



Newsletter May 2020

Next Meeting: **ZOOM Meeting 8pm Monday May 25th**

Well, we are now coming up to our second virtual meeting under lockdown, and all seems to be running smoothly. Last meeting, we had excellent presentations from Nick Martin and Marc Charron. This coming meeting we will have four of our members giving a varied programme for the evening which I am sure you are all looking forward to.

The meeting details are as follows:

Topic: Virtual Ayr Astro

Time: Monday 25th May 25, 8pm

Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86382047196?pwd=c1RLSDZ6RWMvQ3lQbUJ4Y2R4OWVZQT09>

Meeting ID: 863 8204 7196

Password: 570131

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President's Word

With the help of Marc Charron's map in the last newsletter, I went out into a field near me, and setup my static camera to photograph my first asteroid, NEA 52768 1998 OR2.

I took 60 exposures (1 per minute) using my Nikon D4 DSLR at 300mm f/2.8 ISO12800 for 1.6sec per exposure. I then proceeded in my attempt to stack them using my very meagre Huawei M2 tablet.

Stacking proved harder to achieve than I first imagined, making me wish that I had packed my laptop, before setting out to Wales pre-lockdown. I did however manage to stack 5 exposures at a time in Adobe Photoshop Mix which is a free program available for android tablets. All you have to do is upload each exposure to a layer and match the position of the previous layer(s) manually then change the blend mode to 'screen' and adjust the opacity of that layer to suit your image, then do the same operation a further three times. This may seem to be a bit of a "faff" but without a PC with Deep Sky Stacker installed, this is the next best thing!

After I did this a few times I uploaded my images to <http://nova.astrometry.net> which is a very handy tool for finding out the various objects in the field of view of your exposures. If you've never tried this, go out one clear night, turn up the ISO on your camera and take an image of a constellation you can see in the sky. After uploading and calculating – usually takes about 10 minutes – the server will tell you where your camera is pointing and the various deep sky objects in the field of view. Very useful!

So you may ask, did the asteroid get captured? Don't laugh, but I was pointing my camera slightly too far to the North and I believe the asteroid was just out of frame, but I did manage to capture some interesting galaxies, all around 12 magnitude or dimmer, so all was not lost! I did enjoy the process, and if I had a tracking mount and a pc available, it would have made life much easier! It does show however, that deep sky objects can be photographed using only fairly basic equipment.

DSLR Camera

Tripod

Remote trigger release

Tablet for postproduction

I've appended a few pics to show the results. Hope to see you all at the next virtual meeting. Clear Skies!

2.02K/s 15% 18:04

Astrometry.net

nova.astrometry.net/user_images/366547

NOTE: signins should be working again... but read about account migration. Not signed in | Sign In

Astrometry.net

Home Explore Upload API Support

Images > Adobe_20200426_181206.jpg

original | red-green | annotated | SDSS | extraction fullsize

Submitted by (1)
on 2020-05-17T16:43:08Z
as "Adobe_20200426_181206.jpg"
(Submission 3523598)
under Attribution 3.0 Unported

Job Status
Job 4230766:
Success

Calibration
Center (RA, Dec): (150.889, 2.144)
Center (RA, hms): 10^h 03^m 33.345^s
Center (Dec, dms): +02° 08' 37.669"
Size: 6.85 x 4.55 deg
Radius: 4.111 deg
Pixel scale: 6.94 arcsec/pixel
Orientation: Up is 339 degrees E of N
WCS file: wcs.fits
New FITS image: new-image.fits
Reference stars nearby (RA,Dec table): rdis.fits
Stars detected in your images (x,y table): axy.fits
Correspondences between image and reference stars (table): corr.fits
KMZ (Google Sky): image.kmz
World Wide Telescope: view in WorldWideTelescope

Nearby Images (View All)

Comments
No comments.
Please Sign In to post comments.

Tags
The star aSex



Member Articles

Alex's Space

The Constellation: PEGASUS – THE WINGED HORSE

The Manner of Pegasus's birth was unusual to say the least. His mother was Medusa the Gorgon who in her youth was famed for her beauty and long flowing hair. She had many lovers but the one who took her virginity was Poseidon, who is both of the sea and god of horses. Unfortunately, the seduction took place in the temple of Athene. Outraged by having her temple defiled, the goddess Athene promptly changed Medusa into a snake-haired beast whose gaze could turn a man to stone.

The brave warrior Perseus slew Medusa and Pegasus sprang from her dead body. When he saw his mother he was terrified. He stretched his wings and flew away, eventually arriving at Mount Helicon, home of the Muses. He asked for some water, but there was none, as the well had dried up. Pegasus struck a rock three times with his hoof and out gushed crystal clear spring water, which the Muses named Hippocrene – "Horses Fountain." Curiously, the name Pegasus comes from the Greek word 'Pegai' meaning springs or waters.

In the sky, only the top half of Pegasus is shown, even so, it is the seventh largest constellation. Next month Gemini and Hercules will take centre stage, and finally:

Never miss the beauty of a rainbow or the setting sun because you are looking down.

Alex Baille
May 2020

May/June Observing

General

We are heading to the summer solstice, meaning the skies will be in some form of twilight for about the next two months. We are also entering the noctilucent cloud season, which lasts until late July, so keep an eye out for those. Globular clusters are well placed in the sky at this time of year, in particular M3 in Boötes and M13 in Hercules.

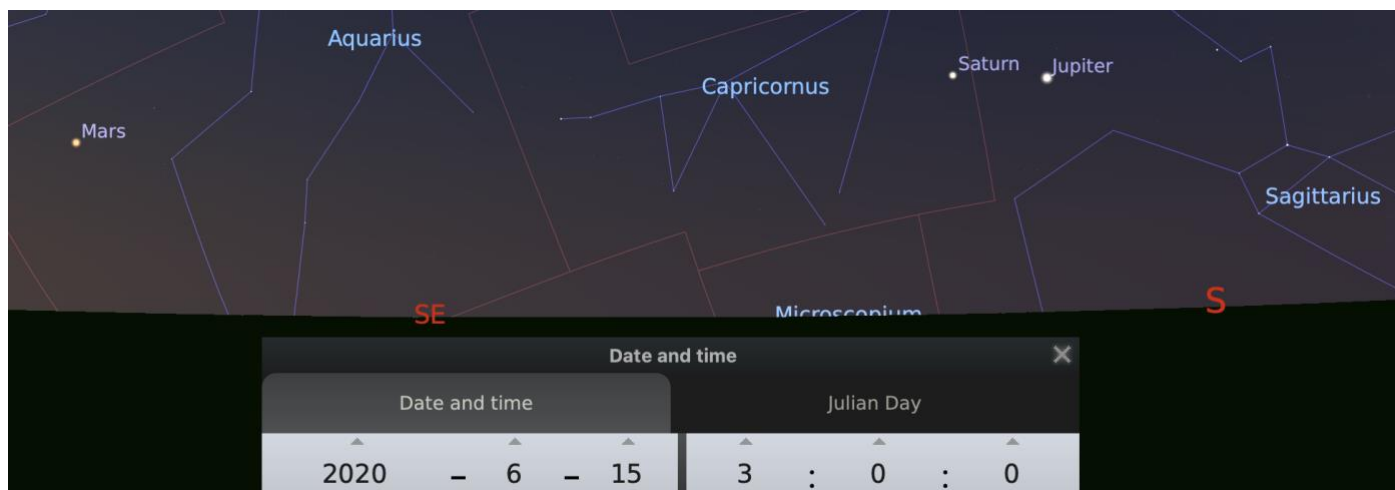
Planets

Mercury – was in conjunction with Venus on the 22nd, and will be increasingly visible in the evening sky reaching its greatest elongation on the 4th of June.

Venus – is now a very thin crescent having its inferior conjunction on the 3rd of June, after that it will enter the morning sky.

Planets Continued...

Mars, Jupiter and Saturn - remain grouped together in the early morning sky, though Jupiter and Saturn will be the closest together.



Uranus – is remains lost in the dawn sky.

Neptune – will be in conjunction with Mars on the 14th of June and will be less than two degrees away, directly above it.

Meteors

There are no significant meteor showers.

ISS

Visible passes of the International Space Station can be seen late into evening until the 29th of May, then will be absent until the 5th of July. Consult <https://www.heavens-above.com> for specific times and locations.

Comets

Comet C/2017/T2 PanSTARRS is still visible and will be heading to Ursa Major. On the 22nd it passed close to M81-82. C/2019 Y4 Atlas, has broken up and is now difficult to see. Comet C/2020 F8 SWAN will grace our skies from now to early June and may be visible when the sky is darkest. It was thought that Comet SWAN would reach naked eye visibility, but it now looks to be dimming rather than brightening and will be challenging to see in the summer twilight.



Member Images

Marc Charron

I had a chance to set up the Society 130mm TMB and got a few images with it.

Messier 13



This is an image of supernova SN2020jfo in M61. It was discovered on May the 6th, I took this one on the 13th. It is about 53 million light years away.



Here are some images taken with my 70mm triplet

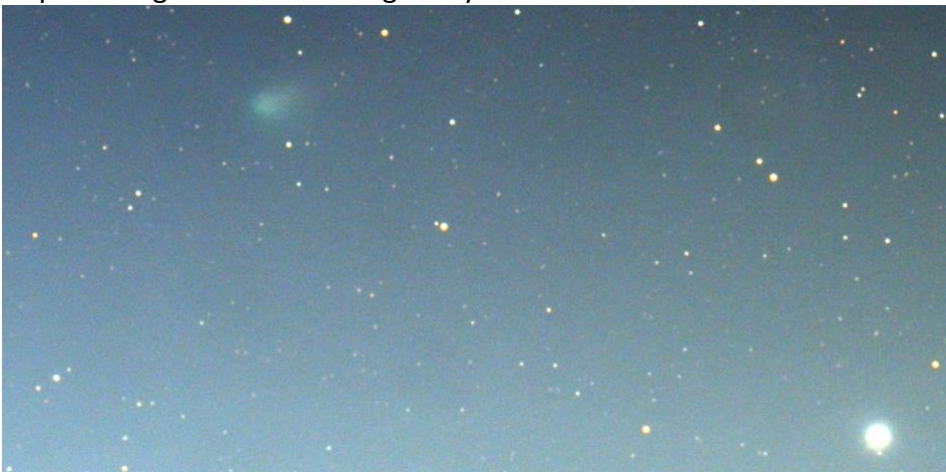
M51 – perhaps my best one so far of the galaxy with that set up



Moon at sunset on the 2nd of May



Comet C2020 F8 SWAN on the 20/21st of May – this might be the only one I get, as the comet which looked so promising a week or two ago may have a similar fate to Comet C2019 Y4 Atlas which has broken up.

































M81 and 82 and Comet C/2017 T2 PanSTARRS take on May 20/21



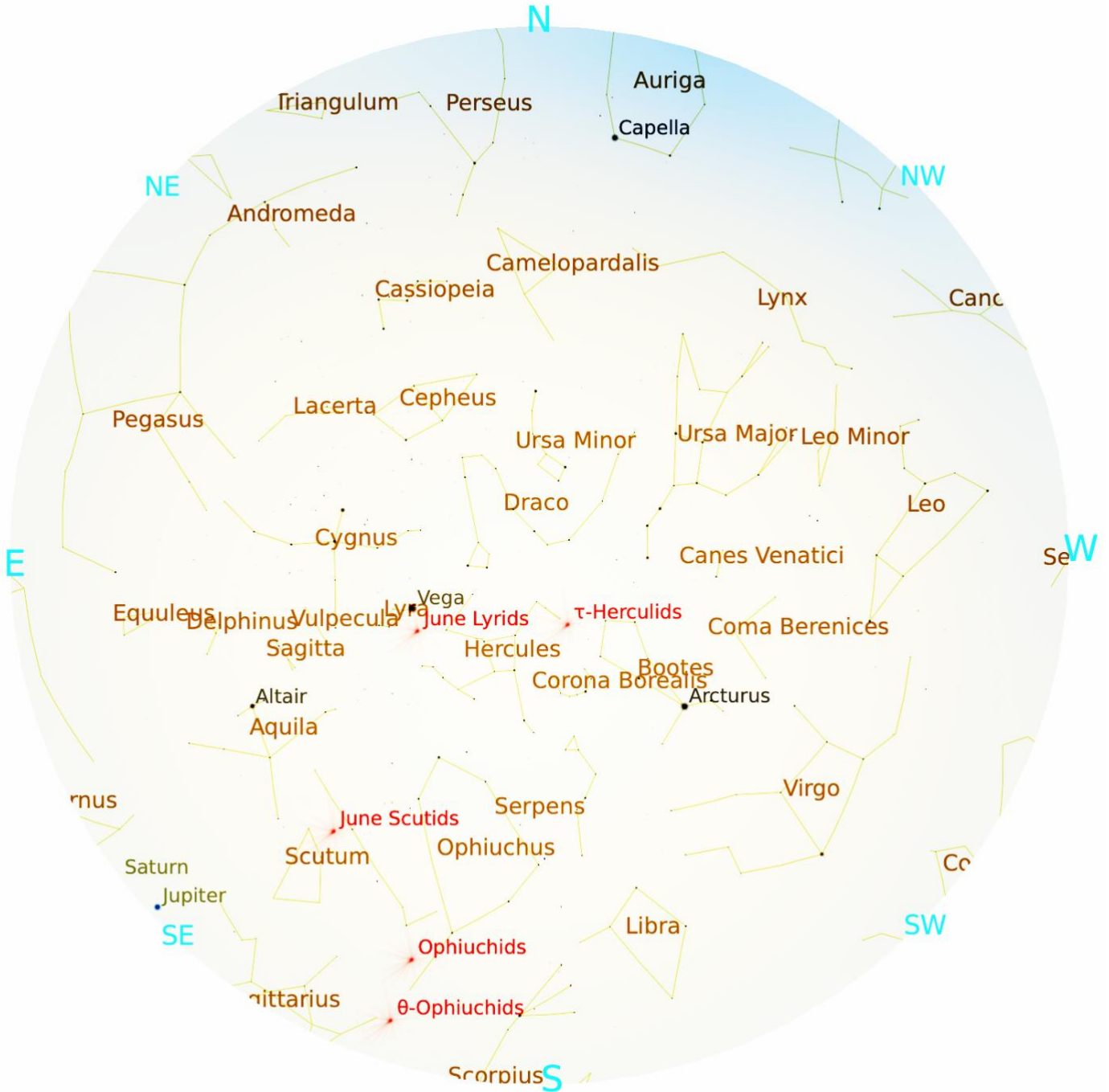
Moon Phases

June 2020

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1 	2 
3 	4 	5 	6 	7 	8 	9 
10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 
17 	18 	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 
24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 



June Sky Chart



FOV 194° 18.9 FPS 2020-06-15 00:00:00 UTC+01:00

