



The Sonora Astronomical Society's **SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS**

MARCH 2024

March Meeting Details

DATE: Tuesday, March 12th, 2024

MEETING TIME: 7:00 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, March 7th, 2024

TIME: 6:15 PM

PLACE: Canoa Preserve Park

LOOKING AHEAD -

THE FOLLOWING STAR PARTY WILL BE:

DATE: Thursday, April 4th, 2024

TIME: 6:30 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: APRIL Meeting is Canceled

LOCATION: La Posada Rec. Center

TIME: 0:00 P.M. (in person + Zoom)

Speaker: CANCELED Due to Eclipse

Subject: All Meeting Leaders will be Gone
-for TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

March Presentation

Speaker: John Dwyer, President of S.A.S.

Topic: Overview of the Eclipse Orchestrator Software

Abstract: This software controls cameras during a solar eclipse or Venus/Mercury transit so that you can be free to concentrate on observing the event visually. Preprogram all exposures using our handy script wizard customized for your exact coordinates and camera. Enter your latitude/longitude coordinates and the software will automatically calculate local circumstances for you. Then, all camera actions can be timed in reference to these specific eclipse events. All features are optional, so the program can be used for as little or as much as desired.

Available in two versions, Free and Pro (\$109). Throughout this website and the program itself, (P) or (Pro Only) indicates that feature is available only in the paid Pro version. Pro version license key is available for purchase online at: icstars.com

Biography:

SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS

PRESIDENTS NOTES

Greetings everyone,

We will continue our live/ZOOM hybrid meetings at the La Posada Rec Center.

Our run of club star party cancellations continued as the February club star party at Canoa Preserve Park got cancelled due to weather. Our upcoming March star party is also in question at this point. 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 is one public star party scheduled for March 29th at Historic Canoa Ranch.

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 MARCH SKY

SKY HIGHLIGHTS FOR MARCH

Jupiter is still visible in the evening sky this month. It is high in the southwest sky at sunset and glows brightly at a magnitude of about -2. **Saturn** is emerging into the morning sky from its conjunction with the Sun last month. It is still a little too close to the Sun for viewing. **Uranus**, trailing about 8° behind Jupiter, is still viewable in the evening sky at magnitude 5.8. **Neptune** will reach solar conjunction on the 17th. **Mars** is still very low in the morning sky about 10° ahead of Venus. **Venus**, at just under -4.0, will rise about an hour before the Sun as it continues to move eastward toward the Sun. **Mercury** will be very visible in the evening sky this month as it reaches greatest eastern elongation of 19° from the Sun on the 23rd.

There are two comets under mag 10 now viewable. Comet **12P/Pons-Brooks** is a well-known short period comet. It is now almost naked eye visibility at mag 6.5 as it moves through Andromeda this month. It could brighten a couple of more magnitudes by April as it reaches perihelion on the 21st. It will be low in the western sky hanging at about 20° above the horizon for much of March. As we move into April, it will drop to about 10° above the horizon by the end of the month. I was easily able to view it in my 16x70 binoculars on the evening of the 4th as it sat about 10° below the Andromeda Galaxy. **Comet C/2024 S3 (PanSTARRS)** reached perihelion in mid-February. It is just under 10th mag now and will be fading. It is rolling from Ophiuchus into Sagitta in March.

MARCH MOON/SUN TIMES

DATE	M-Rise	M-Set	M-Phase	Sun-set	Star Party
Fri 03/01	-----	9:53		18:22	
Sat 03/02	0:15	10:29	3rd Qtr	18:23	
Sun 03/03	1:18	11:14		18:23	
Mon 03/04	2:21	12:06		18:24	
Tue 03/05	3:22	13:09		18:25	
Wed 03/06	4:17	14:18		18:26	
Thu 03/07	5:07	15:32		18:26	SAS S.P.
Fri 03/08	5:49	16:46		18:27	
Sat 03/09	6:26	17:59		18:28	
Sun 03/10	7:00	19:11	New	18:29	
Mon 03/11	7:32	20:21		18:29	
Tue 03/12	8:04	21:32		18:30	SAS Meeting
Wed 03/13	8:39	22:42		18:31	
Thu 03/14	9:18	23:51		18:31	
Fri 03/15	10:01	-----		18:32	
Sat 03/16	10:50	0:58	1st Qtr	18:33	
Sun 03/17	11:44	1:59		18:33	
Mon 03/18	12:42	2:52		18:34	
Tue 03/19	13:42	3:38		18:35	
Wed 03/20	14:40	4:17		18:36	
Thu 03/21	15:38	4:50		18:36	
Fri 03/22	16:34	5:20		18:37	
Sat 03/23	17:29	5:46		18:38	
Sun 03/24	18:22	6:10		18:38	
Mon 03/25	19:17	6:34	Full	18:39	
Tue 03/26	20:12	6:59		18:40	
Wed 03/27	21:09	7:26		18:40	
Thu 03/28	22:09	7:55		18:41	
Fri 03/29	23:11	8:29		18:42	Canoa Ranch
Sat 03/30	-----	9:11		18:42	
Sun 03/31	0:13	9:59		18:43	

(S)=Solar

SONORAN STARRY NIGHTS

THE STARGAZER'S CORNER:

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

Constant Companions: Circumpolar Constellations, Part II

By Kat Troche

As the seasons shift from Winter to Spring, heralding in the promise of warmer weather here in the northern hemisphere, our circumpolar constellations remain the same. Depending on your latitude, you will be able to see up to nine circumpolar constellations. This month, we'll focus on: **Lynx**, **Camelopardalis**, and **Perseus**. The objects within these constellations can all be spotted with a pair of binoculars or a small to medium-sized telescope, depending on your [Bortle scale](#) – the darkness of your night skies.



In the appearance of left to right: constellations Perseus, Camelopardalis, and Lynx in the night sky. Also featured: Cassiopeia as a guide constellation, and Capella as a guide star.

Credit: Stellarium Web

Double Stars: The area that comprises the constellation Lynx is famous for its multiple star systems, all of which can be separated with a telescope under dark skies. Some of the notable stars in Lynx are the following:

12 Lyncis – a triple star that can be resolved with a medium-sized telescope.

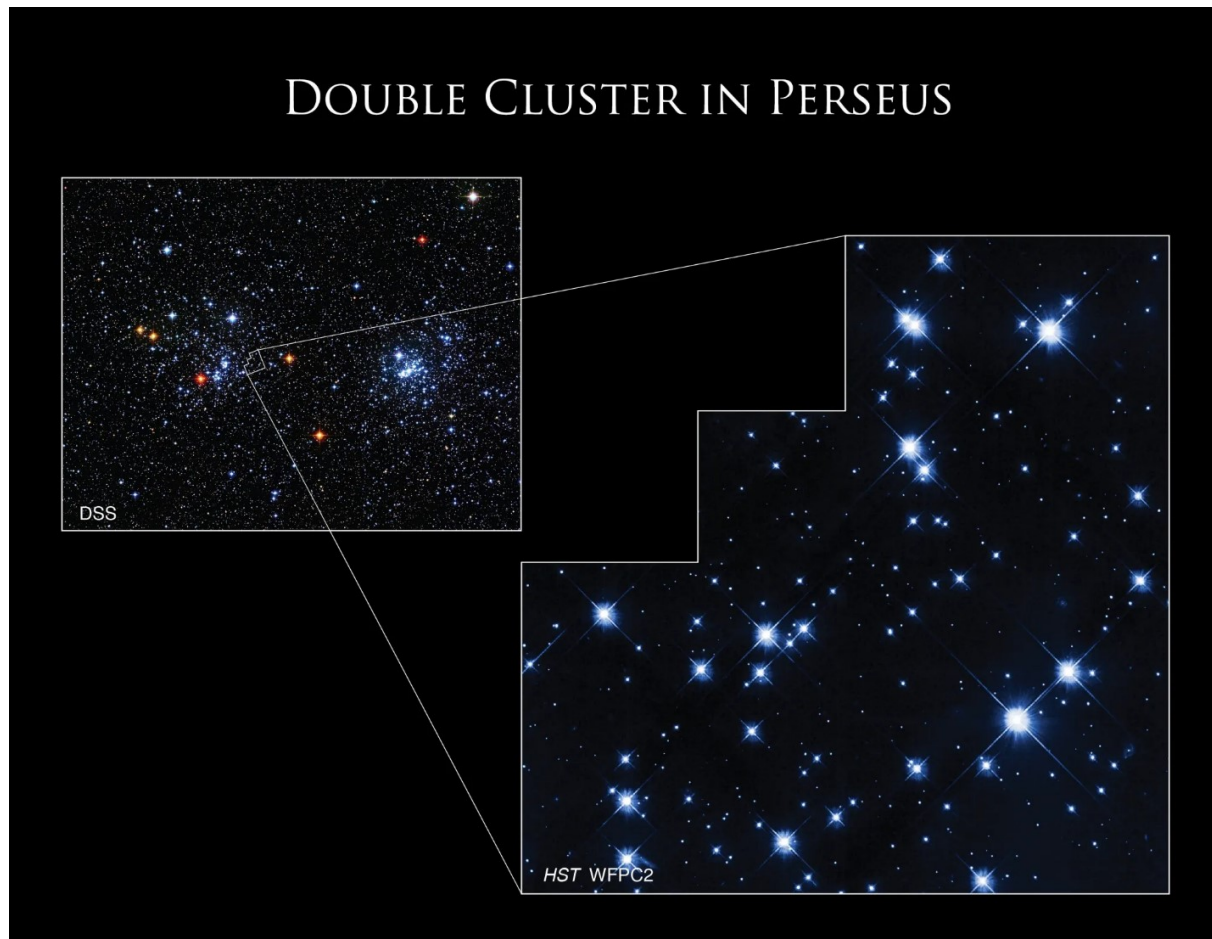
10 Ursae Majoris – a double star that was once a part of Ursa Major.

38 Lyncis – a double star that is described as blue-white and lilac.

.(Continued Next Page)

THE STARGAZER'S CORNER (CONTINUED):

Kemble's Cascade: This [asterism](#) located in Camelopardalis, has over 20 stars, ranging in visible magnitude (brightness) and temperature. The stars give the appearance of flowing in a straight line leading to the Jolly Roger Cluster (NGC 1502). On the opposite side of this constellation, you find the asterism **Kemble's Kite**. All three objects can be spotted with a pair of binoculars or a telescope and require moderate dark skies.



A ground-based image from the Digitized Sky Survey (DSS) in the upper left shows Caldwell 14, the Double Cluster in Perseus, with an outline of the region imaged by Hubble's Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 (WFPC2). Ground-based image: Digitized Sky Survey (DSS); Hubble image: NASA, ESA, and S. Casertano (Space Telescope Science Institute); Processing: Gladys Kober (NASA/Catholic University of America)

Double Cluster: The constellation Perseus contains the beautiful Double Cluster, two open star clusters (NGC 869 and 884) approximately 7,500 light-years from Earth. This object can be spotted with a small telescope or binoculars and is photographed by amateur and professional photographers alike. It can even be seen with the naked eye in very dark skies. Also in Perseus lies **Algol, the Demon Star**. Algol is a triple-star system that contains an eclipsing binary, meaning two of its three stars constantly orbit each other. Because of this orbit, you can watch the brightness dim every two days, 20 hours, 49 minutes – for 10-hour periods at a time. For a visual representation of this, revisit [NASA's What's Up: November 2019](#).

From constellations you can see all year to a once in a lifetime event! Up next, find out how you can partner with NASA volunteers for the April 8, 2024, total solar eclipse with our upcoming mid-month article on the [Night Sky Network](#) page through NASA's website!

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

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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