

Issue: August 2015



>>> Ayrshire Astronomical Society Newsletter

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Next Meeting:

28th September 2015

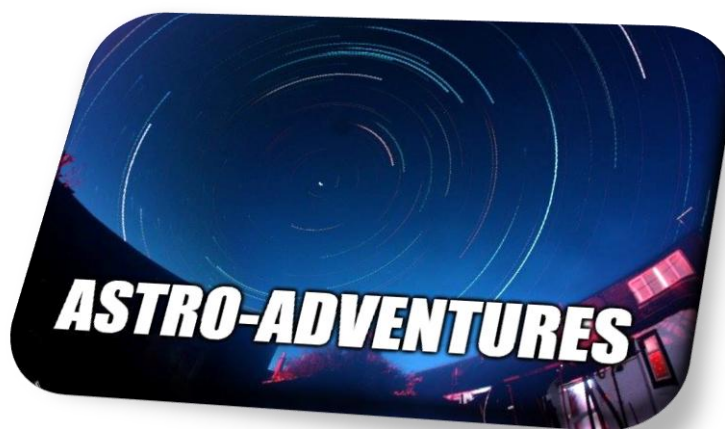
How's the Space Weather Today?

Speaker: Dr Iain Hannah



Paul Cameron

Summer is well underway -astronomy is all but forgotten (unless you one of those strange folk who take pictures of clouds?) but don't worry darkness will soon be back and those glowing clouds will be forgotten! So what have I got planned for the new Astro season I hear you ask?



President Word

Cinema night in September:



You will all have seen the reviews put out by Juan about The Martian, well I have read it too and its one of the best books that I have read for a while and I read a lot of books! So with the film coming out in September, it is a must that we go and see it and a group outing would be good. We have a starting list of at least four, so if you are interested please let Juan or me (Graham) know as soon as possible so that we can get an idea of numbers.

The invitation is open to members and partners and we will require a deposit nearer the time if we need to book. The choice of cinema will be made later with a view to keeping it handy and convenient. We can also look at car sharing and perhaps a meal as well, so get your name down soon.

Events - Paul Article

Summer is well underway -astronomy is all but forgotten (unless you are one of those strange folk who take pictures of clouds?) but don't worry darkness will soon be back and those glowing clouds will be forgotten! So what have I got planned for the new Astro season I hear you ask?



First up in September will be Starfarm@loudounhill hopefully the weather will play ball this year, the date we are looking at is Saturday 19th Sept-bring your tents for camping BBQ and some astronomy! Excellent wide open skies in a great remote location, good food -good company! Donation of just £5 covers food and camping.

Next adventure will be in October, date TBA , Bivvy night on summit of Carintable -2000ft high hill in the empty lands between Muirkirk and the Leadhills ,great panoramic views - fresh water spring at summit - should be excellent for wide field DSLR, this adventure is free! But all participants must bring a homemade cake, Madeira or Dundee cake, Banana loaf, etc



Next Astro Adventure trip will be going to the legendary White Laggan bothy in November if we spot a window of good weather, the bothy is in the deepest darkest part of Galloway Forest, so the skies should be pretty good, the bothy is small, so there will be a 6 person limit on this trip, although if it works out well, I am sure we will go back! Don't forget the cake! So let's go and have some fun! If anyone is interesting in participating in any of these events, please contact Paul at: pjcayrshire@aol.com

Alex Article

What's in a name:

YURI GAGARIN



Yuri Gagarin was a pilot with the Soviet Air force. In June 1959 he volunteered as a trainee cosmonaut with the Soviet Space programme. When the spaceship Vostok 1 was ready, he was chosen to pilot it. On 12th of April 1961 Vostok 1 blasted off with Gagarin aboard. It made one orbit of the Earth and landed (by parachute) 108 minutes after take-off. No human being had ever flown in space before and Gagarin became a world hero, but he was not interested in fame and fortune. In 1968 Yuri Gagarin died in a "routine " training flight, although some say he was testing a moon landing craft, he was given a huge state funeral.

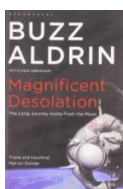
VALENTINA TERESHKOVA



Valentina Tereshkova, a Russian factory worker, took up parachute jumping in 1959. After Yuri Gagarin space flight in 1961 she volunteered to train as a cosmonaut. On 16th June 1963 her spaceship Vostok VI orbited the Earth 48 times. She was named Hero of the Soviet Union. She became an instructor in the Soviet Space programme.

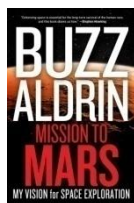
Juan Article

Dear friends:



Since the last News Letter I have been reading some more books, in particular from Dr. Buzz Aldrin. The first one is called "Magnificent Desolation". Dr. Buzz Aldrin really opens himself up to everyone regarding his personal life after previously documenting one of mankind most impressive accomplishments in "Walk on the Moon". A brave man in both ways, this book will inspire many people who will look at Dr. Buzz Aldrin in a new light.

Dr. Buzz Aldrin explains in this book how things can go bad in life, even when you have all the fame and money in the world and how you can be in a Catch 22 position with two problems so strong that either one of the them can kill you. Still, with all these problems, Dr. Buzz Aldrin can still have his mind 100% perfect when the time comes to talk about engineering and aeromechanics with the people that are involved in the new spacecraft development, fascinating!



The Second one is call "Mission to Mars", the book describes Dr. Buzz Aldrin's fascination for Space exploration, and all the work this fantastic man has done and is doing today to make sure that people put their interest in Space Travel and Science. Just like Prof. Brian Cox is doing in the UK, pushing the governments to put money into Sciences and Space exploration and making sure that our younger generations continue to push our boundaries and open the Universe for Mankind to explore and colonise in the future.

In these books Dr. Buzz Aldrin shows us how he became the driving force to make sure that people in the US government listened and saw why they needed to put more money into space exploration and create a new generation of engineers and scientists. He believes in space travel and that one day people will go on holidays from a spaceport on Earth to a low orbit, or a base camp on the moon, or even a trip to Mars. A lot of people are interested in this approach and more private companies are investing in space technology.

Space/Astronomy



Apollo-Soyuz: An Orbital Partnership Begins (40 Years Anniversary)

Most of us take it for granted today those American astronauts and Russian cosmonauts live and work together in Earth orbit. They've been doing it for years, first in the Shuttle-Mir program, and now on the International Space Station. This orbital cooperation has grown to include partners in the Canadian, European and Japanese space agencies, and will continue well into the next decade, as humanity learns about living off the home planet to prepare for longer journeys beyond Earth orbit.



Astronaut Donald K. "Deke" Slayton embraces Cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov in the Soyuz spacecraft.
Credits: NASA



The Apollo-Soyuz crew, from left: American astronauts "Deke" Slayton, Tom Stafford, Vance Brand, Russian cosmonauts Aleksey Leonov, Valeriy Kubasov., Credits: NASA

But before the two Cold War-rivals first met in orbit in 1975, such a partnership seemed unlikely. Since Sputnik bleeped into orbit in 1957, the superpowers were driven by the Space Race, with the U.S. and then-Soviet Union driven more by competition than cooperation. When President Kennedy called for a manned moon landing in 1961, he spoke of "battle that is now going on around the world between freedom and tyranny" and referred to the "head start obtained by the Soviets with their large rocket engines."

More at NASA.com

Sky Diary



August 12, 13 - Perseids Meteor Shower. The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862. The Perseids are famous for producing a large number of bright meteors. The shower runs annually from July 17 to August 24. It peaks this year on the night of August 12 and the morning of August 13. The thin crescent moon will be no match for the bright Perseids this year so be prepared for a great show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Perseus, but can appear anywhere in the sky.



August 14 - New Moon; The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 14:53 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.



August 29 - Full Moon, Supermoon, The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 18:35 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Sturgeon Moon because the large sturgeon fish of the Great Lakes and other major lakes were more easily caught at this time of year. This moon has also been known as the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon. This is also the first of three supermoons for 2015. The Moon will be at its closest approach to the Earth and may look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

AAS Library

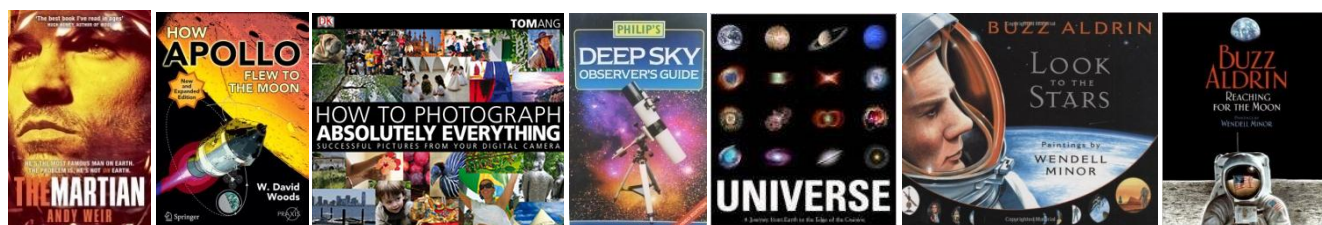
Dear Members:

Welcome to the new AAS Library, I hope you enjoy the variety of books our members kindly put for hire, so we can all have the opportunity to read something different and learn a bit more, remember, it is only 50p per book; with this small contribution our Society can then buy new books that can help us with our hobby of Astronomy, Space and Astrophotography.

If any of you wish to put some of your books for hire, remember you always keep the ownership on your books, but you can help others to expand their knowledge and get a bit of enjoyment, if you do, please send me a list of your books to library@ayraastro.com a picture of the covers will be good, so I can get them from the internet and put them on our website, so people can see the cover of the book they will like to hire. To the ones without internet facilities, we will have some hard copies to bring to our meetings and will try to update this list every month or so.

AAS Library book List:

Update on 22/07/2015



<<< (Children Books) >>>

Have your say in our Newsletter; send articles or letters to newsletter@ayraastro.com