

Forthcoming CAWAS Meetings		
Friday 13th September	David Arditti	What Astronomy can I do from the City?
Friday 11th October	TBD	
Friday 8th November	Dr Nick Hewitt	Neighbours. Introducing the Local Group and CAWAS Anniversary Celebrations
Friday 13th December	Christmas Meal	King's Hill Nurseries, King's Hill Lane, Coventry. CV3 6PS

Saturday 28th September 20:30 - 22:30 Come and help at the Stargazing event at Ryton Pools

BAA Sunday 29th Sept 10:00 - 17:00	Asteroids & Remote Planets Section Meeting Clanfield Memorial Hall, Clanfield, Hampshire. PO8 0RB
Saturday 12th Oct 10:00 - 17:30	Observers' Workshop Solar, Aurora & NLC and Deep Sky Beacon Arts Centre, Custom House Quay, Greenock. PA15 1HJ

Observing Sessions with RADAS at Barby Cricket Club at 19:00 clock time.
In general two dates are given, the one to be used will be notified the day before.
September Friday 27/28 **October** Friday 18/19, Tuesday 22, Friday 25/26

<u>September</u>	<u>Event</u>	
Saturday	14th Moon - full	○
Wednesday	18th Saturn stationary	
Sunday	22nd Moon - last quarter	◐
Monday	23rd Autumnal Equinox	
Saturday	28th Moon - new	●
October		
Thursday	3rd Moon near Jupiter	
Friday	4th Comet Africano near Neptune	
Saturday	5th Moon - first quarter, Moon near Saturn	◑
Tuesday	8th Draconids maximum	☾

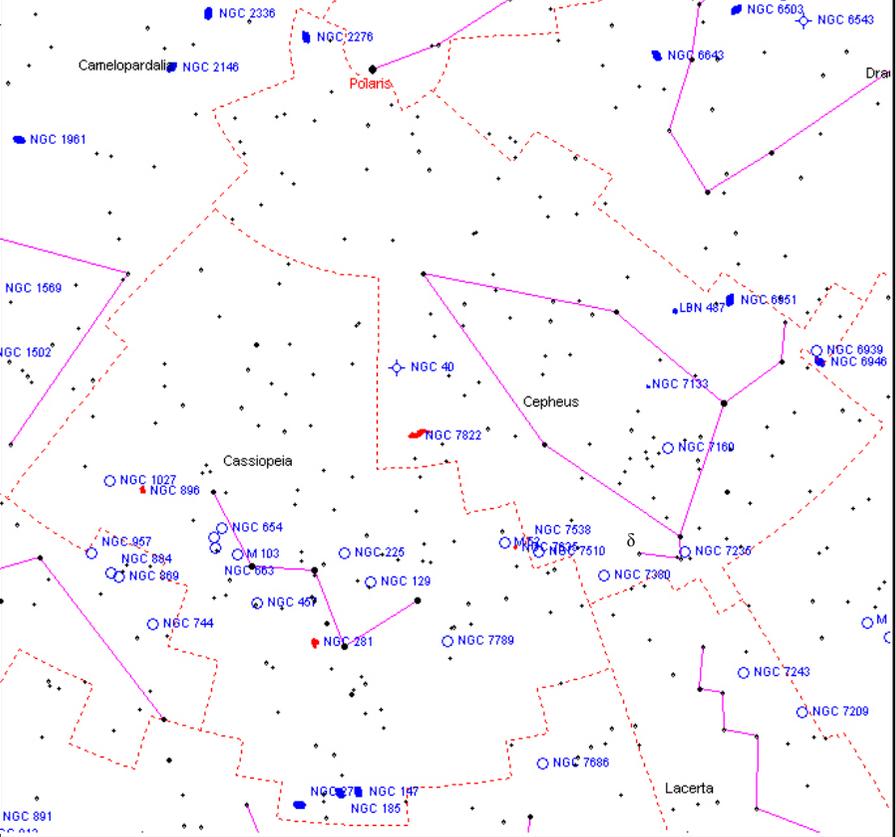
Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society
The society usually meets on the second Friday in the month, at Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall. The meetings begin at 19:15 and end at 21:30.

Web Site: <http://www.covastro.org.uk>
Mailing list
Join the CAWAS mailing list and receive irregular information of astronomical events and CAWAS news.
To subscribe just send an empty email to: covworksastro-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk
To post a message send to: covworksastro@yahoogroups.co.uk
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Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society

Sky Notes September 13 to October 11 2019 No. 264



The Royal Family

Queen Cassiopeia and King Cepheus occupy the sky between the pole and overhead at this time of year. As the Milky Way passes through Cassiopeia there are many open clusters of stars to be seen amongst its "W". Meanwhile Cepheus contains the famous variable star δ Cephei, the archetype of pulsating stars used to set the scale of the universe.

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 south from Leo into Virgo crossing the celestial equator at 07:50 on September 23 - the Autumnal Equinox.

September 13th Rise 05:36 Set 18:27 Dec +3° 40'
October 11th Rise 06:24 Set 17:21 Dec -6° 57'

Mercury (-1.0 4.9" to -0.1 5.8") moves from Virgo into Libra but is too close to the western horizon at sunset to be visible this month.

Venus (-3.9 9.8" to -3.9 10.2") lies in Virgo and like Mercury is too close to the western horizon at sunset to be visible this month (in fact on Sept 13 it is only 18' away from Mercury).

Mars (+1.7 3.5" to +1.7 3.6") moves from Leo into Virgo and after its conjunction last month has moved into the morning sky. Throughout the month it gradually draws away from the Sun so that it might be glimpsed very low down (12° altitude) in the ESE just before sunrise at the end of the month.

Jupiter (-2.1 37.5" to -2.0 34.8") lies in Ophiuchus and is visible low in the SSW for a couple of hours after sunset. Setting at 21:25 at the beginning of the month and 19:50 at the end. On Oct 3 the crescent Moon lies 2° to the north.

Saturn (+0.4 17.2" to +0.4 16.5") lies in Sagittarius and passes through its stationary point on Sept 18 going prograde again. It is visible low in the south in the first part of the night setting at 23:25 at the beginning of the month and 21:35 at the end. On Oct 5 the first quarter Moon lies 1° to the south.

Uranus (+5.7 3.7") lies in Aries and is visible high in the south all night as it heads towards opposition next month.

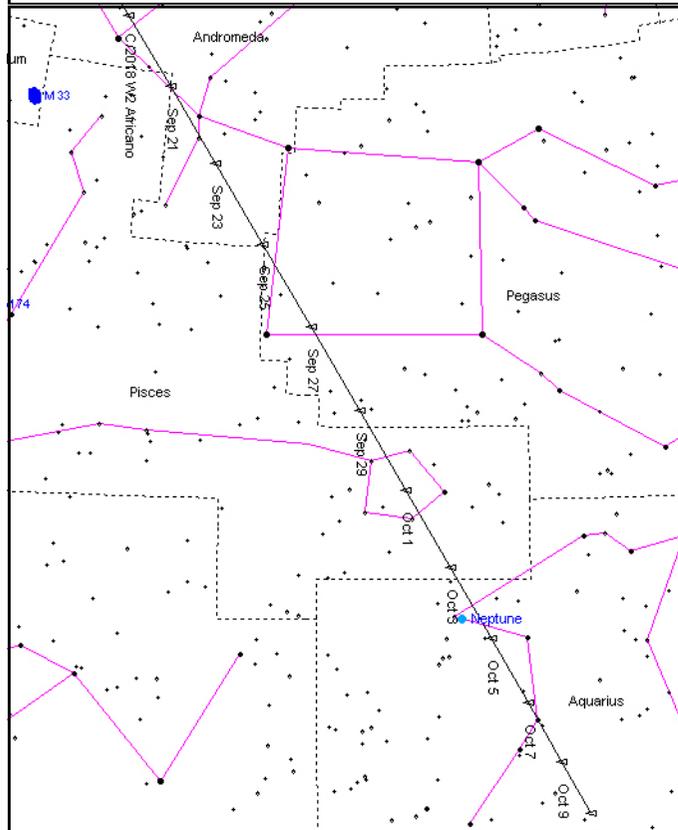
Neptune (+7.7 2.3") lies in Aquarius just to the west (less than 1°) of φ (Phi) Aquarii and as it passed through opposition last month is visible in the south until the early hours of the morning.

Star Names It is a common misconception that the brightest stars in a constellation are given a Greek letter starting with α in order of descending brightness, but this was never claimed by Johann Bayer (1572-1625) who gave us this labelling method. Rather he divided the stars into magnitude classes then assigned letters from the head to the foot of the constellation within the class, sometimes assigning α to the brightest star regardless of its position. This explains why the stars of the Plough have the letters α to η in order of their position in the pattern regardless of their magnitude.

Meteors

Piscids are visible throughout late September and into October and only produce one or two meteors per hour, but they are slow and long duration events are sometimes seen.

Giacobinids (Draconids) visible from Oct 6 - 10, are named after their parent comet 21/P Giacobini-Zimmer and only produce a few meteors per hour, except on the rare occasions that the cometary stream crosses the Earth's orbit. As the comet passed through perihelion last year enhanced activity is not expected. Prospects of seeing a good shower are further hampered by the peak night of October 8/9 coinciding with a gibbous Moon.



Comet C/2018 W2 Africano

passed through perihelion on Sept 5 and is predicted to reach magnitude +8 in late September and early October as it passes through the Great Square of Pegasus. Its path is shown in the chart.

Although not very bright, locating it is helped by its closeness (about 2°) to the planet Neptune on Oct 4.

Variable Stars

δ Cephei (mag. +3.5 to +4.4) at maximum Oct 7 at 20:57.

η Aquilae (+3.5 to +4.4) at maximum Sept 14 at 20:31, Sept 22 at 00:46.

Algol (+2.1 to +3.4) at minimum Sept 15 at 19:46, Oct 3 at 00:38 and Oct 5 at 21:27.