



Full-scale mockup of NASA's Orion spacecraft in the Pacific Ocean, 26 July 2023. This was the first in a series of tests conducted by NASA and the Department of Defence to test recovery operations for crewed Artemis missions. Image Credit: NASA/Frank Michaux

What to look out for in the night sky

8, 9 October - Draconids Meteor Shower (peak) A minor meteor shower producing only about 10 meteors per hour but is unusual in that the best viewing is in the early evening, not early morning like most of the other showers. It runs from 6-10 October. Meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

11 October until 23 November Jupiter is at its brightest during this time and will be at opposition on 3 November.

11 October until 17 December Uranus is at its brightest in this period. It can be seen with the naked eye (with good eyesight!) and a clear, dark sky and can be easily identified with good binoculars.

20, 21 October - Orionids Meteor Shower (peak) The shower produces up to 20 meteors per hour. The shower runs from 2 October to 7 November. There should be a good early morning show, meteors appearing anywhere in the sky.

23 October - Venus at Greatest Western Elongation Venus reaches its greatest distance from the Sun. It will be at its highest point above the eastern horizon, just before sunrise.

28 October - Full Moon This full moon is known as the Hunter Moon, Travel Moon or Blood Moon.

28 October - Partial Lunar Eclipse This eclipse occurs when the Moon passes through the Earth's partial shadow (penumbra) but only a part of it passes through the darkest shadow (umbra). The Moon will darken as it moves through the shadow of the Earth (between 20:38 and 21:48) and will be visible throughout Europe.

3 November - Jupiter at Opposition The planet will be brighter than any other time of the year and visible all night long. Binoculars should allow you to see Jupiter's four largest moons.

4,5 November - Taurids Meteor Shower (peak) This shower produces only about 5-10 meteors per hour but with patience you may see a few good ones. The shower runs until 10 December. Best viewing will be just after midnight and meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

13 November - Uranus at Opposition The planet will be brighter than any other time of the year and visible all night long.

17,18 November - Leonids Meteor Shower (peak) The Leonids produce up to 15 meteors per hour from 6-30 November. Best viewing will be in the early morning and meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

27 November - Full Moon This full moon is known as the Beaver Moon, Frosty Moon or Trading 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 17 October: 7.30pm for 7.45pm
Visiting speaker, Richard Goodrich: 'Comet madness'

RAFFLE

Tuesday 24 October: 7.30pm for 7.45pm
Visiting speaker, Jerry Workman

Tuesday 7 November: 7.30pm for 7.45pm
Visiting speaker, Martin Braddock: 'Houston, we have a problem'

RAFFLE

Tuesday 14 November: 7.30pm
Committee meeting at The Piper

Tuesday 21 November: 7.30pm for 7.45pm
Members' presentations and observation – please bring telescopes and binoculars

Meetings with guest speakers: £4 (£5 for non-members)
Full membership: £30

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



Two ospreys perch in their nest at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, 7 June 2023

Image Credit: NASA/Ben Smegelsky

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.star-gazing.co.uk/WebPage/home-2/dave-eagle/>

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

<https://esa.int>

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

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/sights-to-see.html>

Spot the International Space Station:

https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/view.cfm?country=United_Kingdom®ion=England&city=Kettering#.XxI13ihKhPY

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