

The Jezero Crater on Mars, a potential landing site for NASA's Mars 2020 Rover - Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/ASU

What to look out for in the night sky

8 October - Draconids Meteor Shower This shower produces around 10 meteors per hour. Best viewing is in the early evening instead of early morning like most other showers. The shower will appear from 6-10 October but peaks on the night of 8 October. The meteors will radiate from the constellation Draco but may appear anywhere in the sky.

13 October - Full Moon This full moon was known as the Full Hunters' Moon because at this time of year hunting begins in earnest. This moon has also been known as the Travel Moon and Blood Moon.

20 October - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation This is the best time to view Mercury as it will be at its highest point above the western horizon, just after sunset.

October 21, 22 - Orionids Meteor Shower This shower produces up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. The shower runs annually from October 2 to November 7, peaking on the night of 21 October. The second quarter moon will block fainter meteors but the Orionids tend to be fairly bright and so should be visible, especially after midnight.

27 October - Uranus at Opposition The planet will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. Due to its distance from Earth, it will only appear as a tiny blue/green dot, unless a very powerful telescope is used.

28 October - New Moon This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects, e.g. galaxies and star clusters as there is no interference by moonlight.

5,6 November - Taurids Meteor Shower The shower produces only 5-10 meteors per hour. The shower runs from 7 September to 10 December, peaking on the night of 5 November. Best viewing will be just after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Taurus but can appear anywhere in the sky.

11 November - Rare Transit of Mercury Across the Sun Mercury will move directly between the Earth and the Sun. Telescopes with approved solar filters will be able to observe Mercury, as a dark disc, moving across the face of the Sun. This is an extremely rare event, happening only once every few years. The next transit of Mercury will be in 2039. This transit will be visible throughout all of South America and Central America and parts of North America, Mexico, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

12 November - Full Moon This full moon was known as the Full Beaver Moon because this was the time of year when beaver traps had to be set, before the rivers froze. It has also been known as the Frosty Moon.

17, 18 November - Leonids Meteor Shower This shower produces up to 15 meteors per hour at its peak. The shower runs from 6-30 November, peaking on the night of the 17 November. The second quarter moon will mask many of the fainter meteors but a good number should be visible, after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Leo but may appear anywhere in the sky.

24 November - Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter The two bright planets will be visible (and impressive) within 1.4 degrees of each other in the western sky, just after sunset.

26 November - New Moon This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects, e.g. galaxies and star clusters as there is no interference by moonlight.

28 November - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation Mercury will be at its highest point above the eastern horizon, visible just before sunrise.

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 1 October 7.30 for 7.45pm – Members' talks and observing (if the sky is clear)

Tuesday 8 October 7.30pm - Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering

Tuesday 22 October 7.30 for 7.45pm – Visiting speaker: **Jerry Workman**

Tuesday 5 November 7.30 for 7.45pm – Members' talks and observing (if the sky is clear)

Tuesday 12 November 7.30pm - Committee meeting at The Piper, Windmill Avenue, Kettering

Tuesday 19 November 7.30 for 7.45pm – Members' talks and observing (if the sky is clear)

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: 07706 181770, Frank Tasker Tel: 01536 390040

Useful websites:

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

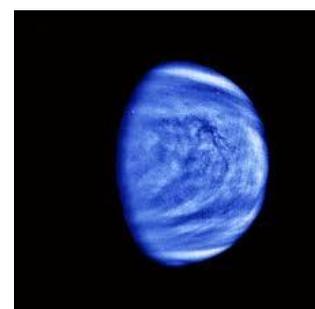
<https://in-the-sky.org/newscal.php?month=3&year=2019&maxdiff=2>

<https://www.nasa.gov/>

<http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2019.html>

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Venus – Credit: NASA/JPL

