



Newsletter October 2021

Next Meeting: **Monday 25 October 8pm**

Location: **Kyle Academy,
Overmills Road,
Ayr KA7 3LR**

Topic: AAS May Meeting - "Building a Nesting Roof Observatory" By Graham Longbottom

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President's Word

Hello All,

I hope that you are keeping well and survived the epidemic without too many issues. You will be pleased to hear that physical meetings are now able to commence, starting at 7pm on Monday 25th October 2021 at Kyle Academy.

It is important to note that COVID-19 Guidelines as per our Risk Assessment must be followed at all meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members that supported the virtual zoom meetings and also Angela Gribbin our secretary for arranging speakers, and future speakers for 2021/22 during this difficult time. I would also like to thank all committee members for their continued help where they could, it is much appreciated.

It is our intention to hold a delayed AGM/EGM in the near future to organise a new committee, and work forward effectively into the new year.

I am sorry to say that this will be my last communication with you as President of the AAS. I would like to thank you all for your support over the years and hope that the Society will go from strength to strength. As you probably know, I have relocated to Wales, but I hope, on occasion to drop in to the odd meeting.

If you need to make contact for any reason, you can do this either via the Facebook page or via email at president@ayrastros.com

Further meetings will be promulgated in the newsletter and on Facebook/Website. Wishing you all the best for the future and clear skies!

Roger Harman



Covid-19 Risk Assessment

Company name: Ayrshire Astronomical Society – Kyle Academy, Overmills Road, Ayr. KA7 3LR

Assessment carried out by: Roger Harman - AAS President

Date of next review: 7/3/2022

Date assessment was carried out: 6/9/2021

Transmission of COVID-19 between individuals attending Ayrshire Astronomical Society meetings	All Members of AAS	List of Names and Telephone Numbers taken by Society Officer on entering building to comply with Track and Trace	AAS COVID Guidelines to be Promulgated in Monthly Newsletter	Officers of Ayrshire Astronomical Society	All actions to be carried out before and during all meetings commencing 27/9/2021	
	Visitors	Adequate distancing of individual attendees - 2M	AAS COVID Guidelines to be read out at beginning of all meetings	President of AAS deemed "Responsible Person" to ensure compliance		
	Other Users of Facilities	Facemasks worn when entering, leaving and moving around the premises - AAS supply of facemasks	Review of Assessment in 6 Months			
	Facility Staff	Adequate Hand Hygiene on entering premises and whenever needed during meeting – AAS supply Hand Cleaner	If any attendee tests positive for COVID in following 10 days, they must contact President or other Society Officer by phone or email who will inform other attendees to take necessary precautions.			
	General Public	Windows and doors to be kept open to improve ventilation in room	Attendees who are unwell will not be admitted.			
		Table, chair and other surfaces used, to be cleaned with proprietary cleaner on entry and when leaving premises				

Useful information on managing risk: www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/risk/



Member Articles

Alex's Space

Do you ever gaze upwards and wonder why,
our bright star blazes in the daylight sky
granting life to the third rock from the Sun?
We orbit in the “Goldilocks Zone” we are told
where it's never too hot and never too cold.
Are there more lifeforms in that velvet space
just like us or perhaps an alien race?
Many stars and planets our telescopes have scanned
but so far not one could be our new land,
The gases are lethal, temperature wrong,
light-years away, distance too long.
We are special to dwell on this Earth,
human beings not grasping our worth.
Galileo, Einstein, Newton opened our eyes,
answered questions that made us wise.
We know the future is far away and hard to understand in this life today.
Neutrinos travel faster than light and perhaps someday we might,
but time moves on as it must
until all the stars implode into dust,
then the Universe dims.....and it is dark.....and still.....

FINI!

This is a quotation of Leonardo Da Vinci which is displayed in the office of a NASA senior engineer:

“The great bird will take flight on the back of the great bird bringing glory to the nest where it was born”

The senior engineer is the Chief Designer on the new Shuttle Project.

Alex Baillie

2021



October / November Observing

General

The nights are getting progressive darker, as we head to winter, sadly to date the weather has not been too cooperative, hopefully that will change. The new solar cycle is starting stronger than predicted, perhaps indicating that we will be seeing more aurora in the coming months and years as it heads to its maximum. Returning to the night sky, the summer constellations are now heading down to the west, though the summer milky way can still be seen early in the evenings. Pegasus now dominates the southern sky providing a great opportunity to observe the M 31, the Andromeda Galaxy, as well as M33, the Triangulum Galaxy, which coincidentally, is in the constellation for which it is named. Taurus will also be well placed with objects like the Pleiades (M45) and Hyades well placed for viewing. The coming winter sky counts numerous open clusters, particularly in Perseus with the Double Cluster, and Auriga, with several, including three Messier objects M36, 37 and 38, which are all visible in binoculars. For those who stay up late Orion and Gemini will be coming into view with their extensive list of objects, more about these next month.

Planets

Mercury and Venus: Mercury is currently visible in the morning at least up until early November, when it starts to head sunwards for its superior conjunction at the end of the month. Venus is visible in the evening sky reaching its maximum eastern elongation on the 29th of October. It will however be low in the sky making it difficult to observe from our location.

Mars: too close the sun in the sky to be observed.

Jupiter and Saturn: They are now past their oppositions, but are well place for observing early in the evening.

Uranus and Neptune: Uranus is well placed to observe in the lower part of Aries, while Neptune is further south and west in top eastern side of the constellation Aquarius, though it is also well placed for observing in the early evenings.

Comets

There are no easily observable comets visible present during this period, though comet 29P/Schwassmann–Wachmann has undergone an outburst and is now visible in amateur telescopes (in Auriga) about mag 11, as is comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko, about mag 10, which is currently in Gemini and moving towards Cancer where it will be by the end of November, see member images.

Meteor Showers

The Orionids will peak on October 22nd, however, the nearly full moon will hamper observations. The Leonids also peak during a full moon, on November the 17th which will make observing difficult.

ISS

The ISS is visible in the mornings until the 7th of November, returning to our evening skies on the 21st of November. Consult <https://www.heavens-above.com> for specific times and locations. If you are interested in ISS lunar or solar transits here is another site where you can obtain predictions: <https://transit-finder.com/>.



Member Images

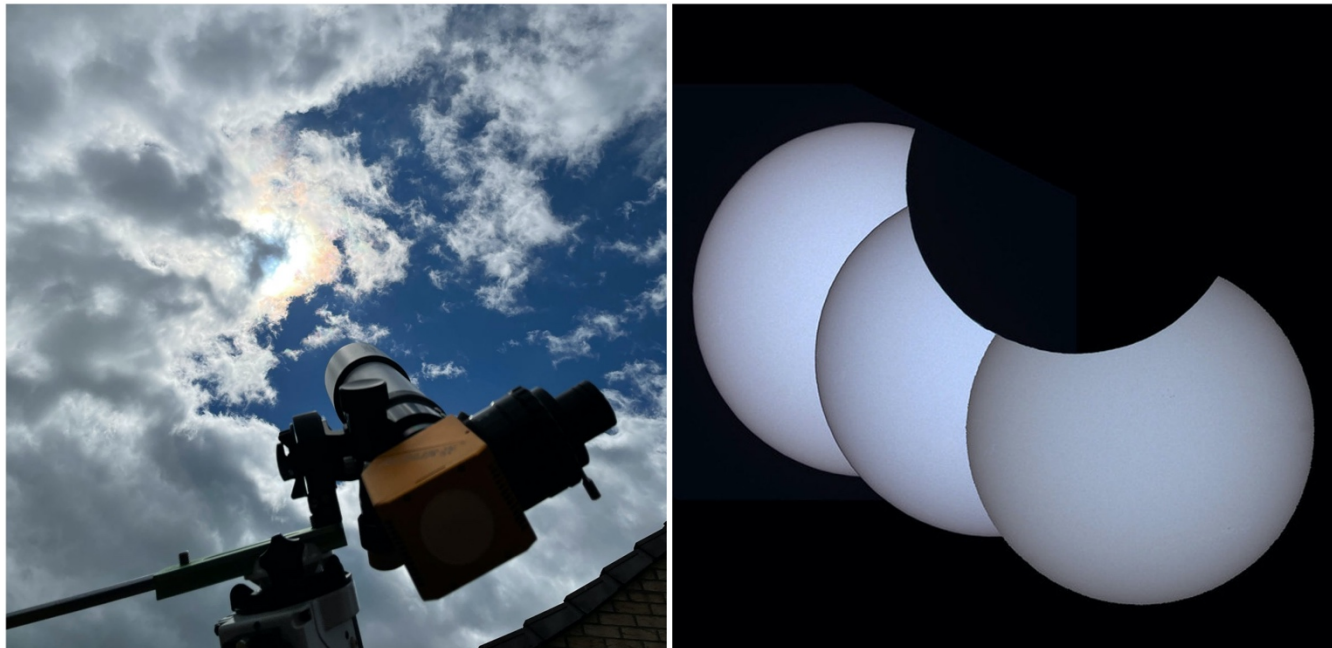
Marc Charron

Partial Solar Eclipse of June 10 this year

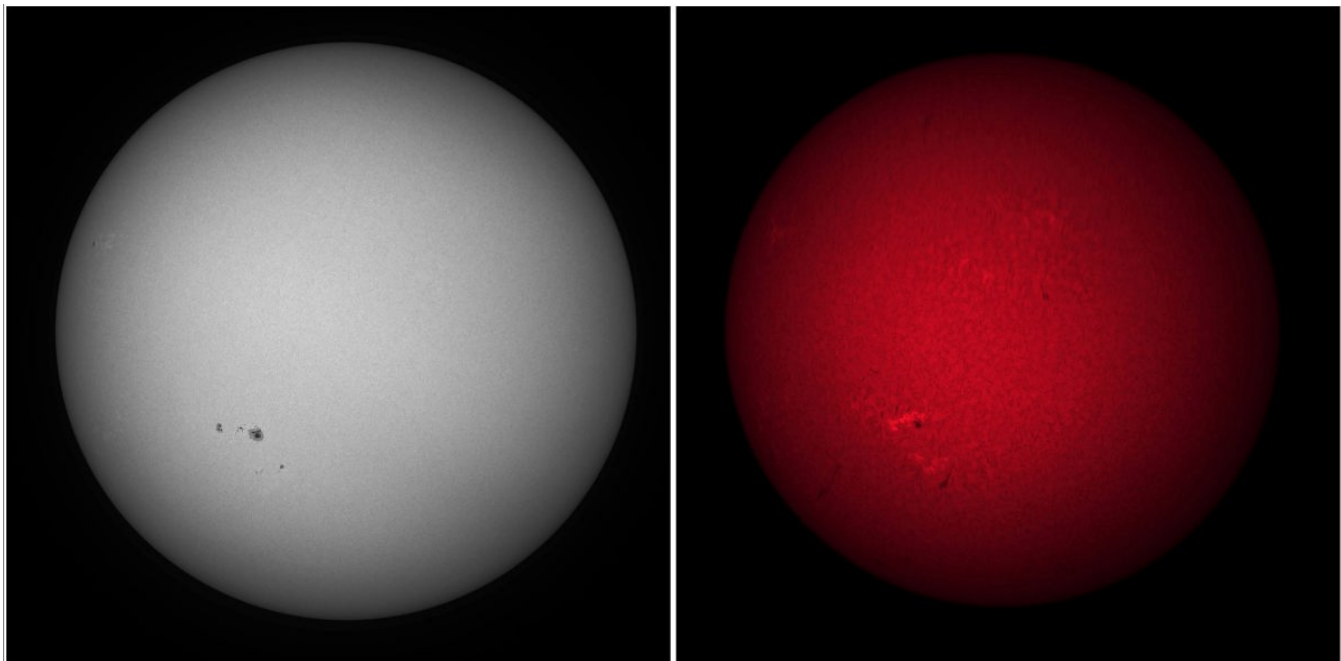
Some eclipse timings



Scope with some iridescent cloud, and composite image showing an outline of the moon



Solar take on the 29th of June showing the sun in white light and in hydrogen alpha (PST)



Lunar taken on 28 September



Attempt at spectroscopy with Star Analyser 100 on TMB 130/1200, shows hydrogen and oxygen emission lines from the Ring Nebula (M57)



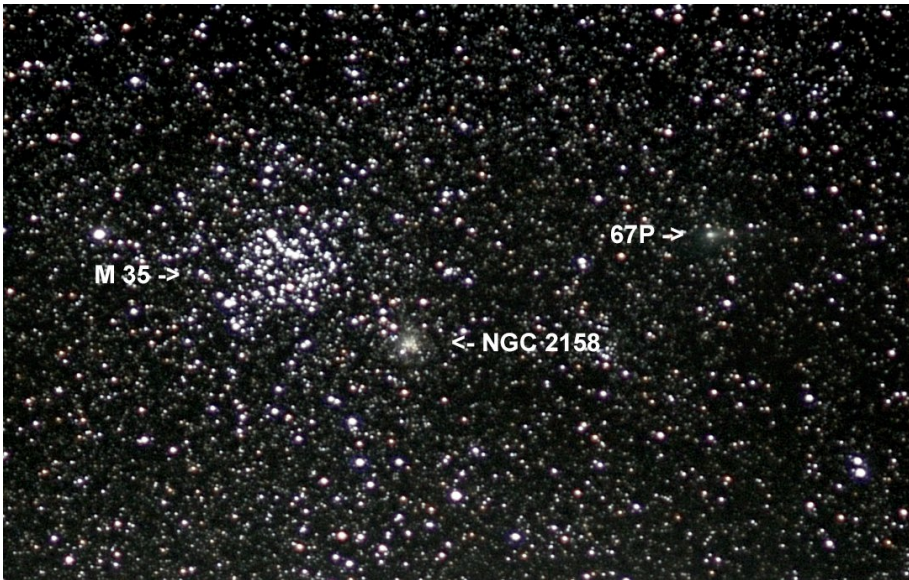
M13 taken with same equipment, spectrum shows redder stars near the centre of the cluster



Perseids, a single good one with a composite showing three of them with a sporadic (left hand one), as its direction is different.



Comet 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko approaching M35, taken with 135mm lens, heavily processed and cropped.

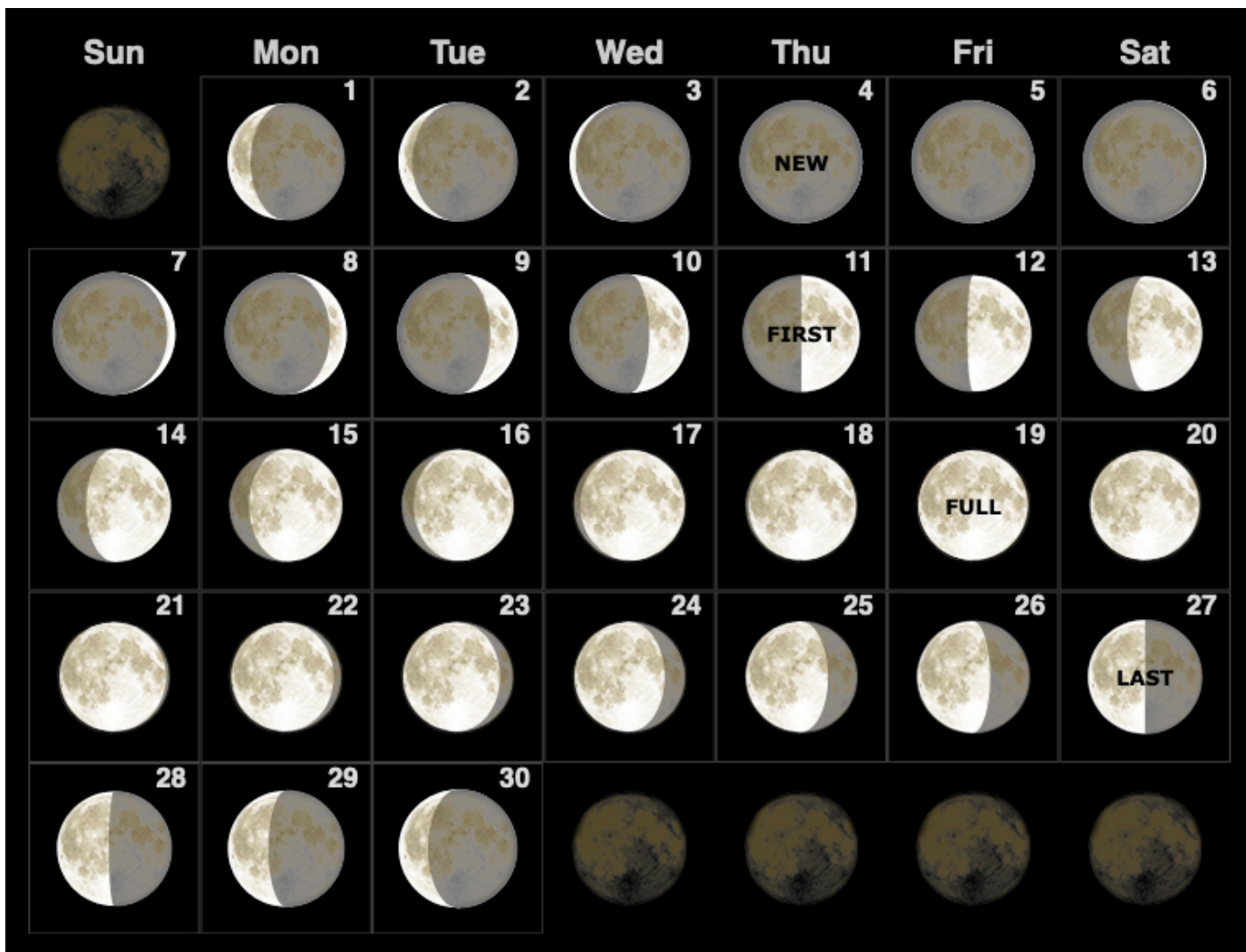


Lastly, the winter milky way taken early in the morning on 15 October.



Moon Phases

November 2021



November Sky Chart

