



# JERSEY ASTRONOMY CLUB

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NEWSLETTER

JULY

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## Next Meetings – Saturn

July 11 – A Look at Saturn, bright in the Night Sky in July, and hopefully viewing. Usual time of 8.00 pm, venue Astronomy Club House.

### For your Diary:

Sue has arranged for Martin Hendry (LIGO project) to come over in October. Date and place to be announced.

Professor Martin Hendry of the University of Glasgow, is a member of the LIGO collaboration that made the discovery of gravitational waves this year, so this will be a chance to hear an expert on the cutting edge astronomy that made a major news splash earlier this year.

### Is there Life in the Universe?

In June, we enjoyed a fascinating talk by Dr Catchpole with around 45 people present, both members and non-members, during which he explored both the science and historical factors which gave estimates for the chances of life elsewhere in the universe, and alien civilizations with at least as high level of technology as our own planet.

Dr Catchpole also spent time during his visit to Jersey giving two presentations to pupils at Les Quennevais School and to an enthusiastic group of Year 5 pupils from St Peters Primary School. We hope that other schools may take up the opportunity to have our speakers visit them in the future.

### AGM

At the AGM, the following committee members were elected:

- Tony Bellows – Chairman
- Neil Mahrer – Facilities Manager
- Derek Jepson – Treasurer
- Roy Bellows – Secretary
- Oversight Members – Sue Hepplolette, Guilain Le Piouffle, Ian Dunbar

Simon Griffith stood down as Treasurer and was thanked for his work in keeping the club's books balanced and stepping into the breach at a difficult time in the club's history

## Dome News



Neil will be having regular Monday night viewings if the night is clear. The platform is now in place, so no more going up a rickety old ladder to see the stars and planets! Picture of Jupiter from scope above. Go to our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/JerseyAstronomyClub> as he will update this if he will be present or not on a Monday night if it is a clear night.

### Making the News: July 4 - Juno at Jupiter.

NASA's Juno spacecraft arrived at Jupiter after a five year journey. Launched on August 5, 2011, Juno has been inserted into a polar orbit around the giant planet.

From this orbit the spacecraft will study Jupiter's atmosphere and magnetic field. Juno will remain in orbit until October 2017, when the spacecraft will be de-orbited to crash into Jupiter.

On Sunday 8.30, the Sky at Night on BBC 4 will be showing a special programme - Juno: Mission to Jupiter

### JUST OUTSIDE THE BOX

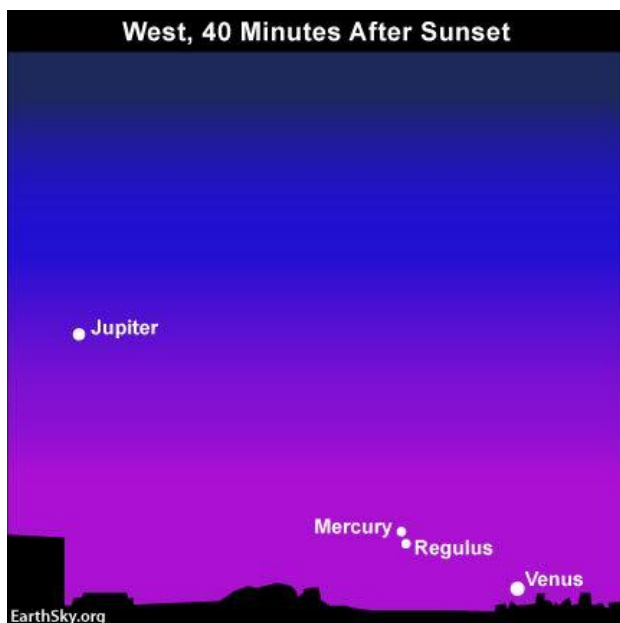


## Night Sky gazing in July

You can see all five bright planets in the evening this month!



Bright Jupiter shares the evening sky with two other planets. The red planet Mars will be the first to appear in the south at dusk. If you look carefully you'll notice that it really is a pale orange color. As it gets a little darker the ringed planet Saturn makes its appearance to the left of Mars. Finally you'll notice another object below Saturn. That's the bright star Antares. The triangle of Mars, Saturn and Antares will be obvious in the evening sky throughout the month.



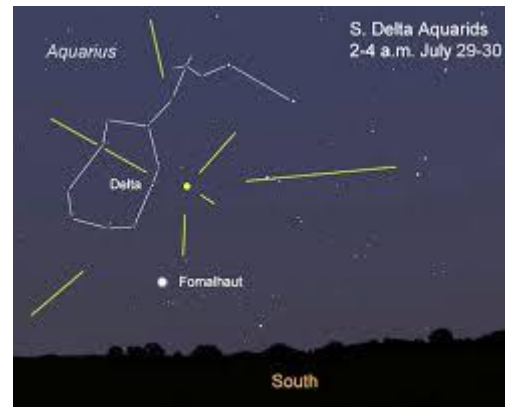
Mercury and Venus are low in the glare of evening twilight, quickly following the sun below the horizon before nightfall. But, as the days pass, both Mercury and Venus get higher in the sky.

By mid-July, you can start searching for them with the eye, in the west after sunset.

There is a conjunction of the planets Mercury and Venus after sunset on July 16, 2016. Find an unobstructed western horizon in the direction of setting sun.

If you're blessed with a crystal-clear sky, you might catch these two closely-knit worlds near the horizon around 30 minutes after sunset. Shortly thereafter, Mercury and Venus will follow the sun beneath the horizon.

By late July, you might be able to see all five bright planets at once, briefly, after sunset



July 28, 29 - Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Delta Aquarids is an average shower that can produce up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak.

It is produced by debris left behind by comets Marsden and Kracht. The shower runs annually from July 12 to August 23.

It peaks this year on the night of July 28 and morning of July 29. The second quarter moon will block most of the fainter meteors this year but if you are patient you should still be able to catch quite a few good ones. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Aquarius, but can appear anywhere in the sky.



On July evenings, try finding two stars in the constellation Libra with the coolest of all star names: Zubenelgenubi and Zubeneschamali!