

Astronomy in the Two Dales

March

BOING!!!!!!!!!! Spring is here , at 04.30 am on the 20th of March , so beware of mad hares , it is also the year of the Monkey in the chinese calender so if you want an excuse for going ape , now is the time.

The highlight of this month's sky activity is the opposition of Jupiter , the planet is at it's closest point of approach to the Earth , so will be a great target for observation and photography. There are a couple of eclipses , both solar and lunar , however they are not gracing us with their presence , though they should get a mention in the news.

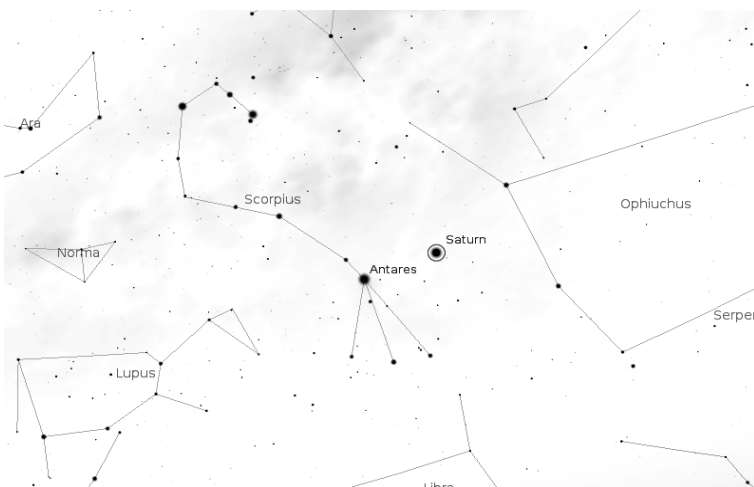
The new moon will be here on the 9th followed by the full moon on the 23rd and of course we have all noticed it's strange behaviour of late , haven't we , bouncing around the sky from one night to the next , or not even being visible for several nights in a row.

Is it possible that something is affecting the moon? Yes , says Dr L.Lorio Phd , who in 2011 wrote a paper showing that a large planet in the outer reaches of the Solar system would have the necessary influence on our moon , and I am sure many of you have seen the recent press coverage of the theoretical prediction of the location of PLANET 9. DUM DUM DUM !

Well , that bit of maths was re-examined by Dr Lorio and he has predicted that the object in question is 10 times the mass of the Earth and a similar size to the planet Neptune , in an orbit of between 10,000 and 20,000 years around the Sun. This planet , named Telisto by Dr Lorio , will not approach us , as it is orbiting 1000 astronomical units , 30 times farther than Pluto , away from us , however it may have an effect on the Sun and nearby planets.

At the moment no one has seen this distant object , though appeals have been put out for amateur astronomers to take pictures of the night sky in an attempt to catch this object blocking out the light of stars as it passes in front of them , thus revealing its location. The research team responsible for the prediction believe that the planet is in the region of the constellation of Scorpius , in the southern hemisphere , which we can not see being in the northern hemisphere.

Makes you wonder why they built that telescope at the south pole, doesn't it?



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