

These 2 stunning photographs were taken by NAA member Ian Page

M13 Globular Cluster in Hercules
26 May 2017



M42 The Orion Nebula
28 December 2017

What to look out for in the night sky from April to May 2018

2 April - Close approach of Mars and Saturn The pair should be visible low above the southern horizon, between 03:02 and 05:56.

12 April - Virginid Meteor shower If you are lucky, you may see up to 5 meteors per hour around midnight, over the southern horizon.

16 April - New Moon This means it will be a very dark night and gives a good opportunity to view galaxies and star clusters if the sky is clear.

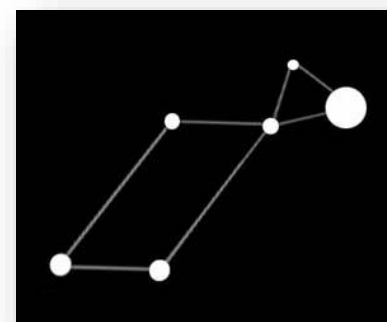
22/23 April - Lyrid Meteor Shower Up to 20 meteors per hour may be visible. The shower runs from 16-25 April, meteors emanating from Vega, the brightest star in the constellation Lyra (shown in the photo to the right). Best viewing will be just after midnight. Fragments of the comet Thatcher come into our atmosphere to create the shower. It is known as one of the oldest on record, Chinese observations going back to 687 BCE. Lyra is a small constellation, one of 48 listed by Ptolemy, the 2nd Century astronomer.

29 April - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation A great view of the planet is possible in the eastern sky, just before sunrise.

30 April - Full Moon Sprouting Grass Moon, Growing Moon, Egg Moon, Full Fish Moon

30 April - Conjunction and Close Approach of Moon and Jupiter The pair will be at their highest at 01:40, over the south western horizon

6 May - Eta(η)-Aquarid Meteor Shower Best viewing of this shower will be in the early morning, just before dawn. Up to 30 meteors per hour can be seen, produced by dust particles left by the comet Halley. Meteors radiate from the constellation Aquarius. Possible sightings between 19 April and 28 May.



9 May - Jupiter at Opposition The planet will be at its brightest for the year and visible all night. A medium-sized telescope should show its cloud bands and binoculars may allow the 4 largest moons to be visible (the photo to the right shows these moons). The planet is at its perigee, its closest point to the earth.

15 May - New Moon A dark night with no moonlight so this is a good opportunity to find star clusters and galaxies.

17 May - Conjunction of Moon and Venus The pair will become visible at around 21:20, 18° above the western horizon (this is low and so might be difficult to observe). The pair will then sink towards the horizon, setting at 23:44.

27 May - Conjunction and Close Approach of Moon and Jupiter The pair will be highest in the sky at 23:36, above the southern horizon.

29 May Full Moon Full Flower Moon, Full Corn Planting Moon or Full Milk Moon



Forthcoming Club Events

Meetings are held at **Geddington Cricket Club, Queen Street, Geddington NN14 1AS.**

Please visit www.naastronomy.com to check final meeting information. Visit the NAAS Facebook pages for discussion, photos and events.



Tuesday 3 April

Meeting up at Geddington Cricket Club at 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Visiting speaker **Jerry Workman - Cassini**

Tuesday 10 April

Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering, 7.30pm

Tuesday 17 April

Meeting up at Geddington Cricket Club at 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Speakers TBC.

Tuesday 1 May

Meeting up at Geddington Cricket Club at 7.30pm for 7.45pm - What's Up and Constellation of the month. If the skies are clear, bring along your telescopes and binoculars.

Tuesday 8 May

Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering, 7.30pm

Tuesday 15 May

Meeting up at Geddington Cricket Club at 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Speaker **Aninda Biswas**

Meetings with guest speakers: £3 (£4 for non-members)

General meetings: £2 (£3 for non-members)

Full membership: £30 (Concessions £19)

Club contact details

President Nick Freville Tel: 01536 723211 email: astro2002astro@yahoo.co.uk

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Committee Members Mervyn Lloyd Tel: 01536 521581, Frank Tasker Tel: 01536 390040, Jane Napier Tel: 07960 262401, Anne Douglas email: adouglas2@sky.com

Maps to show what you can see in the sky each month:

Other useful websites:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/sights-to-see.html>

<https://in-the-sky.org/newscal.php?month=1&year=2018&maxdiff=3#datesel>

<http://www.seasky.org/constellations/constellation-auriga.html>

<http://www.news.nationalgeographic.com>

<http://www.in-the-sky-com>

<http://www.solarsystemquick.com>

