



SpaceX CRS-28 Dragon cargo craft approaching the ISS for docking on 6 June 2023. Clouds above the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Japan. Credit: NASA

What to look out for in the night sky

1 July - Conjunction of Venus and Mars The planets will pass close to each other, taking place at 6:48. Both planets will be visible to the naked eye, in the constellation Leo.

3 July - Full Moon, Supermoon. This full moon was known as the Buck Moon, Thunder Moon or Hay Moon. This is the first of four supermoons for 2023.

6 July - Earth's Aphelion The Earth will reach its aphelion, the point on its orbit furthest from the Sun.

29, 30 July - Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower (peak) This shower can produce up to 20 meteors per hour. The shower runs from 12 July 12 to 23 August. A nearly full moon will block most of the fainter meteors but with patience, you may see a few good ones. The meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

1 August - Full Moon, Supermoon This full moon was known as the Sturgeon Moon, Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon. This is also the second of four supermoons for 2023.

10 August - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation Mercury will be at its furthest distance from the sun, at its highest point above the western horizon, in the early evening sky.

12, 13 August - Perseids Meteor Shower (peak) The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak, with a large number of bright meteors. The shower runs from 17 July to 24 August. The crescent moon should allow for a good show. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Perseus but can appear anywhere in the sky.

27 August - Saturn at Opposition The planet will be at its closest approach to Earth, on the opposite side of Earth to the Sun. It will be brighter than at any other time of the year and will be visible from sunset to sunrise. This is the optimum time to view Saturn and its moons.

30 August - Full Moon, Supermoon, Blue Moon This is the third of four supermoons for 2023. This is the second full moon in the same month and so is referred to as a Blue Moon.

19 September - Neptune at Opposition The giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year.

22 September - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation Mercury will be at its furthest distance from the sun, at its highest point above the eastern horizon, in the early evening sky.

23 September - September Equinox There will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of autumn (autumnal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

29 September - Full Moon, Supermoon This full moon was known as the Corn Moon or Harvest Moon.

Meetings

Meetings are held in **The Lounge, Geddington Village Hall, Queen Street, Geddington NN14 1AZ**
Please visit www.naastronomy.co.uk to check final meeting information.

Tuesday 4 July: 7.30pm - Presentation by Neil Wilson – The JUICE Mission, plus Raffle!

Tuesday 25 July: 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Visiting speaker, Nick Hewitt - Comet Madness

August meeting – Perseids Evening – picnic, raffle and looking for meteors, date/time to be confirmed

Tuesday 5 September: 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Visiting speaker, Dave Eagle

Tuesday 12 September: 7.30pm - Committee meeting at The Piper

Tuesday 19 September: 7.30pm for 7.45pm - Members' presentations

Meetings with guest speakers: £4 (£5 for non-members)

General meetings: £3 (£4 for non-members)

Full membership: £30



NGC 2174, in Orion, seen by the Spitzer Space Telescope
Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

Club contact details

President: Nick Freville Tel: 01536 723211 email: nefrev2020@gmail.com

Chair and Speaker Co-ordinator: Sue Yendell Tel: 01536 515976 email: susan-yendell@sky.com

Treasurer: Neil Wilson email: nwilson@thermalissues.com

Joint Secretaries: Jane Napier Tel: 07960 262401, Anne Douglas email: adouglas2@sky.com

Committee Member: Frank Tasker Tel: 01536 390040

Useful websites

<https://www.space.com>

<https://www.nasa.gov/>

<https://esa.int>

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/advice/skills/astronomy-guide-viewing-planets-night-sky/>

<https://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-2021.html>

Spot the International Space Station:

https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/view.cfm?country=United_Kingdom®ion=England&city=Kettering#.Xx1I3ihKhPY

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