



ASTRONOMY  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022



Image credit– Kevin Legore (copyright image)

## **CONE NEBULA - NGC 2264**

By Kevin Legore – Focus Astronomy Outreach

The Cone nebula (NGC 2264) is a nebula and open cluster (Christmas Tree Cluster) located in the constellation Monoceros at a distance of 2200 lightyears. The cluster was originally discovered by William Herschel in 1784. A year later he discovered the nebula portion of the region. Over 80 stars make up the cluster which is visible in binoculars.

The aid of a UHC filter can help in bringing out the nebula further. Photographically, it is easy with the modern-day equipment from both dark skies and backyards.

This image combines H-alpha data that was captured several weeks ago with color data acquired last night (01/22/2022). The H-alpha data was used as a Luminance channel but reduced a bit so that it doesn't overpower the image.

***Kevin Legore is a member of AAA and owner of Focus Astronomy Outreach. He is also the Senior Product Specialist for Sky-Watcher USA. He will be conducting our Astrophotography class in April 2022.***



## **DISCOVERING THE NIGHT SKY**

By the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society

Is that a bright star or a planet? Where's the constellation Orion? Your first task as an amateur astronomer is to learn your way around the night sky. We'll show you how to find any star or constellation in the night sky with the use of a simple star map or planisphere. We'll also look at a wealth of other celestial wonders you can observe with just your eyes alone.

Discovering the Night Sky is the second part of a 5 part series offered to our Association by the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. Many of our members have already participated in Part 1 of the series. Not too late to get involved with Part 2 this coming Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am Arizona Time. Sign on to <https://www.kasonline.org/amastro.html>. It's an interactive Zoom call with more than 1,000 participants from around the world.

*The telescope in the image above is in one of two Kalamazoo Astronomical Society's observatories. This one is a remote telescope in southeastern Arizona (Arizona Sky Village). It's a CDK20, 20" PlaneWave reflector. It measures 47 inches in length, with a Takahashi FSQ-106EX3 refractor. It's mounted atop a Software Bisque Paramount ME II German Equatorial Mount. The image below is of the dark sky site in Arizona.*





## **UPDATE OF EVENTS – 2022**



Image Credit – Jim Palmer, Skyline Park Star Party

We have several events planned for 2022. This will include outreach events, classroom initiatives for beginners, guest lecture programs and special events including the lunar eclipse. Here's an update since our last newsletter:

## Club & Public Events:

- **January 15 – March 12, 2022 – Introduction to Amateur Astronomy** – Free Online Course presented by the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society. Members are encouraged to register and attend the course.
- **February 18 & 19, 2022 – Buckeye SciTech Festival** at the Buckeye Municipal Airport. Here's a link: <https://www.buckeyeaz.gov/community/residents/events-in-buckeye/buckeye-air-fair/activities> . AAA will have solar viewing and educational interactive desktop demonstrations.
- **February 26, 2022 – Education Advisory Board Meeting.** Center On Main
- **March 27, 2022 – Verrado Annual Founder's Day** picnic at Founder's Park. AAA will be participating with solar viewing and education activities. Members invited to attend. Time is usually from 11am – 2pm. Will let you know the actual time at a later date.
- **April, 2022 – AAA Membership Meeting,** Center On Main, date and time to be announced later.
- **April 9, 2022 – Star gazing at Skyline Regional Park,** 2600 N. Watson Road, Buckeye, AZ from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. AAA presenting the star party with the City of Buckeye. Please come early. Anywhere from 200 – 400 usually come to this event.
- **April 16, 2022 (Tentative) Basic Astrophotography** workshop presented by Kevin Legore, of Focus Astronomy Outreach at the Center On Main in Verrado.
- **May 15, 2022 – Total Lunar Eclipse viewing at Redmond Ball Field.** Time to be determined. Location and directions can be found on your Night Sky Network or AAA website.
- **June 18 to 25, 2022 – Grand Canyon Annual Star Party.** We usually have 10-15 Association participants (of the more than 50 telescopes) on the south rim for the event. Our Director of Operations, Jim Palmer, will talk with anyone interested in attending. Contact Jim at [info@astronomyassociationarizona.org](mailto:info@astronomyassociationarizona.org) for more information.
- **December 8, 2022 - Mars Opposition** – Redmond Ball Field. Youth program on the Mars Perseverance Rover.
- **Membership Meetings 2022** – Four to be scheduled for April, June, October, November.
- **Additional Classes & Outreach events 2022** – Solar System/Stellar Class, Telescopes & Optics, White Tanks Conservancy Youth Program (Private), Victory Under the Stars (Private), City of Chandler Stargazing, Stargazing at Skyline Regional Park (2 more events),

## Private Events:

**March 3, 2022 – Challenger Space Center,** daytime solar viewing and evening star party. Fund raising event for the Center.

**March 4, 2022** – Northwest Christian School, evening star party.

**March 9, 2022 Sterling Grove Community** – Star party for members of the community. Those in the community check with your Lifestyle Director for place and time.

**March 17, 2022 Saint Kosmos Annual Education Conference** – Gold Canyon Resort.  
Members registered with the conference only.

**March Tentative – Pioneer Elementary School**, evening star party event for the students. Still in the planning stages.

**April 7, 2022, Grand Canyon University** – Restricted to invitees only.

*Note: Private events, donations and sponsorships are one of the ways we fund many of our education programs. This provides quality learning for members, the underutilized and economically challenged population.*

*If you happen to reside in one of the communities listed, please check with your community organization to participate.*

## Volunteers

We restructured our organization in April, 2021. Our activity has increased beyond what we had anticipated. Along with all that's been happening and what we see coming, our resources will soon be stretched beyond our capabilities. We can use anyone that cares to volunteer. It doesn't matter what your skills or focus of interest, please contact us at:

[Info@AstronomyAssociationArizona.org](mailto:Info@AstronomyAssociationArizona.org).

We are heavily dependent on donors or sponsors to fund our activities. We are a nonprofit, tax advantaged 501c3 corporation. Depending on your tax position, this is an opportunity to give to a primarily education organization that reaches out to our community to serve everyone and anyone that has the desire to learn more about science. This is regardless of who they are or what their economic status. Please help us deliver on our mission by making a contribution.

Regards,

*Ken*

**Kenyon A. Spencer, President & CEO**



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