

2002



NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY, 17th October 2013
THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF HARINGEY
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SOCIETY NEWS

MEETING VENUE

Music Block, Ashmole School, Southgate, London N14 5RJ.

The day for meetings is usually the third Thursday of each month. The exceptions are August, when currently we do not hold a meeting, and December, when the Christmas Meet has always traditionally been held during the second week.

However, in case of changes, it is always advisable to double-check the dates below.

IMPORTANT

Remember we have had a change of meeting room.

Neither of the Sixth Form Centre rooms turned out to be really suitable, so we have been given a room in the Main Music Block, which is the two storey building, next to the original Music Room, See the next page

For more on this, and general meeting information, also check the website:
www.ashastro.co.uk. Latest update September 2013

Doors open - 7.30pm : Main speaker - 8.00pm : Finish - 10.00pm sharp!

New or updated information is in *italics*

2013

October 17th : AGM, and Mat Irvine : "Moondust to Spaceport"

November 21st : TBA

December 12th : Christmas Do : *possibly- this is still under discussion...*

COVER

This strange structure on the cover, is the Northern Lights Tower positioned at the geographical centre of the North American continent. It is about 100 metres from the Monument marking the actual spot. (The latter, right, with your Editor alongside.) Both are in the small town of Rugby in North Dakota.

The Tower celebrates one of the natural phenomena visible in the region, that of the Aurora Borealis - unfortunately not visible while I was there.



SOCIETY NEWS MEETING ROOM



Due to the new rooms we had been given in the Sixth Form Centre not being entirely suitable, we have moved again, this time to the Main Music Block.

This is the two-storey building, next to our original room, the now-demolished Music Room (marked with the X - see the main photo on left.) Note, especially for those walking, the easiest route from the Main gate is as the arrow depicts, ie not the route

you'd likely think of taking through the car park! We will be meeting in one of the first floor rooms, details will be posted as you come in. We hope a first floor will be suitable for all – as there isn't a lift. If anyone feels they will have difficulty – please let the Chairman know – contact details on back page.

MEETING PREVIEW : 17th October

This month's meeting includes the AGM and election time for next year's Committee. The chances are high that the positions will remain much the same as they were last year, but don't be afraid to step up and put yourself forward for a position. As always some 'new blood' on the Committee would be very welcome.

Some of us on the current Committee have been unable to regularly attend the meetings over recent months, myself included, due to work schedules taking us out of the country. This has happened to me this time, so I will not be able to attend. So Editor, Mat Irvine, with his Vice Chairman hat on, will run the proceedings.

Jim Webb, Chairman, ASH

As Jim says above, I will chair the AGM, itself unusual as I'm the one usually out of the country at this time which – as usual – we trust will take the minimum amount of time. I echo the sentiment that it would be really good to have some new members on the Committee.

To follow, I have been going through various illustrated talks I have, which have yet to have been seen by the Society. I've decided on one that firstly is connected to our late Patron, and it will also contain a postscript with some information not generally known, about what is likely to be one of the Movies of the Year, 'Gravity'. The talk is titled 'Moondust to Spaceport', and for an explanation about it all, come along to the Meeting!

Mat Irvine, Editor and Vice Chair, ASH

CHAIRMAN'S QUARTERS



A few weeks ago I had to go to Greece on an urgent matter. Weather was good, mostly sunny during the day but a tad chilly in the evening. A couple of days before I was due to fly back I went to visit a friend on the seafront of Peraia, a village outside Thessaloniki. It was raining a bit, so armed with my umbrella I set off taking the seafront route, which is pedestrianised and has no traffic. Well, as soon as I had cleared the nearby eateries, I got hit by a massive gust of wind and a monumental downpour of rain accompanied by thunderclaps nearby. By the time I had got to my destination, quarter of a mile further on, I was soaked to the bone – the umbrella was no match for those conditions! This rainstorm lasted a good half hour then abated leaving massive lakes of water all over the place.

It turns out that these squalls have been fairly frequent over the past few years. What's more, the summers have tended to be regularly interspersed with sudden rainstorms. Not as intense as this one, but still quite frequent. I remember when I was out there, nearly 50 years ago, the hot weather started in late May and went on relentlessly till mid September. These were cloudless days, predictable for the entire season with an occasional, very rare, downpour that might last 10 minutes. The locals are now telling me that summer weather can be quite unpredictable with cloudy days and rain not being too unusual.

So why the change? Whatever the reason, it's happening. Moreover, it appears to be worldwide. Science is trying to quantify and explain what is happening but, not surprisingly, the theories and their associated models are in conflict with each other. Is it natural, is it man-made? The arguments rage worldwide, often with a political or industrial slant, each trying to take the blame off themselves. Whatever the reason, we have no idea how this situation will pan out. But one thing is clear – our activities *are* influencing our environment. What reaction nature exhibits to these activities is very complex due to the sheer number of interrelationships within the ecosystem. Each day we are discovering tiny snippets of these relationships but putting it all together is a monumental task, requiring the discovery of every facet of our ecosystem. And we are still only scratching the surface!

Is there a solution to this 'problem'? Throwing money and more scientists into the study pot will probably result in more divisions as each study seems to have some vested interest in the result. Much of today's science is driven by large corporations whose purpose is to justify and perpetuate their own existence at whatever cost. Much of the justification is centred around the generation of profit for the benefit of the employees and shareholders. Good as that may be, these corporations are so large that the effects of their activities are often overlooked because of their inherently complex hierarchical structure. Simultaneously, these corporations influence the politicians of nations whose political will to deal with what are now referred to as 'Green Issues' is weakened or becomes non-existent. Whether these corporations ever develop a 'conscience' that is in line with the effects of their activities remains to be seen. Meanwhile we can sit back and enjoy the wonderful vagaries of our changing weather- it is spectacular being caught in the middle of weather at its rawest.

My apologies, I can't be at the AGM, so see you in November,

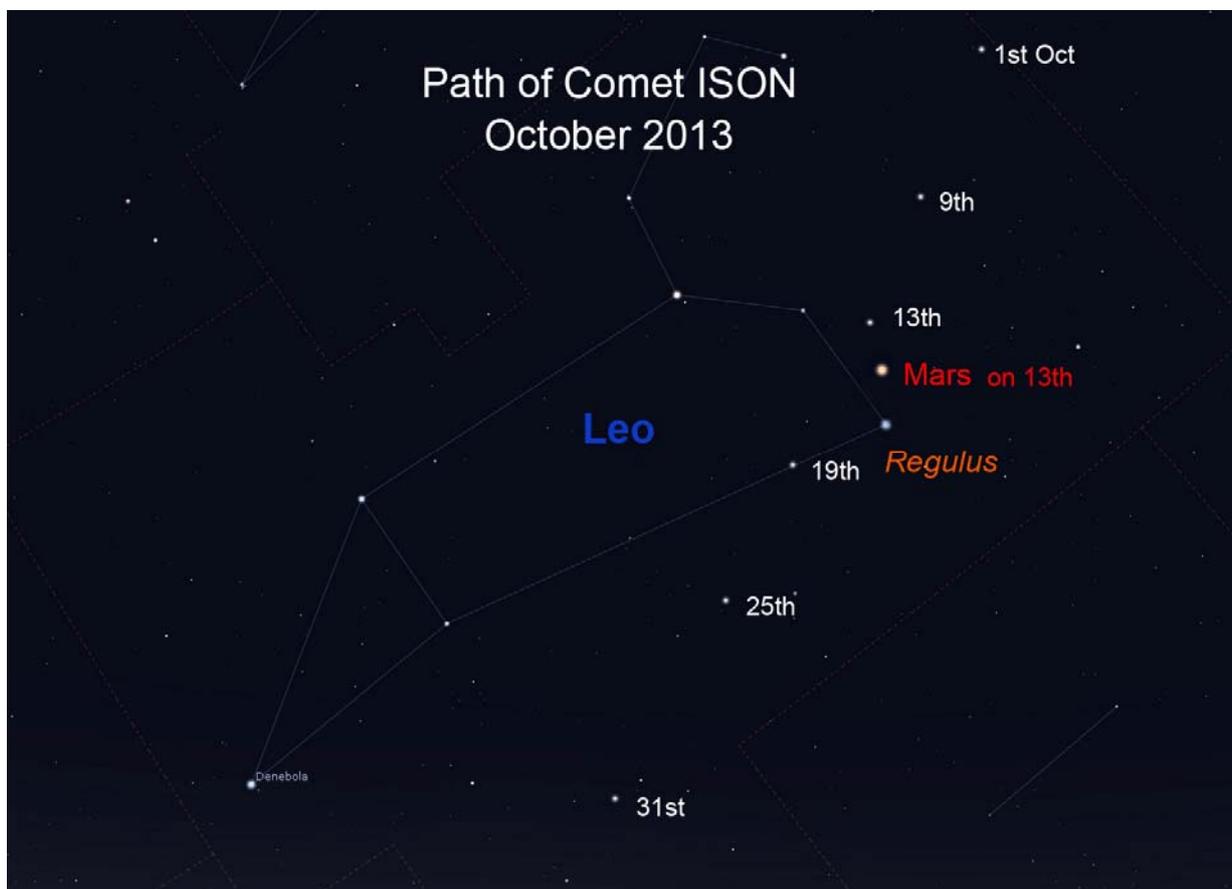
JIM

Sky Views

A recent view of Comet ISON, and where to spot it in the morning skies .



Comet ISON, taken at Mount Lemmon Observatory, Arizona, by Adam Block, 8th October 2013



Path of the Comet in the morning skies, through the month of October

THE NIGHT SKY

THE PLANETS

October – November 2013

MERCURY : Still in the evening skies, but very low down in the west, around magnitude -0.1. The planet is at inferior conjunction 1st November when it moves into the morning skies.

VENUS : Still in the evening skies and increasing in magnitude in October from -4.2 to -4.5, but fairly low down, so a clear horizon will be needed. At greatest eastern elongation, 1st November.

EARTH : BST ends 27th October

MARS : Rises around four hours before the Sun, in Leo, magnitude 1.6. Comet ISON will be close by from 13th through to 19th October. (See map on [SKY VIEWS](#) page.) Moon to the south on 30th October.

JUPITER : Rising around midnight, moving forward as the month progresses. High in the south just before sunrise, around magnitude -2.4. Moon to the south on 22nd October.

SATURN : In Libra in the evening twilight, but close to the horizon, around magnitude 0.7 and fading fast. Will be in conjunction with the Sun on 6th November.

URANUS : At opposition on 3rd October. Moon to the north on 17th October and 14th November.

NEPTUNE : Moon to the north on 15th October and 11th November

COMETS

Comet ISON is, of course, not as bright as speculated it should be at that stage in its travels. But, contrary to some views, it has not fragmented, has a definite greenish tinge and it could reach magnitude -3 to -5. (see [SKY VIEWS](#)) It will reach perihelion, (closest approach to the Sun), at the end of November, which will be the testing point. On 26th November there is a conjunction when it is close to both Mercury and Saturn in the morning skies.

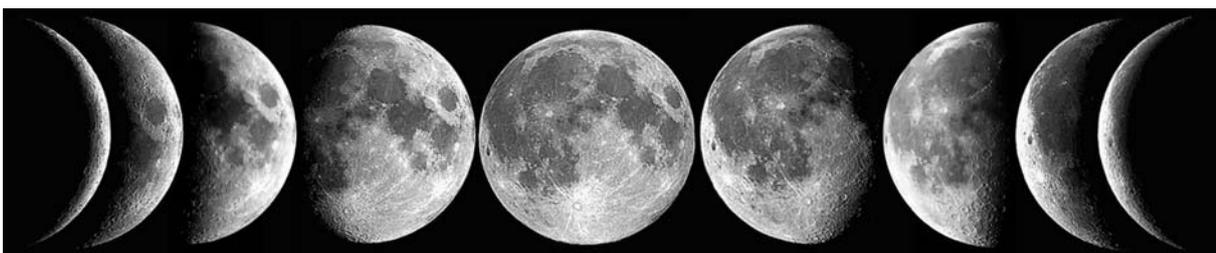
Comet 2P/Encke approached the Sun in September. In the evening skies though very faint at magnitude 12. A perihelion on 21st November, when it should be brighter around magnitude 5.0 in the morning skies. Encke has a period of 3.3 years, shortest of any known comet.

METEORS

The Orionids peak on 21st October. The Taurids peak on 5th November. The Leonids peak on 17th November.

THE MOON

There is a Hybrid Solar Eclipse over the Atlantic Ocean and some of Central Africa 3rd November. A Hybrid Eclipse means it is total at some places along the eclipse path, but annular at others.



New 5th October

First 11th

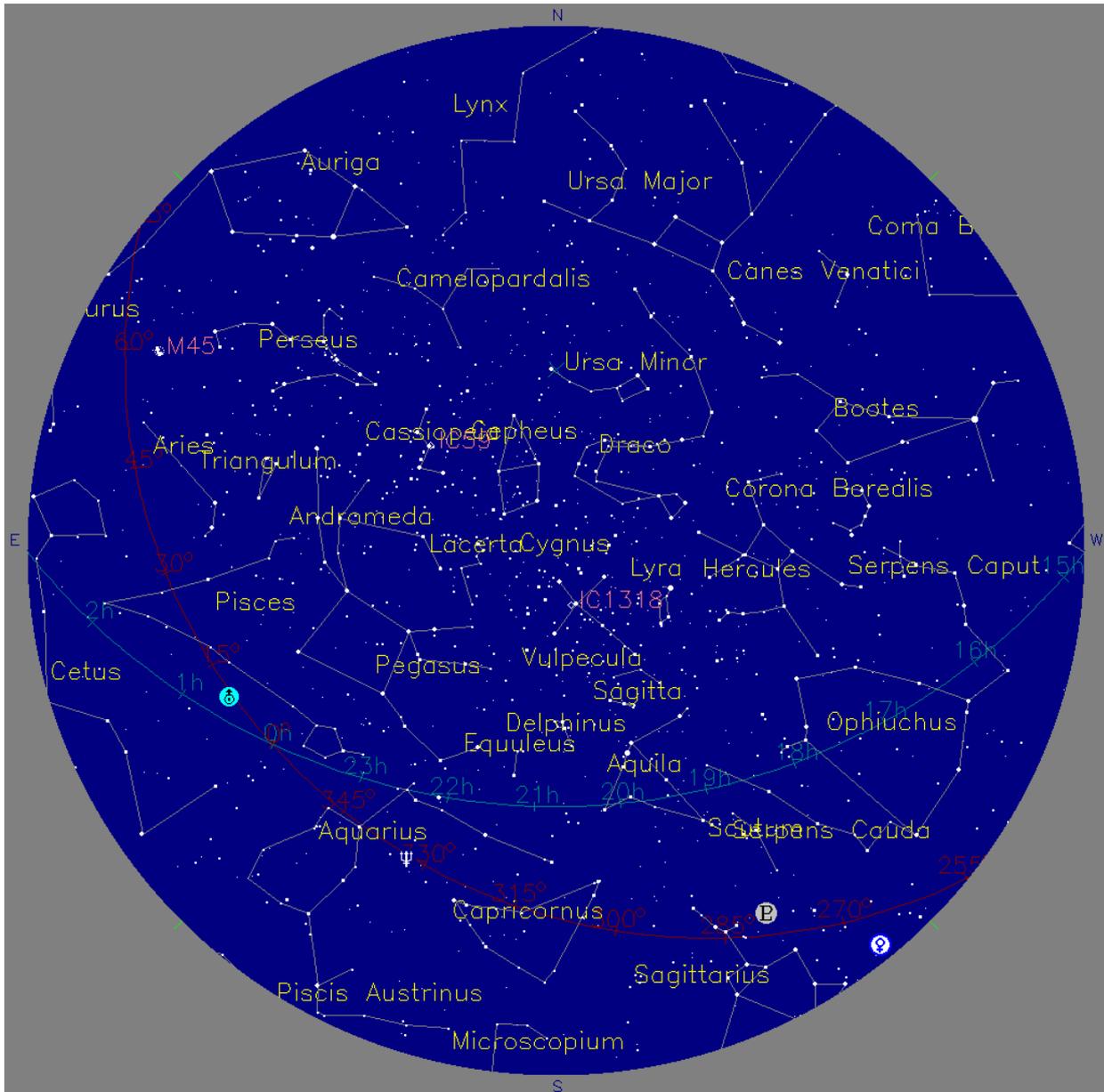
Full 19th

Last 27th

New 3rd November

THE NIGHT SKY : MAP

1st November 2013 18.00 GMT/ UTC



KEY	
 MERCURY	 SATURN
 VENUS	 URANUS
 MARS	 NEPTUNE
 JUPITER	 PLUTO



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