WEYMOUTH ASTRONOMY

Sky Watcher

Volume 13, Issue 6
9 November 2018

Trips / Events

Ideas for trips and events always welcome!

events@weymouthastronomy.co.uk

- 21 Nov CADAS—Astrophotography old and new with Pete Adshead and Bob Mizon
- 25 Nov Durlston Country Park Public Event—Organised by the WAS: Moon, Star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, Autumn constellations
- http://www.wessex-astro.org.uk/programme.php?year=durlston
- 4 Dec WAS—Pole Stars of Other Planets by Bob Mizon
- 14 Dec Durlston Country Park Public Event—Geminid meteors, galaxies, star clusters, Autumn and Winter Constellations
- 19 Dec CADAS—Christmas Social and Members Short Talks

Programmes for many local Societies will be available in the near future. Check their websites for more details.

WAC Upcoming Events:

14 Dec—Christmas Quiz / Social Evening

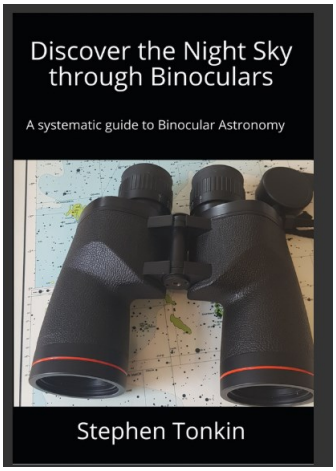
The 2019 programme is being finalised with dates and speakers to be available soon.

Why don't you volunteer to give a short talk? What part of astronomy inspires you? Pick a favourite object to speak on perhaps. Or a space mission?

More to come!!

WAC News—

This month's interesting find is a new book by the guru in binocular astronomy Stephen Tonkin. He has recently published a new book entitled 'Discover the Night Sky through Binoculars.



This small volume contains a wealth of information providing recommendations for good astronomical binoculars, how best to use them in astronomy and a great guide to interesting objects that can be explored with binoculars.

Current reader reviews include "*I think it is fantastic. Easy to follow and an ideal book to accompany every binocular and small telescope session. It really is very readable.*" and "*Naturally, a good intro for those starting off, but I would also say a useful reference as well.*"

A book worth adding to the Christmas list for someone you would like to inspire into astronomy, or even for yourself as a great guide to enjoying the night sky as darker nights draw in.
http://binocularsky.com/binoc_books.php

Until next month! ~SK

November's Dance of the Planets

by Jane Houston Jones and David Prosper

November's crisp autumn skies bring great views of our planetary neighbors. The Moon pairs up with Saturn and Mars in the evenings, and mornings feature eye-catching arrangements with dazzling Venus. Stargazers wanting a challenge can observe a notable opposition by asteroid 3 Juno on the 17th and watch for a few bright Leonid meteors.

Red **Mars** gleams high in the southern sky after sunset. **Saturn** sits westward in the constellation Sagittarius. A young crescent Moon passes near Saturn on the 10th and 11th. On the 15th a first quarter Moon skims by Mars, coming within 1 degree of the planet. The red planet receives a new visitor on November 26th, when NASA's InSight mission lands and begins its investigation of the planet's interior. News briefings and commentary will be streamed live at: bit.ly/landsafe

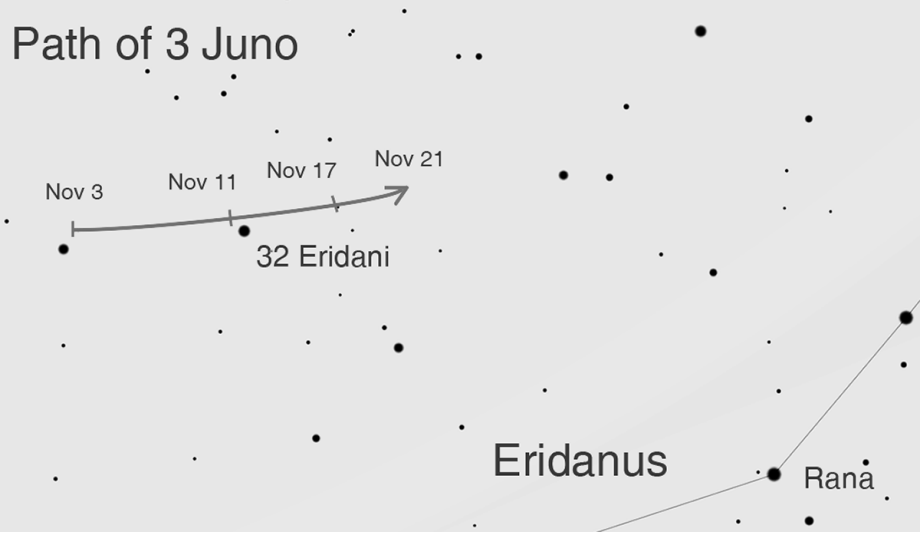
Two bright planets hang low over the western horizon after sunset as November begins: **Jupiter** and **Mercury**. They may be hard to see, but binoculars and an unobstructed western horizon will help determined observers spot them right after sunset. Both disappear into the Sun's glare by mid-month.

Early risers are treated to brilliant **Venus** sparkling in the eastern sky before dawn, easily outshining everything except the Sun and Moon. On November 6th, find a location with clear view of the eastern horizon to spot Venus next to a thin crescent Moon, making a triangle with the bright star Spica. The following mornings watch Venus move up towards Spica, coming within two degrees of the star by the second full week of November. Venus will be up three hours before sunrise by month's end – a huge change in just weeks! Telescopic observers are treated to a large, 61" wide, yet razor-thin crescent at November's beginning, shrinking to 41" across by the end of the month as its crescent waxes.

Observers looking for a challenge can hunt asteroid **3 Juno**, so named because it was the third asteroid discovered. Juno travels through the constellation Eridanus and rises in the east after sunset. On November 17th, Juno is at opposition and shines at magnitude 7.4, its brightest showing since 1983! Look for Juno near the 4.7 magnitude double star 32 Eridani in the nights leading up to opposition. It is bright enough to spot through binoculars, but still appears as a star-like point of light. If you aren't sure if you have identified Juno, try sketching or photographing its star field, then return to the same area over the next several days to spot its

November (*more!*)

movement. The **Leonids** are expected to peak on the night of the 17th through the morning of the 18th. This meteor shower has brought "meteor storms" as recently as 2002, but a storm is not expected this year. All but the brightest meteors will be drowned out by a waxing gibbous Moon. Stay warm and enjoy this month's dance of the planets!



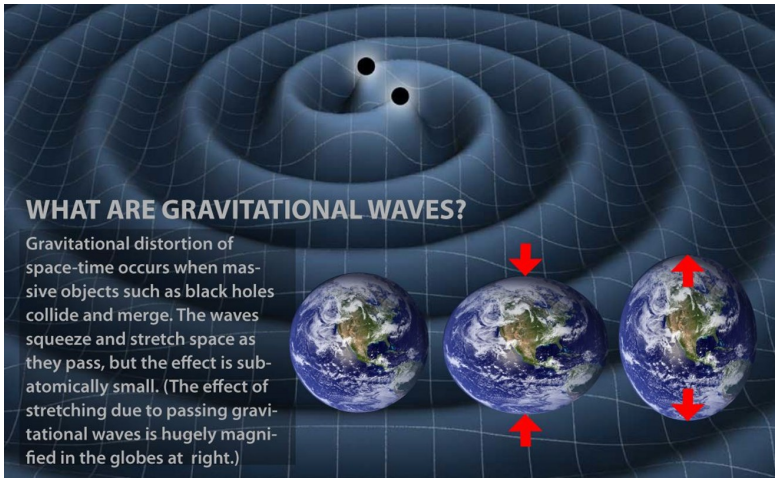
More on Gravity Waves *by Sheri Lynn Karl*

Hopefully this month's talk inspires you to find out more about Gravity Waves.

Some good resources for additional information are:

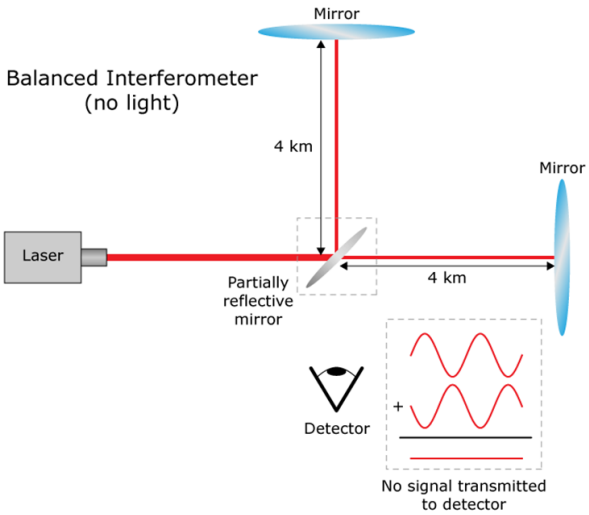
https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/page/gravitational-waves

http://www.virgo-gw.eu/



A gem of an overview of Gravity Waves for the everyman by Brian Greene on The Late Show

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajZojAwfEbs



A more rigorous look at the equations behind the determination of the properties of the sources of gravitational waves provided in a very clearly explained video book.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__w6gESeJsA