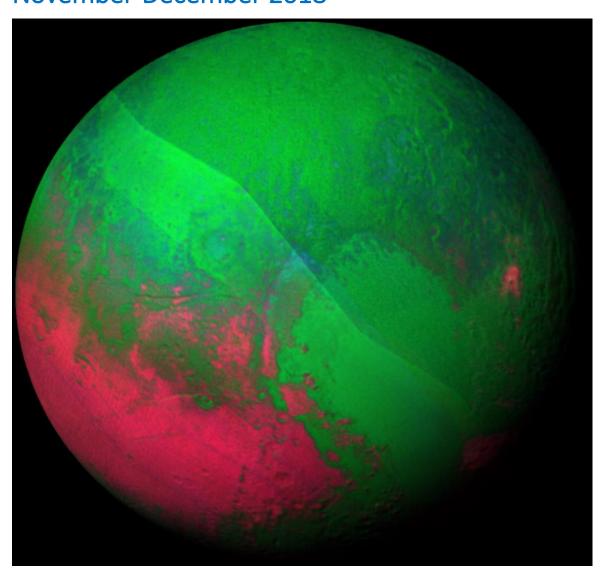


Northants Amateur Astronomers (NAA) www.naastronomy.com November-December 2018

In Focus

No.276





Pluto as a Christmas bauble

- produced by using three infrared wavelength ranges in Ralph/LEISA instrument scans, with mean range of 108,000 km

New Horizons Composition Team: NASA/JHUAPL/SwRI

What to look out for in the night sky

5-6 November Taurids Meteor Shower The shower runs from 7 September to 10 December, producing 5 meteors per hour, peaking on the night of 5 November. Best viewing is just after midnight, meteors radiating from the constellation Taurus.

6 November Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation The planet is best seen low in the western sky, just after sunset.

17-18 November Leonids Meteor Shower The shower will produce up to 15 meteors per hour and runs from November 6-30, peaking on the night of the 17/18 November. The best view will be from midnight, meteors radiating from the constellation Leo.

- 23 November Full Moon This is known as the Full Beaver Moon, Frosty Moon or Hunter's Moon.
- 13-14 December Geminids Meteor Shower Considered to be one of the best showers, producing up to 120 multicoloured meteors per hour. The shower runs from 7-17 December, peaking this year on the night of the 13/14 December. The best view will be from midnight, meteors radiating from the constellation Gemini.
- 15 December Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation Look for the planet in the eastern sky, just before sunrise.
- 21 December Winter Solstice This is the first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of summer

in the Southern Hemisphere.

22 December Full Moon This is known as the Cold Moon, Long Nights Moon or Moon Before Yule.

21-22 December Ursids Meteor Shower This is a minor meteor shower producing about 5-10 meteors per hour. The shower runs from 17-25 December, peaking on the night of the 21/22 December. The best view will be just after midnight although the glare of the full moon might interfere. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Ursa Minor.

Forthcoming Club Events

Meetings are held in **The Lounge, Geddington Village Hall, Queen Street, Geddington NN14 1AZ**

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



Tuesday 6 November 7.30 for 7.45pm - Members' talks (Nick Freville and Aninda Biswas) and skywatching (weather permitting)

Tuesday 13 November 7.30pm - Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering

Tuesday 20 November 7.30 for 7.45pm – Visiting speaker, Mike Frost

Friday 30 November 7.30 for 7.45pm - Christmas supper (booking essential)

Tuesday 11 December 7.30pm - Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering

Tuesday 18 December 7.30 for 7.45pm - Fish and Chip supper *(booking essential)* and Eleanor Patrick will be giving us a talk

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

Chair and Speaker Co-ordinator: Sue Yendell Tel: 01536 515976email: susan-yendell@sky.com

Treasurer: Eleanor Patrick Tel: 01536 521488

Committee Members: Mervyn Lloyd Tel:01536 521581, Frank Tasker Tel: 01536 390040,

Jane Napier Tel: 07960 262401, Anne Douglas email: adouglas2@sky.com

Useful websites:

http://www.astronomy.co.uk/skymap

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

https://www.nasa.gov/



Heart and Soul nebula in Cassiopeia: NASA/JPL-Caltech/UCLA



