



Newsletter March 2022

Next Meeting: **Monday 28th March 7pm**

Location: **Kyle Academy,
Overmills Road,
Ayr KA7 3LR**

Topics: AAS February Meeting – Magnetism in Astronomy by Dr. Alex McKinnon

Contents

President's Word	p. 2
March/April Observing	p. 3
Member Images	p. 4
Moon Phases	p. 6
Sky Chart	p. 7



Presidents Word

This month we are fortunate to have Dr Alex McKinnon from Glasgow University to give our main talk of the evening. Alex specialises, amongst other things in outreach astronomy and is an excellent speaker who has given us many interesting talks over the years. This month he will be speaking on the subject of magnetism in astronomy, so get your questions ready.

Next month, as discussed earlier, we will be having a members evening. Bring your telescope, binoculars, miscellaneous kit, astronomical “what is this?” books, magazines and images or just a short talk on space news or your favourite topic. The evening will be managed ad hoc on the night and will be a good opportunity for chat and interaction. The success of the evening is up to you!

In May, the last meeting for this session, we have Professor Danny Gorman as our main speaker. Danny will speak on the subject of James Clark Maxwell and his pioneering work on electromagnetic waves and their relevance to astronomy. Again, he is an excellent speaker, so have your questions ready.

In May we also have the AGM, and, this year, the Society is in a critical position in that both the Current Vice President and the longstanding Secretary wish to stand down due to personal reasons. Two members are also needed to complete the Committee. **Unless these positions are filled the Society is in in danger of collapsing after well in excess of thirty years, that would be a shame to say the least!.** The posts do not carry a requirement for huge time commitments or detailed specialist knowledge, although the post of secretary does require some computer literacy and communication skills. Please step up and put your name forward, guidance and training will be available if needed.

Finally, to date, we have two potential public outreach commitments in 2022;

1 st May	Cars on Campus at St Josephs Academy Kilmarnock
29 th July	Dumfries House

Both of these are great days out, but we need volunteers to attend and help set up “run” our stand, otherwise we cannot commit to be there. The events are great fun with lots to see and you do not need to be on the stand all the time. In addition they are of great benefit in advertising the Society and astronomy in general. However we need definite commitments with certainty of turning up otherwise we will need to cancel our involvement. You do not need to be an expert on astronomy. If you can chat to people and keep sticky fingers off scopes, that’s all you need to do, so once again please step up and put your name forward.

See you all on Monday



February/March Observing

General

The weather has begun to improve and hopefully we will all be able to get a bit of astronomy in before we lose astronomical darkness in mid-May. Galaxy season is upon us. Leo is in a good position for observing relatively early in the evening and is followed by Coma Berenices and Virgo. Of particular interest are the Leo Triplet, and Markarian's chain, however there are numerous galaxies to observe in that area, including over 20 Messier objects, many being between magnitude 9-11. There are also two globular clusters in the general area worth a look, including M53 and M3 which are well located for observing in the late evening.

Planets

Currently the position of most of the planets is not well suited for observation, as Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune are low in the morning sky for this period. Mercury is also close to the sun so is not readily visible. Uranus is in Ares, but is now getting low on the western horizon making it difficult to see.

Comets

Apart from the comets mentioned in the last newsletter there are no easily observable comets at the moment.

Meteor Showers

The one major meteor shower to look out for is the Lyrids, which peak at 5am on the 22nd of April. The moon will cause some interference as it will be a day before last quarter, but it is also low on the horizon making less of a problem.

ISS

The ISS is visible in the evenings until the 2nd of April, returning in the mornings on the 28th of the April. Consult <https://www.heavens-above.com> for specific times and locations. If you are interested in ISS lunar or solar transits here is a site with predictions that you can make for your location: <https://transit-finder.com/>. Note there are three solar transits visible in parts of Ayrshire in April, the 8th, 9th, and 13th. Remember observing the sun is dangerous and required proper solar filters.



Member Images

Contributions are welcome from all our members, so if you have something you want to show please do send it in so that it can be included in the Newsletter.

Marc Charron

Nova V1205 Cassiopeia taken on the 19th of March, a year and a day after it was discovered. The nova continues to shine, though it has been on a slow steady decline for some months now. For a nova this old, it is still fairly bright at about magnitude 10.7. Taken with 70mm f6 APO, with 0.8x reducer.



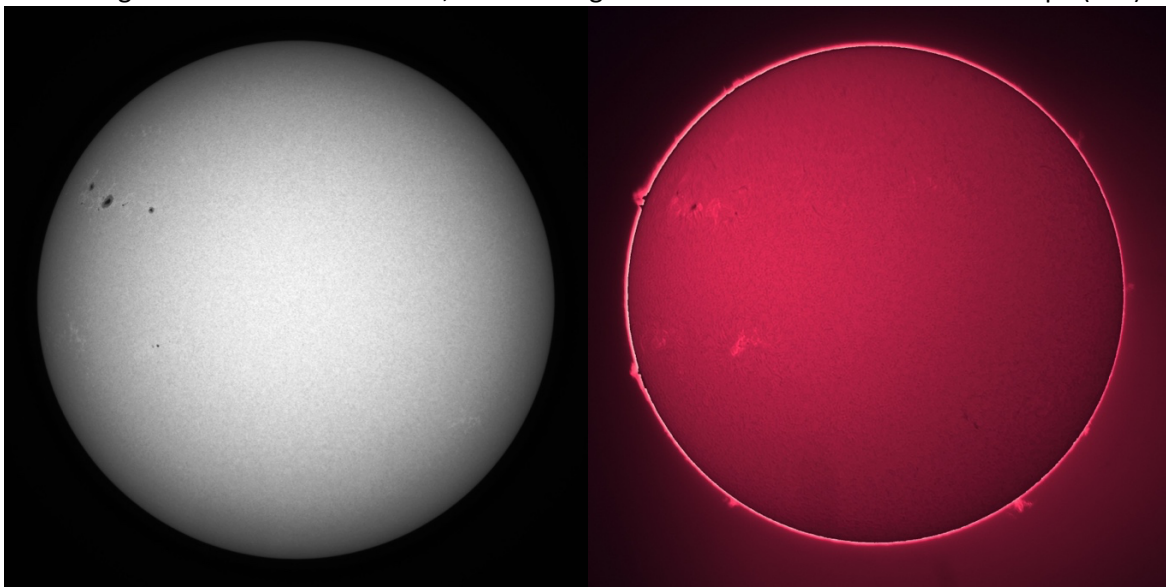
Here is the Leo Triplet taken with a TMB 130/1200. The Hamburger Galaxy is that the left, and was missed by Charles Messier in 1780 when he discovered the other two on the right, M65 and M66 (top to bottom), it was discovered by William Herschel in 1784 with a bigger telescope, perhaps because, as shown in the photo, it has a lower surface brightness than the other two.



Here are a couple of images of the moon taken on March the 6th with 70mm f6 APO.



And finally the sun remains quite active here are some images taken on the 25th of March, the first on the right taken in white light with 70mm f6 refractor, the HA image taken with a Personal Solar Telescope (PST).

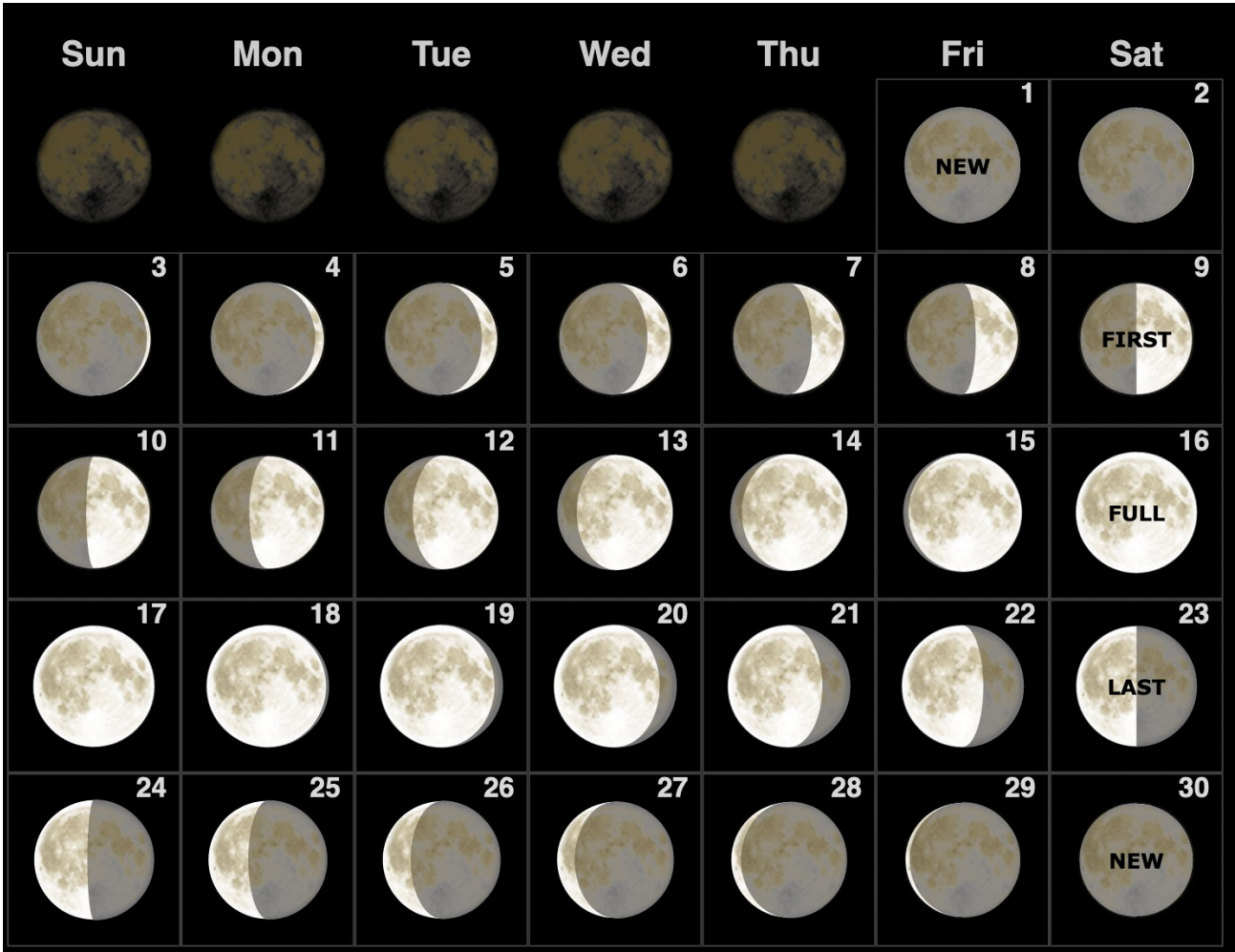


Lastly a close-up of the sunspot group taken with a TMB 130/1200 – single frame

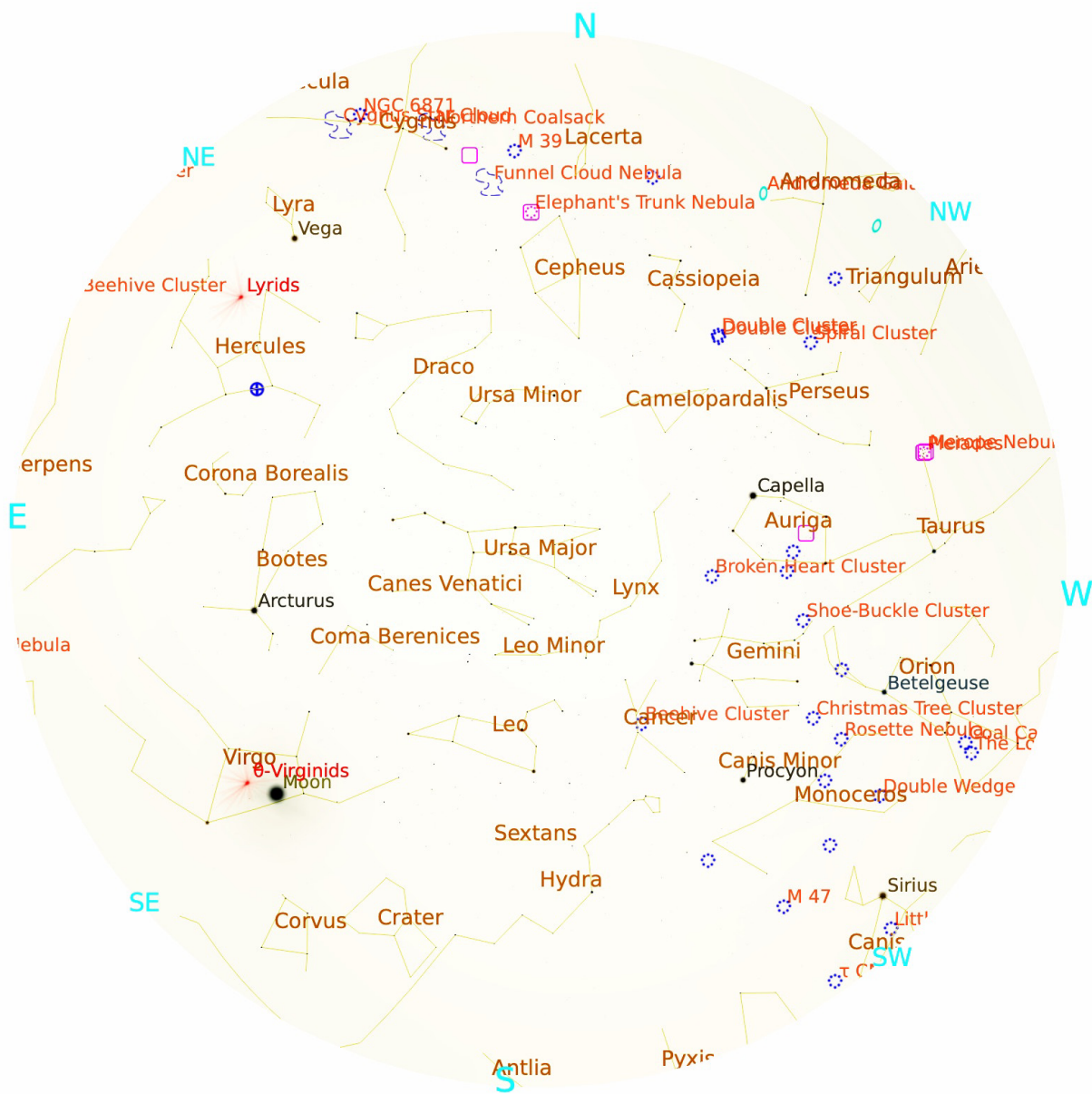


Moon Phases

April 2022



April 2022 Sky Chart



FOV 190° 23.9 FPS 2022-04-15 22:00:00 UTC+01:00

