

Forthcoming CAWAS Meetings

Friday 10th May	Mike Frost	Lady Pioneers of the BAA
Friday 14th June	AGM & Pete Briggs	Ice, Fire and Northern Lights
Friday 12th July	Keith White + John Davis	Distributed Ledger Technologies Me and the Moon Landing

BAA

Sat 18th May	10:00 - 18:00	Comet Section Meeting Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Road, York. YO23 1BW
Wed 29th May	17:30 - 20:00	Ordinary Meeting and George Alcock Memorial Lecture The RAS, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. W1J 0DU
Sat 8th June	10:00 - 17:00	Historical Section Meeting West Berkshire Mencap centre, Enborne Gate, Newbury. RG14 6AT

May Event

Sunday	12th	Moon - first quarter	☾
Saturday	18th	Moon - full	☉
Sunday	19th	Mars near M35, Venus near Uranus	
Monday	20th	Moon near Jupiter	
Tuesday	21st	Mercury superior conjunction	
Thursday	23rd	Moon near Saturn	
Sunday	26th	Moon - last quarter	☾
Tuesday	28th	Ceres opposition	
June			
Monday	3rd	Moon - new	●
Wednesday	5th	Moon near Mars	
Monday	10th	Moon - first quarter, Jupiter opposition	☾

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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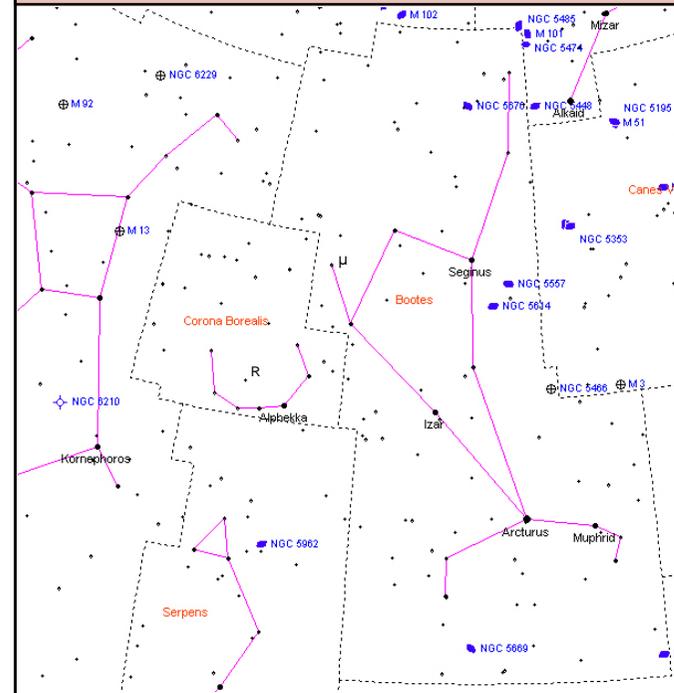
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Coventry and Warwickshire Astronomical Society

Sky Notes

May 10th to June 14 2019 No. 260



High in the south the constellation of **Boötes**, the Herdsman, is dominated by its brightest star, the red giant **Arcturus**. At magnitude -0.04 it is the brightest star in the northern night sky, helped by its relative closeness at 36.7ly and its luminosity 110 times that of the Sun. Nearby is **Corona Borealis** the Northern Crown.

There are few deep sky objects visible in Boötes not helped by the fact that the north of the constellation contains the Boötes Void - a region of space 330 million ly in diameter and almost devoid of galaxies. It does though contain a number of interesting double stars, one of which is μ Boötis (Alkalarops), a multiple star consisting of μ_1 (mag +4.31) and μ_2 (108" distant) with components (mags +7.2 and +7.8) separated by an easily resolved 2.2".

The brightest star in Corona Borealis, α (Alphekka) is an eclipsing binary star of the Algol type, its brightness dropping very slightly from a magnitude of +2.21 to +2.32 every 17.36 days.

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 Aries into Taurus this month. From May 18th onwards, even at midnight, the sun is not far enough below the horizon for astronomical twilight to end, so the sky is light all night - natural light pollution!

May 10th Rise 04:19 Set 19:47 Dec +17° 40'
June 14th Rise 03:43 Set 20:29 Dec +23° 21'

Mercury (-1.0 5.3" to 0.0 6.8") moves from Aries through Taurus into Gemini and as it passes through superior conjunction on May 21 might be seen very low down in the NW just after sunset, setting almost 2 hours after the Sun at the end of the month..

Venus (-3.9 11.2" to -3.9 10.2") moves from Pisces through Aries into Taurus and might be glimpsed just above (about 5°) the ENE horizon just before dawn. On May 19 it passes 1° east of Uranus.

Mars (+1.7 4.2" to +1.8 3.7") moves from Taurus into Gemini. On May 19 Mars passes close to the open cluster M35 and on June 5 a thin crescent Moon lies 3° to the south

Jupiter (-2.5 44.4" to -2.6 44.9") lies in Ophiuchus and as it reaches opposition on June 10 can be seen low in the southern sky all night. On May 20 the gibbous Moon lies 4° to the east.

Red Spot transit times:-

May 11 20:55, **13** 22:33, **18** 21:40, **21** 23:18, **23** 20:48, **25** 22:26, **30** 21:33

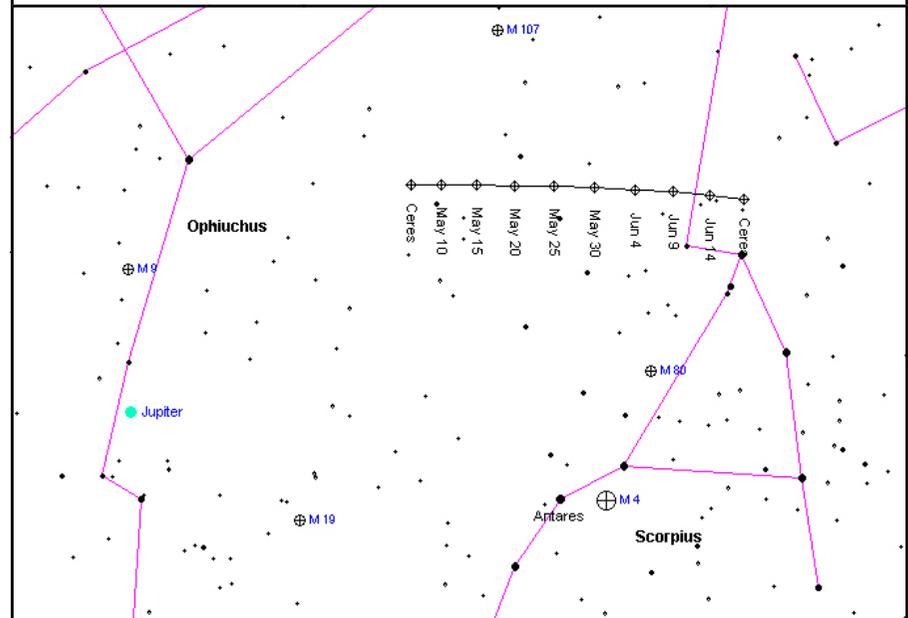
June 1 23:11, **4** 20:41, **6** 22:19, **8** 23:57, **11** 21:27, **13** 23:05

Saturn (+0.4 17.4" to +0.2 18.1") lies in Sagittarius and can be seen low in the SE during the early hours of the morning at the beginning of the month, moving into the night time sky at the end, when it rises at 22:00. On May 23 the Moon lies 3° to the south

Uranus (+5.9 3.4") lies in Aries and after its conjunction last month moves into the morning sky gradually drawing away from the Sun throughout the month. At the end of the month it rises 2 hours before the Sun and can be seen low in the east before dawn.

Neptune (+7.8 2.2") lies in Aquarius and like Uranus gradually becomes more visible low in the ESE in the early hours of the morning as the month progresses, rising at 02:40 at the beginning of the month and 00:30 at the end.

Minor Planet 1 Ceres comes to opposition on May 28 at 22:36 when it reaches a magnitude of +7.0. The chart below shows its path amongst the stars of Ophiuchus and Scorpius not far from Jupiter. Ceres, at 952km in diameter, is the largest of the minor planets and was the first to be discovered by Guiseppe Piazzi in 1801. In 2015 it was visited by the Dawn spacecraft which showed curious bright spots of salt in its craters.



Variable Star R Coronae Borealis is a very unusual yellow supergiant star in that it behaves like a backwards nova. It usually shines at around mag. +6 but at odd times its brightness suddenly drops to less than mag. +14 (the chart below shows its variation over the past 27 years). It is thought that the star's light during those periods is being blocked by the accumulation of carbon rich dust in its atmosphere. Its position is shown in the chart on the cover of these skynotes.

