, April 4th, 2024
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Canoa Preserve Park

**LOOKING AHEAD -
THE FOLLOWING STAR PARTY WILL BE:**

DATE: Thursday, May 9th, 2024
TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Canoa Preserve Park

NOTE: If you have a telescope that you don't know how to use, or are looking to buy a telescope and want to compare different telescopes, join us at a star party and we can give you some help.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT CLUB MEETING
DATE: May 14th, 2024
LOCATION: La Posada Rec. Center
TIME: 7:00 P.M. (in person + Zoom)
Speaker: T B A
Subject: T B A

April Presentation

SPECIAL SOLAR ECLIPSE EXPERIENCE

If you are unable to travel to see the Solar Eclipse in person, below is an internet link just for You;

Watch Live

2024 Total Solar Eclipse

Join NASA experts on April 8, 2024, for a broadcast of the total solar eclipse.

Want to see more? Tune in to the website streams below for telescope live feeds of the total solar eclipse across the path, a broadcast in Spanish, and a live stream of sounding rockets launching during the eclipse.

Click on or copy and paste this link:

<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/live/>

ENJOY

Speaker:
Topic:
Abstract:
Biography:

SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS

PRESIDENTS NOTES

Greetings everyone,

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN APRIL.

No one will be around to conduct the meeting.

Our run of club star party cancellations continued as the March club star party at Canoa Preserve Park got cancelled due to weather. Maybe the April star party will be better. If you are a club member who needs a little help with your scope, bring it to the club star party and someone will try to assist you.

The Tucson astronomy club is picking up most of the public star parties we used to do, but they can have difficulty getting people this far south. Canoa Ranch will be holding numerous star parties. I would like to know if anyone would like to volunteer to assist TAAA. Please contact me if you think you could contribute.

Public star parties are still ongoing. There are no public star parties scheduled for April at this point.

We are still looking for someone to step into the president's position. I won't live forever. To keep this club viable, we need people to step up and help out. Otherwise, it will not last.

Finally be sure to check out our website. Joe has done a great job to keep it relevant.

Stay safe,

John Dwyer
President

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MEMBER EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Have a telescope or other astronomy equipment for sale? Contact John Dwyer with your item(s) to get them listed here.

The SAS website has a good one-page article from Sky & Telescope that can help get you started. Copy and paste this link:

<https://sonoraastronomicalsociety.org/newsletters/>

Basic monthly star charts are now available on the website Home page yellow banner.

The website also has a list of suggestions of Planetarium Apps for your phone, several FREE!

SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS

THE APRIL SKY

SKY HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL

Jupiter is extremely low in the evening western sky this month as the Sun sets. It may be down to 10° as it approaches conjunction with the Sun by the middle of next month. **Uranus** will be lost in the bright evening twilight as it approaches solar conjunction next month along with Jupiter. **Saturn** is still rather low in the eastern sky at sunrise. However, on the morning of the 11th it will be within .5° of Mars. **Mars** is still very low in the morning sky about as it wanders east towards the Sun while Saturn is moving West. **Nep- tunc**, now rising in the morning sky, will pass Mars at the end of the month. **Venus** will be very low in the eastern morning sky as it approaches conjunction with the Sun in early June. **Mercury** is moving back towards the Sun and will reach conjunction on the 11th. It will creep back into the morning sky by the end of the month.

There are two comets under mag 10 now viewable. Comet **12P/Pons-Brooks** is a well-known short pe- riod comet. It is now close to naked eye visibility at mag 5.5 as it moves from Aries into Taurus this month. It is predicted to brighten to about magnitude 4.5 by late in the month as it reaches perihelion on the 21st. At the start of April, it will be low in the western sky hanging at about 20° above the horizon. By the end of April, it will drop to about 10° above the horizon. **Comet C/2024 S3 (PanSTARRS)** reached perihelion in mid-February. It is about 9th mag now and will be fading. It is rolling from Aquila into Cygnus in April.

Of course, the big event this month will be the total solar eclipse on the 8th. Totality will last almost 4.5 minutes along the centerline. Here in southeast Ari- zona, the eclipse will only be partial as the Moon will cover about 70% of the Sun. The state of Texas will see an influx of people wishing to view the total eclipse. I will be among them. The weather on that day is not yet known, but prior statistics indicate there will be about a 50% probability of cloud cover. The one thing that can be predicted is monster traffic jams throughout the state especially if people are moving around the state to find clear skies.

APRIL MOON/SUN TIMES

DATE	M-Rise	M-Set	M-Phase	Sun-set	Star Party
Mon 04/01	1:13	10:56	3rd Qtr	18:44	
Tue 04/02	2:09	12:01		18:44	
Wed 04/03	2:59	13:11		18:45	
Thu 04/04	3:42	14:22		18:46	S.A.S. SP
Fri 04/05	4:20	15:34		18:46	
Sat 04/06	4:54	16:44		18:47	
Sun 04/07	5:27	17:55		18:48	
Mon 04/08	5:59	19:06	New	18:49	
Tue 04/09	6:32	20:17		18:49	NO MEET- ING
Wed 04/10	7:09	21:30		18:50	
Thu 04/11	7:51	22:40		18:51	
Fri 04/12	8:39	23:46		18:51	
Sat 04/13	9:33	-----		18:52	
Sun 04/14	10:31	0:44		18:53	
Mon 04/15	11:32	1:35	1st Qtr	18:53	
Tue 04/16	12:32	2:16		18:54	
Wed 04/17	13:31	2:52		18:55	
Thu 04/18	14:27	3:22		18:55	
Fri 04/19	15:23	3:49		18:56	
Sat 04/20	16:16	4:14		18:57	
Sun 04/21	17:10	4:38		18:58	
Mon 04/22	18:05	5:03		18:58	
Tue 04/23	19:02	5:29	Full	18:59	
Wed 04/24	20:02	5:58		19:00	
Thu 04/25	21:04	6:30		19:00	
Fri 04/26	22:06	7:10		19:01	
Sat 04/27	23:08	7:56		19:02	
Sun 04/28	-----	8:51		19:03	
Mon 04/29	0:05	9:53		19:03	
Tue 04/30	0:55	10:59		19:04	
					(S)=Solar

SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS

THE STARGAZER'S CORNER:

This article is distributed by NASA's Night Sky Network (NSN).

Participate in Eclipse Science

By Kat Troche

April is NASA's Citizen Science Month, and there is no shortage of projects available. Here are some [citizen science projects](#) that you can participate in on April 8th, on and off the path of totality right from your smartphone!



Eclipse Soundscapes, ARISA Lab / NASA

Eclipse Soundscapes

Eclipse Soundscapes will compare data from a 1932 study on how eclipses affect wildlife – in this case, crickets. There are a number of ways you can participate, both on and off the path. NOTE: you must be 13 and older to submit data. Participants 18+ can apply to receive the free Data Collector kit. Learn more at: eclipse-soundscapes.org/

GLOBE Eclipse

Folks that participated in the **GLOBE Eclipse 2017** will be glad to see that their eclipse data portal is now open! With the GLOBE Observer smartphone app, you can measure air temperature and clouds during the eclipse, contributing data to the GLOBE program from anywhere you are. Learn more at: observer.globe.gov/

.(Continued Next Page)

THE STARGAZER'S CORNER (CONTINUED):



HamSCI, The University of Scranton / NASA

HamSCI

HamSCI stands for **Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation**. HamSCI has been actively engaged in scientific data collection for both the October 14, 2023, annular solar eclipse and the upcoming April 8, 2024, total eclipse. Two major activities that HamSCI will be involved in around the solar events will be the **Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP)** and the **Gladstone Signal Spotting Challenge (GSSC)** which are part of the HamSCI Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science. Learn more about these experiments and others at: ham-sci.org/eclipse

SunSketcher

If you're traveling to totality, help the **SunSketcher** team measure the oblateness, or shape, of the Sun during the eclipse by timing the flashes of Baily's Beads. You will need a smartphone with a working camera for this, along with something to hold the phone in place - don't forget a spare battery! NOTE: The app will need to run from five minutes *before* the eclipse starts until the end of the eclipse. Any additional phone use will result in Sun Sketcher data loss. Learn more at: sunskecher.org/



Don't stop at the eclipse - NASA has citizen science projects you can do all year long – from [cloud spotting on Mars](#) to [hunting for distant planets](#)! By contributing to these research efforts, you can help NASA make new discoveries and scientific breakthroughs, resulting in a better understanding of the world around us, from the critters on the ground, to the stars in our sky.

We'll be highlighting other citizen science projects with our mid-month article on the [Night Sky Network](#) page, but we want to wish all you eclipse chasers out there a very happy, and safe solar eclipse! For last minute activities, check out Night Sky Network's [Solar Eclipse Resources section](#)!

SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS

S.A.S. CLUB OFFICERS

OFFICE/POSITION	NAME	PHONE NO.
Chairman of the Board	Open	
President	John Dwyer	(520) 393-3680
Secretary	Michael Moraghan	(520) 399-3352
Treasurer	John McGee	(520) 207-6188
Star party Coordinator	Open	(520) 303-6920
Newsletter Editor	Joe Castor	(620) 584-4454
Webmaster	Joe Castor	(620) 584-4454
ALCOR* (Currently Inactive)	Inactive	(520) 396-3576
NSN** Representative	Open	(520) 303-6920
Past President Emeritus	Open	
*Astronomical League		
**Night Sky Network		

WHY JOIN SAS

1. SAS Family Membership Fee is only \$15.00 per year.
2. SAS monthly newsletter "The Sonoran Starry Nights."
3. Top-quality astronomy lectures by local astronomers!
4. SAS Discount for Astronomy Magazine \$34.00 for 1yr or \$60.00 for 2 yr renewed through our treasurer.
5. SAS Discount subscription rate for Sky & Telescope Magazine — self-renewed.
6. RASC Observer's Handbook at a discount, \$30.00.
7. SAS T-Shirts for sale for \$10.00—M, L, XL.
8. Member of International Dark-sky Association (IDA).
9. SAS Discount for Astronomy 2020 Calendar \$10.00
10. SAS monthly Member Star Parties.
11. SAS Telescope and astronomy book loan programs.
12. SAS outreach to astronomy education in schools.
13. SAS fellowship with other amateur astronomers!

CLUB DUES

Dues (family or individual) are \$15 annually, payable each year in the month you initially joined the club. You will receive a reminder in the monthly newsletter e-mail of your due date. You can either pay at the club meeting or mail it to the club's address (S.A.S., P.O. Box 1081, Green Valley, AZ, 85622).

SAS WEBSITE

If you want to keep up-to-date with club activities, such as star parties, etc., check out our website (and Calendar) at:

[HTTPS://sonoraastronomicalsociety.org](https://sonoraastronomicalsociety.org)

SAS STATISTICS & FINANCES

Lifetime Members: 1
 Individual & Family Members: 114
Total Membership: 115

Bank Balance as of January 31: \$2,017.21
 Deposits / (D/Ws): \$90.00 / (\$744..87)
Bank Balance as of February 29: \$ 1,362.34
 (March numbers not available at time of publishing)

SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS

LOCAL ASTRO-IMAGING GROUP: Sonoran Desert Astro Imagers (SDAI) (Larry Phillips, Coordinator)

Are you interested in Astrophotography or are you currently involved in imaging the skies? Please plan to join our monthly meeting of the Sonoran Desert Astro Imagers group. Our meetings focus on improving our skills, helping each other, workshops, and field trips. Please send your Name and E-mail address to my address below and we'll include you in the emailing notices of monthly meetings; "the when and where meeting notice." Do you have any questions? If so, call me (Larry Phillips) at (520) 777-8027 or email to llp41astro@cox.net. Clear Skies! Larry Phillips

ABOUT THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE



While SAS is no longer an active member of the Astronomical League, a SAS member may join the Astronomical League as an at-large member. What are the advantages to joining the AL?

1. You can receive various observing awards by joining an "observing club" and observing the required number of objects. There are all levels of clubs from beginner to advanced, viewing constellations to deep-sky objects and using either your naked eyes, binoculars, or a telescope. Contact our ALCOR rep Burley Packwood for details.
2. You can get a 10% discount on books purchased through the AL Book Service.
3. You will receive the AL's quarterly "Reflector" magazine which keeps you up to date on all the AL activities.

More info at www.astroleague.org

SAS IS A MEMBER OF IDA



SAS is proud to be a member of the International Dark-Sky Association, supporting the reduction in light pollution around the U.S. and the world. More info at www.darksky.org

SAS NON-PROFIT STATUS

The Sonora Astronomical Society is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit charitable organization! SAS has a CERTIFICATE OF GOOD STANDING from the State of Arizona Corporation Commission!

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

To renew your Sky and Telescope Magazine at the Club Rate, you can go directly to their website, or to order it new, or to order or renew Astronomy Magazine, contact the Club Treasurer.

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