

## AD ASTRA KANSAS FOUNDATION

A 501c3 organization promoting Kansas science education

*Look for us and our educational opportunities:*

**FEB. 12**—Teacher's Night Out @ Kansas Cosmosphere

**APRIL 1**—Spring issue Ad Astra Kansas (AAK) News

**APRIL 11**—KATS Kamp@Rock Springs

**APRIL 25**—AAK Annual Space Celebration in Topeka

**SEPTEMBER**—GALAXY Forum @ Kansas

Cosmosphere /date TBA

**OCT 1**—Fall issue AAK News

*To receive our free newsletter and / or information about upcoming events, send request to: [contact@adastra-ks.org](mailto:contact@adastra-ks.org)*

*Website: [www.adastra-ks.org](http://www.adastra-ks.org)*

### Space Dates 2015

- **Feb 22**—Conjunction of VENUS and MARS —visible in the west just after sunset. Venus is obvious, Mars not so much. Without a map you won't know which "star" is Mars .
- **March 6**—DAWN at CERES. NASA's Dawn spacecraft will encounter the dwarf planet Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Ceres is 590 miles (950) kilometers in diameter and round in shape. Dawn will spend several months studying Ceres and will send back the first close-up images of a dwarf planet in our Solar System.

- **April 11-17, 1970** — 45th anniversary flight of Apollo 13—The third U.S. mission to land men on the moon nearly ended in tragedy. As the spacecraft neared the Moon, an explosion damaged its command module. Improvising solutions, the astronauts were able to return safely to Earth.

- **April 24, 1990**—25th anniversary of deployment of Hubble Space Telescope from the Space Shuttle by Kansas Steve Hawley. The Hubble has given us many important astronomical discoveries such as the prevalence of black holes, evidence of extrasolar planets, and mages of galaxies billions of light years away.

- **July 1 - A Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter.** Look for this bright pairing in the western sky just after sunset. Should be easy to see.

- **July 14 - New Horizons at Pluto.** NASA's New Horizons spacecraft is scheduled to arrive at Pluto after a 9 1/2 year journey. It will give us our first close-up views of the dwarf planet and its moons. Next, the spacecraft will continue on to the Kuiper belt to examine other icy bodies at the edge of the Solar System.

- **September 27- Total Lunar Eclipse.** Visible from about 8 p.m. to about 11:30 p.m. Should be good!

- **October 20-30** - A rare, 3-planet **Conjunction of Venus, Mars, and Jupiter.** To the east in a tight 1-degree triangle about 5 a.m. Venus and Jupiter will be bright. Mars will be fainter, but look slightly red/orange. **October 26** - A bright **Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter.** Look to the east just before sunrise .

- **December 7 - Conjunction of the Moon and Venus.** In the east just before sunrise, around 5 A.M. Venus will be really close to the waning crescent Moon.

**FIND ACTIVITIES at [www.solarsystem.nasa.gov/edu/lessons.cfm](http://www.solarsystem.nasa.gov/edu/lessons.cfm) Click on Solar System Exploration, Education, Fast Lesson Finder. Lessons align to NGSS.**

## AD ASTRA KANSAS FOUNDATION

A 501c3 organization promoting Kansas science education

*Look for us and our educational opportunities:*

**FEB. 12**—Teacher's Night Out @ Kansas Cosmosphere

**APRIL 1**—Spring issue Ad Astra Kansas (AAK) News

**APRIL 11**—KATS Kamp@Rock Springs

**APRIL 25**—AAK Annual Space Celebration in Topeka

**SEPTEMBER**—GALAXY Forum @ Kansas

Cosmosphere /date TBA

**OCT 1**—Fall issue AAK News

*To receive our free newsletter and / or information about upcoming events, send request to: [contact@adastra-ks.org](mailto:contact@adastra-ks.org)*

*Website: [www.adastra-ks.org](http://www.adastra-ks.org)*

### Space Dates 2015

- **Feb 22**—Conjunction of VENUS and MARS —visible in the west just after sunset. Venus is obvious, Mars not so much. Without a map you won't know which "star" is Mars .
- **March 6**—DAWN at CERES. NASA's Dawn spacecraft will encounter the dwarf planet Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Ceres is 590 miles (950) kilometers in diameter and round in shape. Dawn will spend several months studying Ceres and will send back the first close-up images of a dwarf planet in our Solar System.

- **April 11-17, 1970** — 45th anniversary flight of Apollo 13—The third U.S. mission to land men on the moon nearly ended in tragedy. As the spacecraft neared the Moon, an explosion damaged its command module. Improvising solutions, the astronauts were able to return safely to Earth.

- **April 24, 1990**—25th anniversary of deployment of Hubble Space Telescope from the Space Shuttle by Kansas Steve Hawley. The Hubble has given us many important astronomical discoveries such as the prevalence of black holes, evidence of extrasolar planets, and mages of galaxies billions of light years away.

- **July 1 - A Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter.** Look for this bright pairing in the western sky just after sunset. Should be easy to see.

- **July 14 - New Horizons at Pluto.** NASA's New Horizons spacecraft is scheduled to arrive at Pluto after a 9 1/2 year journey. It will give us our first close-up views of the dwarf planet and its moons. Next, the spacecraft will continue on to the Kuiper belt to examine other icy bodies at the edge of the Solar System.

- **September 27- Total Lunar Eclipse.** Visible from about 8 p.m. to about 11:30 p.m. Should be good!

- **October 20-30** - A rare, 3-planet **Conjunction of Venus, Mars, and Jupiter.** To the east in a tight 1-degree triangle about 5 a.m. Venus and Jupiter will be bright. Mars will be fainter, but look slightly red/orange. **October 26** - A bright **Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter.** Look to the east just before sunrise .

- **December 7 - Conjunction of the Moon and Venus.** In the east just before sunrise, around 5 A.M. Venus will be really close to the waning crescent Moon.

**FIND ACTIVITIES at [www.solarsystem.nasa.gov/edu/lessons.cfm](http://www.solarsystem.nasa.gov/edu/lessons.cfm) Click on Solar System Exploration, Education, Fast Lesson Finder. Lessons align to NGSS.**