

Forthcoming CAWAS Meetings

Friday 11th May	Anne-Marie Broomhall	The Dynamic Sun
Friday 8th June	Members	AGM and Film Night
Friday 13th July	TBC	TBC
Friday 10th August	Nick James	Meteor Observing (NEMETODE)

BAA

Sat 26th May 10:00 - 17:00	Historical Section Meeting Smith Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Rd., Stirling. FK8 2RQ
Wed 30th May 17:30 - 20:00	Ordinary Meeting & George Alcock Memorial Lecture Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. W1J 0DU

May Event

Monday	14th	Mars near M75	
Tuesday	15th	Moon - new	●
Thursday	17th	Moon near Venus	
Sunday	20th	Venus near M35	
Tuesday	22nd	Moon - first quarter	☾
Sunday	27th	Moon near Jupiter	
Tuesday	29th	Moon - full	☉
Thursday	31st	Moon near Saturn	
June			
Sunday	3rd	Moon near Mars	
Wednesday	6th	Moon - last quarter, Mercury conjunction	☾

Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society

The society usually meets on the second Friday in the month, at Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall. The meetings begin at 19:15 and end at 21:30.

Web Site: <http://www.covastro.org.uk>

Mailing list

Join the CAWAS mailing list and receive irregular information of astronomical events and CAWAS news.

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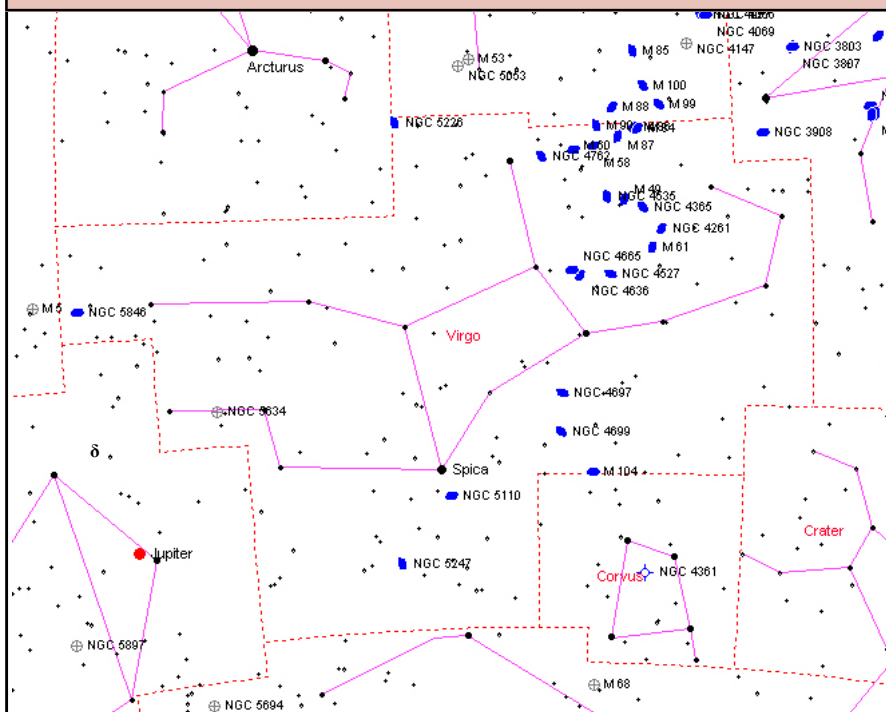
Skynotes

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Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society

Sky Notes

May 11th to June 8th 2018 No. 248



Virgo

The Virgin. Although most of Virgo's bright galaxies are contained within the cluster in the north of the constellation, one lies on its southern boundary with Corvus. That is M104, the Sombrero Galaxy, which at a distance of 29 Mly is about twice as close to us as the centre of the cluster. Shining at mag. +8.0 it is an easy object in small telescopes. Forming part of Virgo's eastern boundary, the constellation of Libra contains two objects of interest, one is the obvious planet Jupiter, the other the Algol-type eclipsing binary star delta (δ) Librae, which undergoes a brightness change from +4.91 mag. to +5.9 every 2.3274 days.

Time given in these skynotes is Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) known as GMT here in the UK, add one hour to get times in BST.

Sun moves north from Aries into Taurus this month, meaning that from May 18 the Sun will be too far north for astronomical twilight to end.

May 11th	Rise 04:17	Set 19:48	Dec +17° 49'
June 8th	Rise 03:45	Set 20:25	Dec +22° 53'

Mercury (−0.1 6.6" to −2.1 5.1") moves from Pisces through Aries into Taurus, but lies too close to the horizon at sunrise to be visible this month, not helped by its passage through superior conjunction on June 6.

Venus (−3.9 11.9" to −4.0 13.7") looking distinctly gibbous moves from Taurus into Gemini and is visible in the west for about 2.5 hours after sunset. On May 17 the two-day-old crescent Moon lies 5° to the south and on May 20 Venus passes 1° north of the open cluster M35.

Mars (−0.6 12.3" to −1.4 16.6") moves from Sagittarius into Capricornus and is visible low down in the southern sky in the early hours of the morning. Like Venus it also appears gibbous at the beginning of the month (Venus 86% illuminated, Mars 89%). On May 14 Mars passes just 19' south of the globular cluster M75. On the morning of June 3 the Moon lies 4° to the west.

Jupiter (−2.5 44.7" to −2.5 43.5") lies in Libra and as it passed through opposition last month is visible low down in the southern sky throughout the night. On May 27 the almost full Moon lies 3° to the north.

Red Spot Transit Times

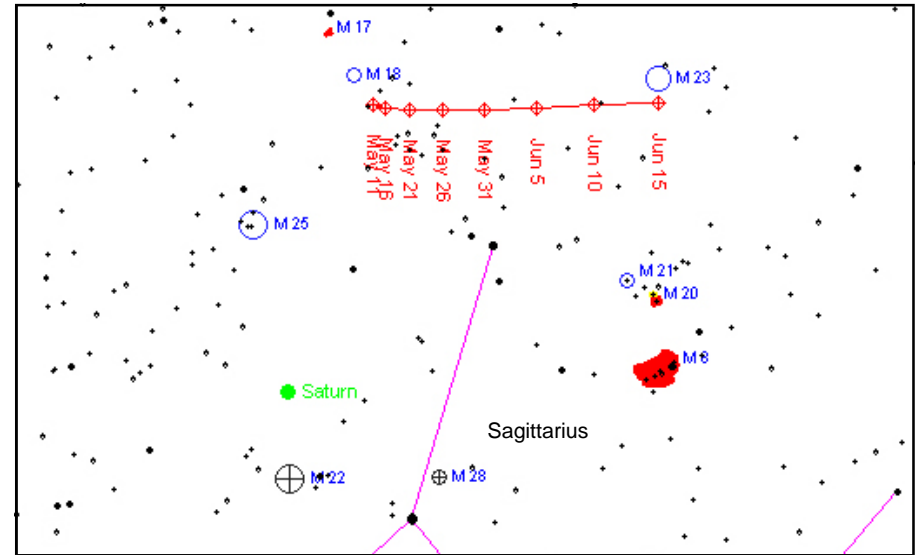
May 11 23:00 **14** 00:39 **16** 22:08 **18** 23:47 **21** 21:16 **23** 22:54 **26** 20:24
28 22:02 **30** 23:41

June 2 21:10 **4** 22:49 **7** 20:18

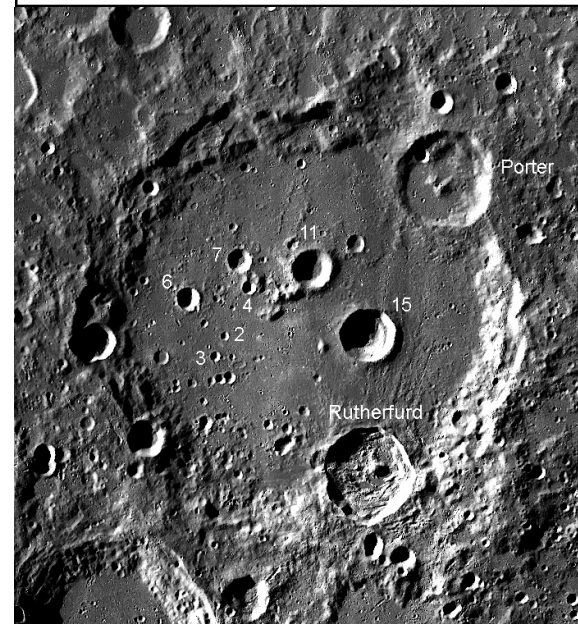
Saturn (+0.3 17.7" to +0.1 18.2") lies in Sagittarius and can be seen low down in the SSE after midnight gradually becoming brighter as it heads towards opposition next month. Saturn rises at 23:35 at the beginning of the month and 21:40 at the end. On May 31 the Moon just past full lies 1° to the north.

Uranus (+5.9 3.4") lies in Aries and after its conjunction last month is gradually moving away from the Sun to become visible low down in the east just before sunrise. Uranus rises about 2 hours before the Sun at the end of the month.

Neptune (+7.9 2.2") lies in Aquarius and is visible low down in the SE in the early hours of the morning, rising at 02:30 at the beginning of the month and 00:45 at the end.



Minor Planet Vesta, the fourth asteroid to be discovered wanders backwards through the star fields of Sagittarius as it heads towards opposition next month. The chart shows its track (about 4° north of Saturn) as it moves between the open clusters of M18 and M23. At around 6th magnitude it should be easy to locate in binoculars. While in the area don't forget to look at M20 (the Trifid Nebula) and M8 (the Lagoon Nebula).



Clavius crater, located near the Moon's south pole, is about 230km wide and contains a number of smaller craters on its floor. These form a useful series to test the resolution of a telescope. The picture shows the angular size (in seconds of arc) of some of the larger craterlets. It is interesting to note that at the distance of the Moon a crater's diameter in kilometres is approximately equal to twice its angular diameter in arc seconds.