

Forthcoming CAWAS Meetings at 7:15 pm clock time.

From April meetings will be back in Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall

Friday 8th April	Pauline Norris	Ancient Egyptians and their Astronomy
Friday 13th May	Mark Edwards	Jodrell Bank Observatory - An early history
Friday 10th June	AGM	

<u>April</u>	<u>Event</u>	
Saturday	9th Moon - first quarter	☾
Tuesday	12th Jupiter near Neptune	
Saturday	16th Moon - full	☉
Monday	18th Mercury near Uranus	
Friday	22nd Lyrids maximum, T Sagittarii occultation	☈
Saturday	23rd Moon - last quarter	☾
Monday	25th Moon near Saturn	
Tuesday	26th Moon near Mars	
Wednesday	27th Moon near Venus and Jupiter	
Thursday	28th Venus near Neptune	
Friday	29th Mercury greatest elongation east	
Saturday	30th Moon - new	●
<u>May</u>		
Sunday	1st Venus near Jupiter	
Monday	2nd Moon near Mercury and Pleiades	
Thursday	5th Uranus conjunction, Eta Aquarids maximum	☈
Monday	9th Moon - first quarter	☾
Friday	13th γ Virginis occultation	

Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society

The society usually meets on the second Friday in the month, at Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall. The meetings begin at 19:15 and end at 21:30.

Web Site: <http://www.covastro.org.uk>

Mailing list

Join the CAWAS mailing list and receive irregular information of astronomical events and CAWAS news.

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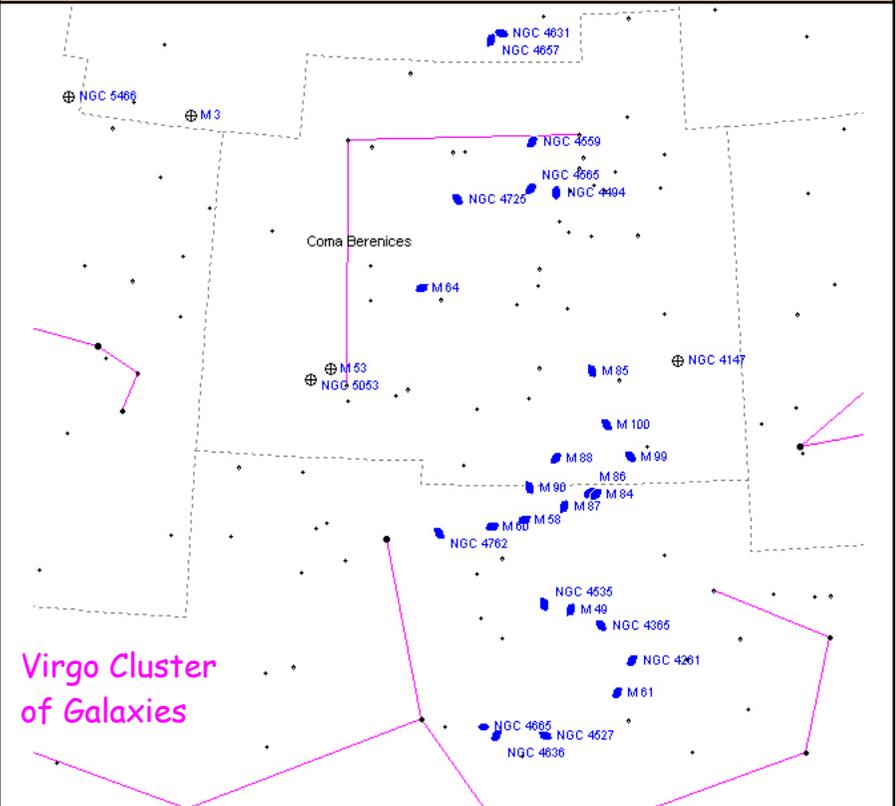
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Sky Notes

April 8th to May 13th 2022 No. 295



The Virgo cluster (which strays into Coma Berenices) contains over 1,300 galaxies many of which are brighter than magnitude +10. The brightest being M49 at mag. +8.4, a giant elliptical galaxy 56 Mly away, but the most famous member is another giant elliptical; M87 (mag. +8.6) containing an active super-massive black hole (whose accretion disk was imaged in 2021) that emits a relativistic jet of matter. Whereas the northern part of the cluster contains one of the most picturesque galaxies; M100 (mag +9.4) an intermediate spiral seen face-on.

Time given in these skynotes is Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) known as GMT here in the UK. Add one hour to get clock time in BST.

Sun moves north from Pisces into Aries this month and undergoes a partial eclipse on April 30, only visible in South America.

April 8th	Rise 05:24	Set 18:52	Dec +7° 10'
May 13th	Rise 04:14	Set 19:52	Dec +18° 24'

Planets once again are all lined up low in the morning sky except for Mercury and Uranus, leading to a number of mutual conjunctions.

Mercury (−1.7 5.2" 97% to +3.3 11.2" 5.4%) moves from Pisces, through Aries into Taurus and due to passing through its maximum eastern elongation of 20.6° on April 29 is visible in the evening sky not long after sunset, near the Pleiades. Both are joined by the two-day-old Moon on May 2 when Mercury lies mid-way between the Moon and the open cluster.

Venus (−4.2 20.2" 59% to −4.0 15.3" 72.1%) moves from Aquarius through Pisces into Cetus and back to Pisces again and is visible very low down in the east just before sunrise. On the morning of April 28 Venus lies just 26' to the east of Neptune and on May 1, 22' to the east of Jupiter. A few days before on April 27 the crescent Moon adds to the spectacle.

Mars (+1.0 5.3" to +0.8 6.0") moves from Capricornus into Aquarius and is visible with difficulty (mid-way between Venus and Saturn at the beginning of the month) very low down in the ESE just before dawn. On April 26 the crescent Moon lies 5° to the south.

Jupiter (−2.1 33.6" to −2.2 35.7") moves from Aquarius into Pisces and is visible very low down in the east just before sunrise as it gradually draws away from the Sun's glare throughout the month.

Saturn (+0.9 15.9" to +0.8 16.8") lies in Capricornus and is visible low in the SE just before dawn. On April 25 the crescent Moon lies 6° to the south.

Uranus (+5.9 3.4") lies in Aries and is not really visible this month as it passes through conjunction on May 5. Mercury passes 2° to the north on April 18.

Neptune (+8.0 2.2" to +7.9 2.2") moves from Aquarius into Pisces and lies too close to the eastern horizon to be visible, which is a shame as on April 12 Jupiter lies just 7.5' to the north.

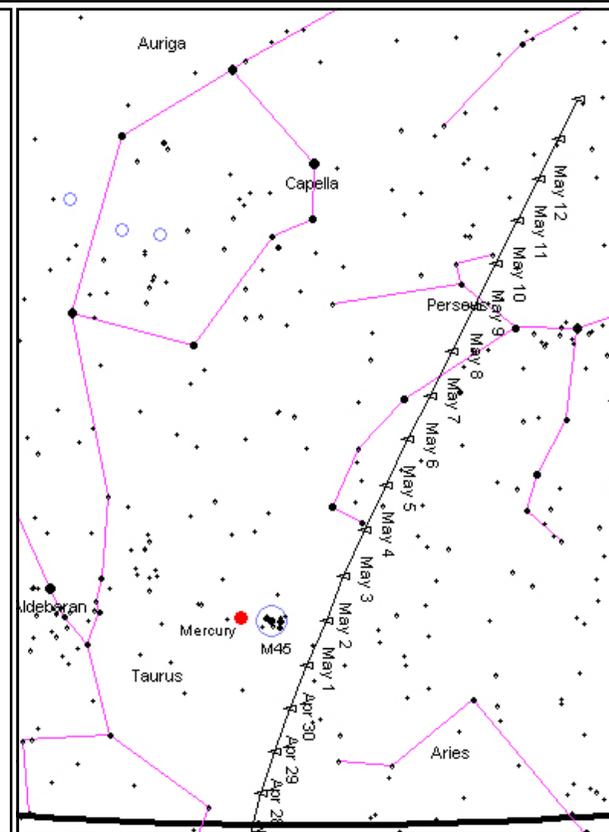
Occultation of magnitude +3.3 τ **Sagittarii** by the bright limb of the last quarter Moon starts at 04:47 on April 22 and is still in progress when the Sun rises at 04:53. Then on May 13 at 00:53 magnitude +2.8 γ **Virginis** is occulted by the dark limb of the almost full Moon. The star re-appears at 01:44 from behind the Moon's bright limb.

Meteors Lyrids are active from April 19 to 25. The meteors come from the debris of comet C/1861 G1 (Thatcher) and the ZHR is typically low at around 10 to 15, although occasional outbursts do occur. This year their peak is predicted to be 19:00 on April 22, with a last quarter Moon rising at 02:45 not interfering with observations.

Eta Aquarids are active from April 24 to May 20 and come from the debris of comet 1P/Halley, these high speed (67 km/s) meteors are predicted to peak on the morning of May 5 and have a ZHR of 20 to 60. As the radiant is below the horizon until the early hours of the morning, the hours just before dawn give the best rates and with a 4-day-old Moon that sets around midnight, conditions are ideal.

Comet C/2021 O3 (panSTARRS) comes to perihelion on April 21 when it is expected to reach mag +4.5. It should still be around mag. +5 when it becomes visible low down in the WNW just after sunset towards the end of April.

The chart shows its track through Perseus when it becomes circumpolar and visible all night. The chart also shows the position of Mercury on May 1 when it is close to M45 as is the comet.



Asteroid (10)Hygiea comes to opposition amongst the stars of Virgo on April 28 when it reaches a magnitude of +9.3.

Apollo 16 was launched 50 years ago on April 16 1972 and spent 3 days on the Moon's surface before landing back on Earth on April 27.