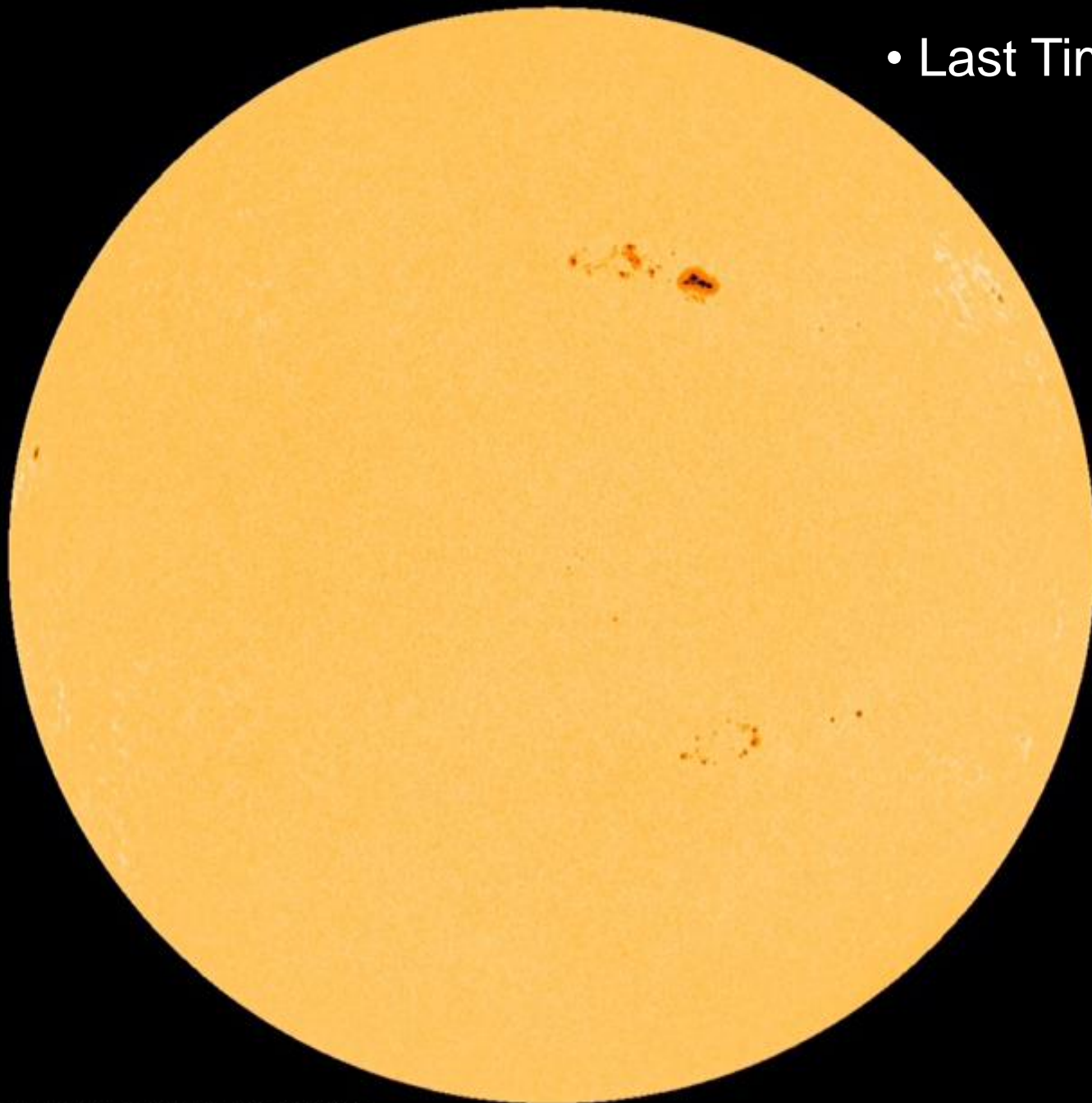


What's Up?

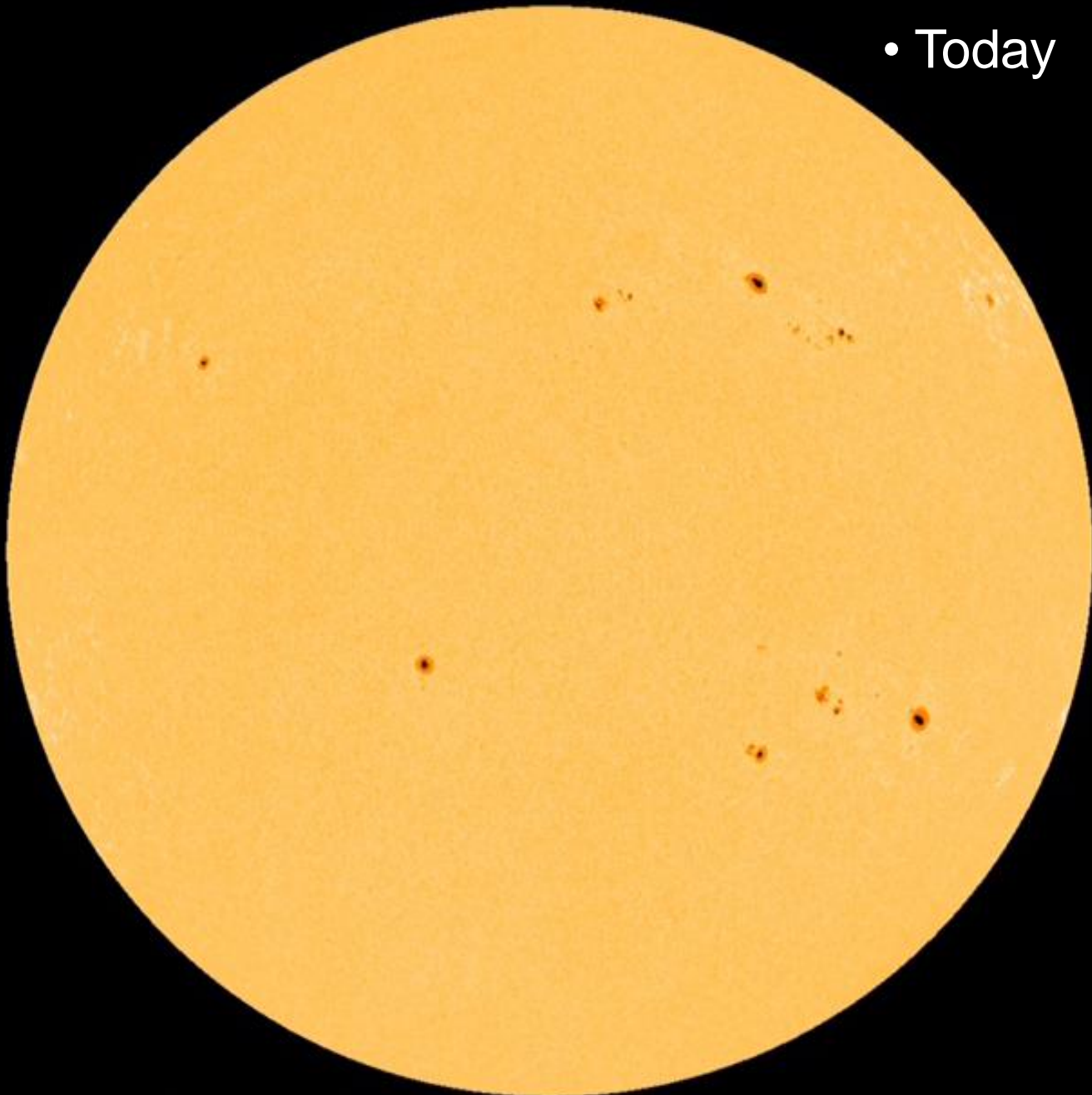
2023 March 27 to April 24

Bill Barton, FRAS

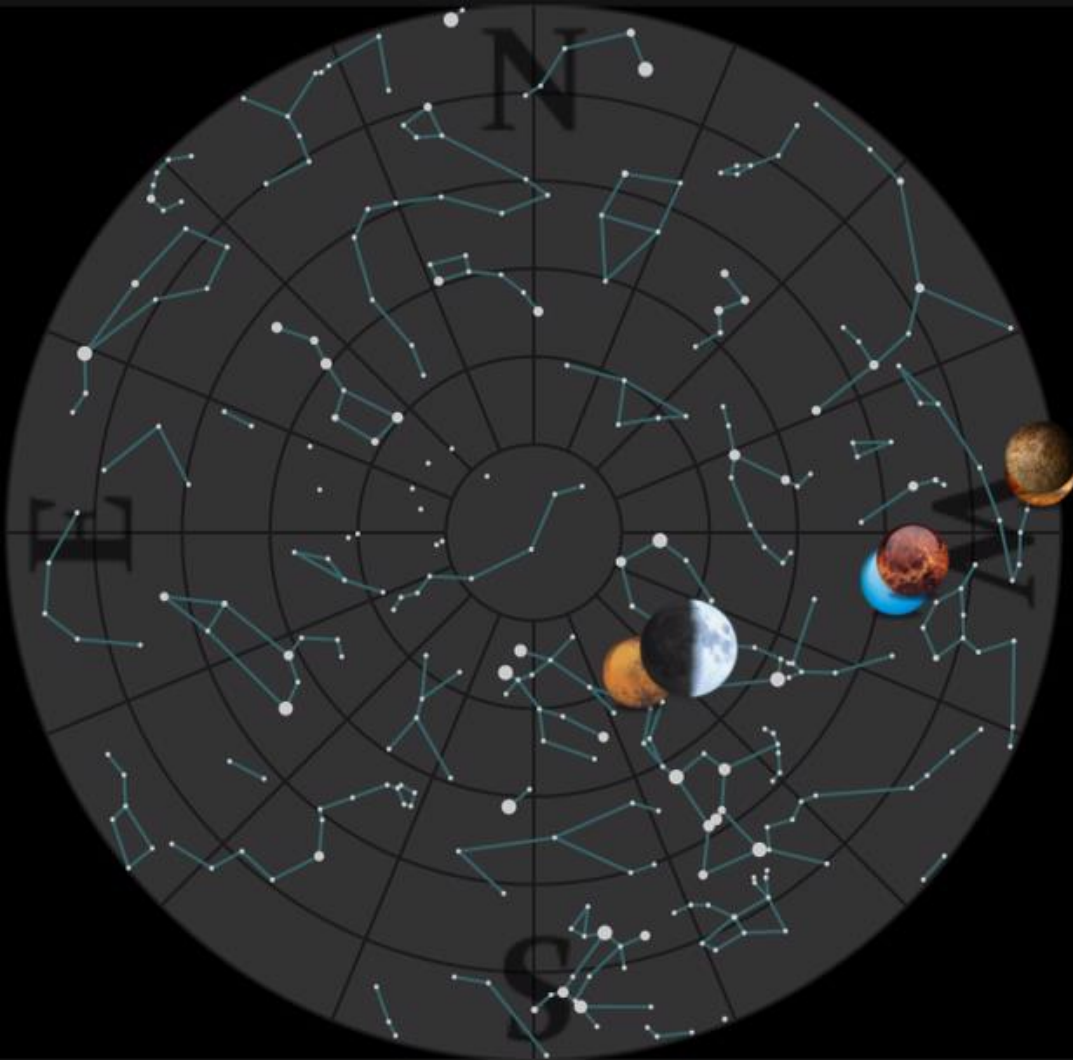
• Last Time



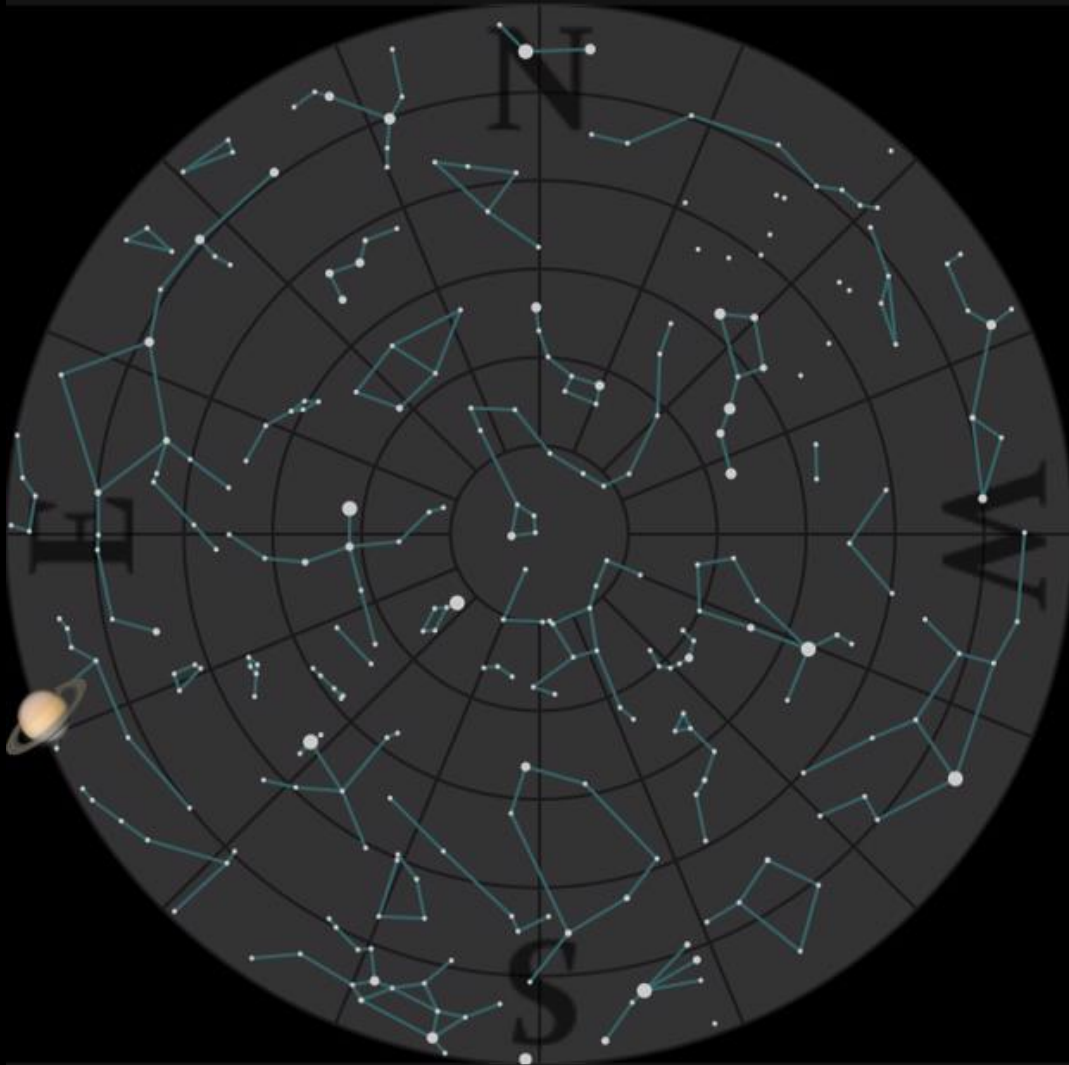
• Today



- The Sky 20:00
Tonight



- The Sky 06:00
Tomorrow



Inner Solar System

- Sun
 - Declination increasing, equinox Mar. 20, solstice Jun. 21
- Mercury
 - In evening sky, greatest elongation Apr. 11 (19°), currently 10° , mag -1.4 decreasing (-2 to +5)
 - Mid Apr. “good observing opportunity”
 - Inferior conjunction May 01
 - Today, rise 07:00, transit 13:30, set 20:15
- Venus
 - In evening sky, greatest elongation Jun. 04 (45°), currently 35°
 - Inferior conjunction Aug. 13
 - Today, rise 07:40, transit 15:15, set 22:45

Earth

- Time
 - 00:00UT \approx 12:15ST today
 - Today, sunrise 06:40, transit 13:00, sunset 19:20
 - End of period, sunrise 05:40, transit 12:50, sunset 20:10
- Moon
 - 🌑 First Quarter, 29
 - 🌕 Full, Apr. 06 ('Seed or Egg' Moon)
 - 🌑 Last Quarter, 13
 - 🌑 New, 20 (hybrid solar eclipse, not visible from UK)
- Meteors
 - April Lyrids, Apr. 14-30, peak 23, ZHR 15

Types of Solar Eclipses

- For the five millennia period 2000BC to 3000AD
 - 11,898 Total number of solar eclipses (100%)
 - 4,200 Partial (35.3%)
 - 3,956 Annular (33.2%)
 - 3,173 Total (26.7%)
 - 569 Hybrid (4.8%)
 - Or on a more human scale
 - 8 Partial
 - 8 Annular
 - 6 Total
 - 1 Hybrid per decade

Occultations

- Lunar
 - σ Scorpii, mag. +2.9, Apr. 10,
 - Bright limb disappearance, 03:38
 - Dark limb recovery, 04:36

Conjunctions

- None of note this period

Outer Solar System

- Mars
 - Conjunction Nov. 18, opposition 2025 Jan. 16. Today, rise 10:00, transit 18:35, set 03:15
- Jupiter
 - Conjunction Apr. 11, opposition Nov. 03. Today, rise 07:10, transit 13:45, set 20:15
- Saturn
 - Conjunction Feb. 16, opposition Aug. 27. Today, rise 05:50, transit 10:50, set 15:55
- Uranus
 - Conjunction May 09, opposition Nov. 13, Today, rise 07:55, transit 15:30, set 23:00
- Neptune
 - Conjunction Mar. 15, opposition Sept. 19, Today, rise 06:30, transit 12:20, set 18:10

OASI Events

- Lecture
 - 8:00pm, Friday 31 Mar., Dr Nick Hewitt, 'The Great Debate', St. Augustine's Community Hub (and Zoom?)
 - refreshments available, but bring your own mug!

Local Societies Events

- DASH (Darsham Village Hall, 7:00pm, Sundays)
 - Apr. 02, AGM + Chris Mead & Dave Partridge, 'JWST Update'
 - Apr. 16, Observing Meeting
- LYRA (Parkhill Hotel, Oulton, 7:30pm, Tuesdays)
 - TBA
- AAA (Whepstead Village Hall, 7:30pm, Wednesdays)
 - Mar. 29, Dr Matt Bothwell, 'Dark Energy'
 - Apr. 12, Keith Townsend, 'Here Comes The Sun'
 - Apr. 26, Solar Eclipses & Solar Observing

National Events

- British Astronomical Association
 - 17:00-20:00, Wednesday Mar. 28, SGM, Institute of Physics, 37 Caledonian Rd., London N1 9BU, & YouTube, Prof Alan Harris (via Zoom) 'The Truth about Near-Earth Asteroids: There's Good News and Bad', and John Rogers, 'Jupiter'
- Society for the History of Astronomy
 - 13:00-17:00, Saturday Apr. 01, Spring Conference, by Zoom due to rail strike (since cancelled)
- Society for Popular Astronomy
 - 14:00-17:00, Saturday Apr. 29, Gustav Tuck Lecture Theatre, UCL, Gower St., London WC1, Prof Paola Pinilla (UCL-MSSL), 'Probing Planet Formation Around Other Stars' and John Chapman-Smith 'Solar Observing'

And Finally...

UA SCIENCE
LUNAR & PLANETARY
LABORATORY



Minor Planet
2000 EY₁₅₆

has been officially named:
(50739) Gracecook

*as announced by the International Astronomical Union (IAU)
in the Working Group for Small Bodies Nomenclature Bulletin Vol 3 #4*

The official citation reads:

Discovery: 2000-03-11 / CSS / Catalina / 703

A. Grace Cook (1877–1958) was a British astronomer, known as a skilled observer. After joining the British Astronomical Association, she observed the 1914 Mercury transit from her own observatory, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1916. Known for meteor and auroral observations, she received the E.C.Pickering Fellowship in 1920

Citation written and submitted by Richard E. Hill - CSS