# What's Up!

### For November 2017







	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	
The No	<b>Moor</b> vemb	n in er	1 Waxing Gibbous	2	3 Full Moon	4	5 Waning Gibbous	*
•	6	T	8	e	10	11	12	
•		and the second			Third Quarter		Waning Crescent	-*-
•	13	14	15	16	17 New Moon	18	19	•
	20 Waxing Crescent	21	22	23	24	25	26 First Quarter	•
•	27	28 Waxing Gibbous	29	30				•

# What's Up - Planets

#### Mercury

An evening sky object this month, but poorly placed, low in southwest after sunset. Best in last few days of
November, at Mag -0.3 but only 3° above horizon.

#### Venus

- A brilliant morning object at Mag -3.8 low in the E-SE, rising 90 mins before Sun at start of month, 1 hr at end.

#### • <u>Mars</u>

 Another morning object, relatively dim at Mag +1.7 in E-SE

# What's Up - Planets

### <sup>+</sup> Jupiter

 Becoming visible again but as a morning object, towards the end of the month, rising about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours before Sun.

## Saturn

 A difficult early evening object, low in South Western sky, visible shortly after sunset.

### <u>Uranus</u>

 Well placed all month, binocular object visible all night at Mag +5.7 in Pisces

#### <u>Neptune</u>

 Well placed all month,telescopic object at Mag +7.8 in Aquarius, best around midnight

# Events of Interest in November

- 5<sup>th</sup> Moon passes through the Hyades cluster in Taurus, occulting Aldeberan between 02.30 & 03.21 (following morning)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Venus and Jupiter just half a Moon's width apart, one hour before sunrise in E-SE
- 15<sup>th</sup> Waning crescent Moon will be 3° from Mars low in East, about 4.30 a.m.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Venus, Jupiter & 1% lit (very thin crescent) Moon form RA triangle, about 6.30 a.m. in E-SE
- 17<sup>th</sup> Peak of Leonids Meteor Shower, 10/hour.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Saturn & Mercury 3° apart, low SW, 30 mins after sunset

# November's Suggested Constellation - but which one?

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That's right - Pegasus

## November's Suggested Constellation



#### A SERIES OF 50 No. 42 OUT INTO SPACE

Approved by A. Hunter, Ph.D., Sec. Royal Astronomical Society

#### **PEGASUS** (The Winged Horse)

Pegasus is seen upside down in our latitudes. Only half of Pegasus is illustrated in celestial maps-one star, Alpheratz, forming part of the adjoining constellation of Andromeda. It is prominent on the meridian at midnight in September. There are many small stars within and in clear atmosphere over 100 may be observed. Markab, a white star of second magnitude, is a navigational star. Scheat is a deep yellow star also of second magnitude. According to mythology Bellerophon tried to ride to heaven on Pegasus' back and was thrown off.

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#### Messier & Caldwell Objects in Pegasus

### M15 (NGC 7078)

Distance 30,600 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 6.3 Apparent Dimension 18.0 arc minutes Discovered 1746 by Jean-Dominique Miraldi II

#### C30 (NGC 7331)

Distance 47,000,000 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.5 Apparent Dimension 9.7 arc minutes Discovered 1784 by William Herschel

# November's other Suggested Constellation \* Andromeda: the myth

 In Greek mythology Andromeda was the daughter of Cassiopeia and Cepheus. Cassiopeia angered . Poseidon by claiming that both she and Andromeda were more beautiful than any of Poseidon's nymphs. Poseidon retaliated by chaining Andromeda to a rock to be eaten by his sea-monster. Perseus arrived in the nick of time, flying on Pegasus and clutching Medusa's head, which he used to kill the monster. Having rescued her, what else could he do? He married her!

Andromeda

- Andromeda is relatively easy to find, it's first star is Alpheratz, which is actually the top left corner of the square of Pegasus.
- Its main stars are only of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> magnitude, and form a stream of stars flowing away to the upper left from Pegasus
- It contains perhaps the most famous Messier
- object of all, and three in total all members of our own Local Group of galaxies
- It also contains some other nice deep sky objects, binaries and variable stars





#### Messier Objects in Andromeda

# M31 (NGC 224) [also showing M32 & M110]

#### Great Andromeda Galaxy

**Distance 2,900,000 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 3.4**  Apparent Dimensions 178 arc minutes Discovered 964 Abd-al Al-Sufi

#### Messier Objects in Andromeda (contd)



#### M32 (NGC 221)

Distance 2,900,000 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 8.1 Apparent Dimension 8 arc minutes Discovered 1749 Le Gentil



Distance 2,900,000 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 8.5 Apparent Dimension 17 arc minutes Discovered 1780 Messier

#### Caldwell Objects in Andromeda





#### **C23** (NGC 891)

Distance 10,000,000 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 10.0 Apparent Dimension 13.5 arc minutes Discovered 1784 William Herschel

#### C28 (NGC 752)

Distance 1,300 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 5.7 Apparent Dimension 60 arc miutes Discovered 1786 William Herschel

#### Another Deep Sky Object of interest in Andromeda



#### NGC 7669 Blue Snowball Nebula

Distance 2,200 light years Visual Brightness Magnitude 8.3 Apparent Dimension 18 arc seconds Discovered 1865 Gaspare Ferrari

# **Meetings at Local Societies**

- Guildford AS Lecture Theatre L, Uni of Surrey
  - Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7.30 p.m.
    - -Diamonds in the Sky
      - » The Importance of White Dwarfs in Modern Astrophysics
        - » Prof Martin Barstow
          - » Uni of Leicester
          - » President RAS

# **Meetings at Local Societies**

- Farnham AS Aldershot Cricket Club
  - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45 p.m.
    - The Legacy of Apollo
      - Nick Howes
        - » Freelance Science Writer

# Talks at Local Astro Societies \*

- Croydon AS Royal Russell School, Coombe Lane, Croydon
  - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45 p.m.
    - "Optical quality and a comparison of optical systems"
      - . John D Timmins
  - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 7.45 p.m.
    - "Cassini/Huygens mission"
      - Prof. Steve Miller, UCL
- **Ewell AS** Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam
  - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 8.00 p.m.
    - "15 Million Degrees: A Journey to the Centre of the Sun"
      Prof. Lucie Green

# Seeing the Unseen



#### Discover the hidden wonders of the Universe

Join in with physicists from the University of Surrey celebrating International Dark Matter Day. Discover how cutting edge physics is allowing us to see the unseen in astronomy, quantum technologies, medical physics and much more.

Activities include demonstrations & activities with the researchers, talks, star gazing, arts & crafts and a mobile planetarium.

> 31 October 2017 17.30 to 21.00

Stag Hill Campus, Guildford, GUZ 7XH,

To book your free place visit:

http://www.surrey.ac.uk/events/20171031-seeingunseen-public-event



Department of Physics Astronomy Evenings<sup>\*</sup> begin again on 15th

- November
  - 1 Talk by researcher
- 2 Stargazing (if clear)



- The Sky at Night
  - A Flash In The Sky
    - The team a range of space phenomenona that occur over short time periods, from solar filaments to gamma-ray burts. They find out about the astronomers and telescopes capturing these fleeting events, and how they might change our understanding of the Universe.
    - Sunday12th NovemberBBC 4, 10.00 pmThursday16th NovemberBBC 4, 7.30 pm

for exact times please check www.radiotimes.com or www.bbc.co.uk/skyatnight