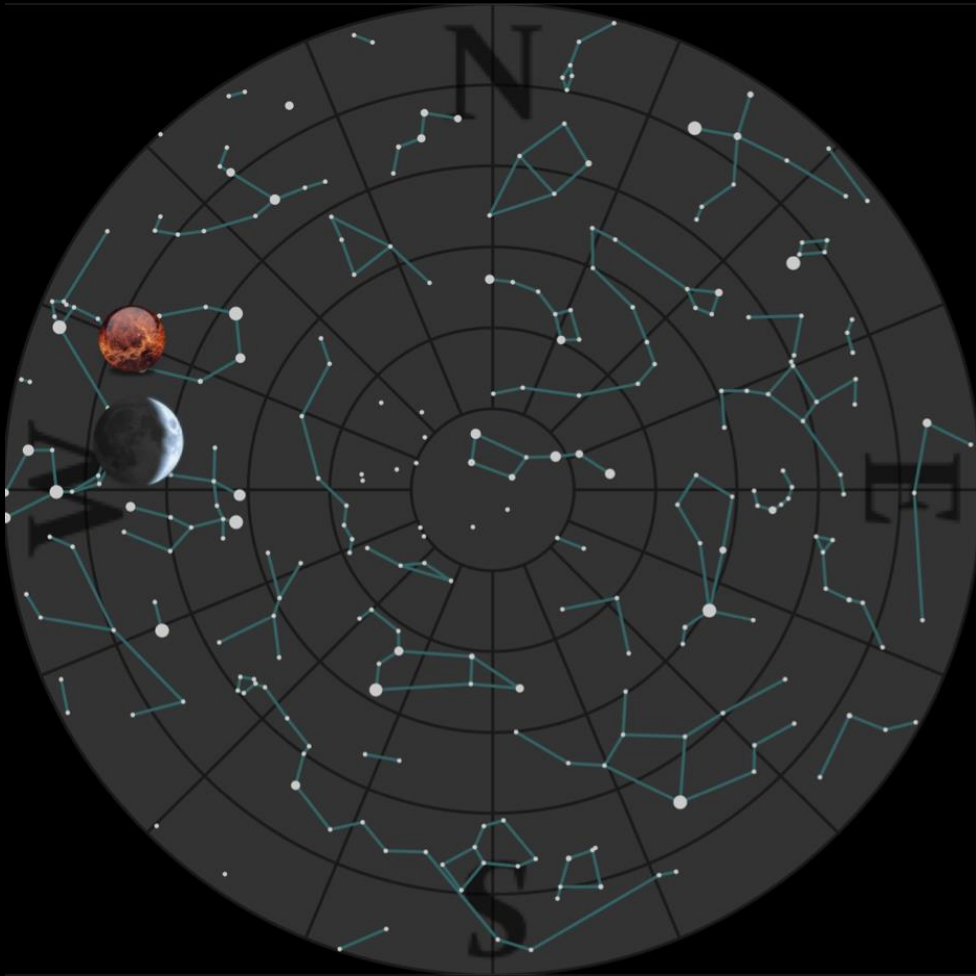


What's Up?

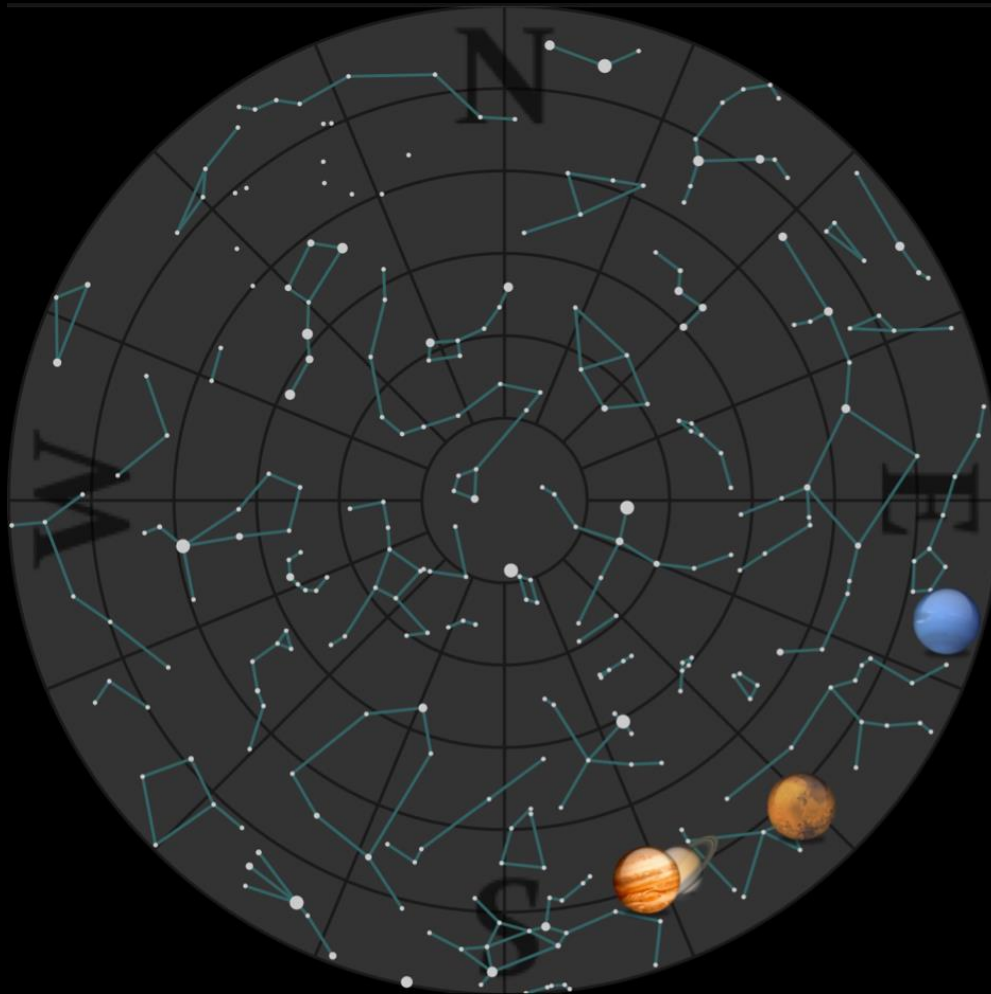
2020 April 27 to May 25

Bill Barton, FRAS

•The Sky 22:00
Tonight







•The Sky 05:00
Tomorrow



Inner Solar System

- Sun
 - Declination increasing, Solstice June 20, Aphelion July 04
- Mercury
 - Currently in morning sky
 - Superior conjunction on May 04
 - In evening sky, greatest elongation June 04 (24°)
 - Good observing opportunity mid May to mid June
 - Today, rise 05:25, transit 12:20, set 19:10
- Venus
 - In evening sky, greatest eastern elongation March 24 (46°)
 - Inferior conjunction on June 03
 - Today, rise 06:40, transit 15:30, set 00:30

Earth

- Time
 - 00:00UT \approx 14:22ST today
 - Today, sunrise 05:35, transit 12:50, sunset 20:10
 - End of period, sunrise 04:50, transit 12:50, sunset 20:50
- Moon
 -  First Quarter, 30
 -  Full, 07 (Milk or Flower Moon)
 -  Last Quarter, 14
 -  New, 22
- Meteors
 - η Aquarids April 19-May 28, ZHR=40

Occultations

- Lunar
 - ν Virginis, mag. 4.0
 - May 3, 22:26, DD
 - May 3, 23:17, RB

Outer Solar System

- Mars
 - Opposition October 13. Today, rise 03:25, transit 08:00, set 12:35
- Jupiter
 - Opposition July 14. Today, rise 02:20, transit 06:30, set 10:35
- Saturn
 - Opposition July 20. Today, rise 02:35, transit 06:50, set 11:00
- Uranus
 - Solar conjunction April 26, opposition October 31. Today, rise 05:35, transit 12:45, set 20:00
- Neptune
 - Opposition September 11. Today, rise 04:15, transit 09:55, set 15:30

Societies Events

- Physical Events Cancelled or Postponed due to Coronavirus
- Virtual Meetings or Webinars

Finally

- Measure to the Moon Project
- 20:30, Tuesday 28 April
- Wide angle photos of the Moon and Venus
- www.mayescreative.com/measure-to-the-moon.html

Measure The Moon



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The historic inspiration of this project was from the recent 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's observation of the 'Transit of Venus' from Tahiti in 1769. At the same time, John Bradley (nephew of the third Astronomer Royal, James Bradley) was instructed to travel to the Lizard Point on the south of Cornwall to record this transit at the same time.

A 'transit' is when something or someone passes through or across an area. In this case, Venus is passing across the Sun.

The 'Transit of Venus' is an event that occurs when the planet Venus, goes between the Sun and the Earth and can be seen as a small black dot going across the sun. This takes place twice every 243 years with each transit pair occurring eight-years apart with the last two transits occurring in June 2004 and June 2012.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

On specific dates and times (listed below), we invite you to go outside, and take a photo of Venus and the Moon. By also providing a location such as: London/ St Ives/ Budapest etc. we can determine if there is much difference in distance from observing the Moon at different locations on Earth. We can then use this to calculate how far we are from the moon. So, take a picture of the moon and send us your pictures with a location. *For more information check out the link below.*

How to improve your photo-taking skills

- Choose a location away from streetlights or other lights as this could make the picture of the moon blurrier and duller.
- For stability, prop your phone/ device on a tripod, wall or solid object.
- Get Venus (a bright looking star) and the Moon in the same frame and if your phone has the ability to 'lock focus' onto it, do that (this is usually done by tapping and holding onto the screen).
- Whilst locking focus, drag the exposure down by pressing the Moon/Venus and dragging down towards the edge of your phone.
- Your photo should start showing greater details of the moon.
- When your shot is clear and perfect, snap it up!



FUN FACT

Earth's tides are influenced by the gravitational pull from the Moon and the Sun. When both are 'working together', we get Spring Tides (that's Super Tides to you and me!)



DATES

Thursday 27th February 2020: 7:30pm (Local Time)

Saturday 28th March 2020: 8:00pm (Local Time)

Tuesday April 28th April 2020: 9:30pm (Local Time)

