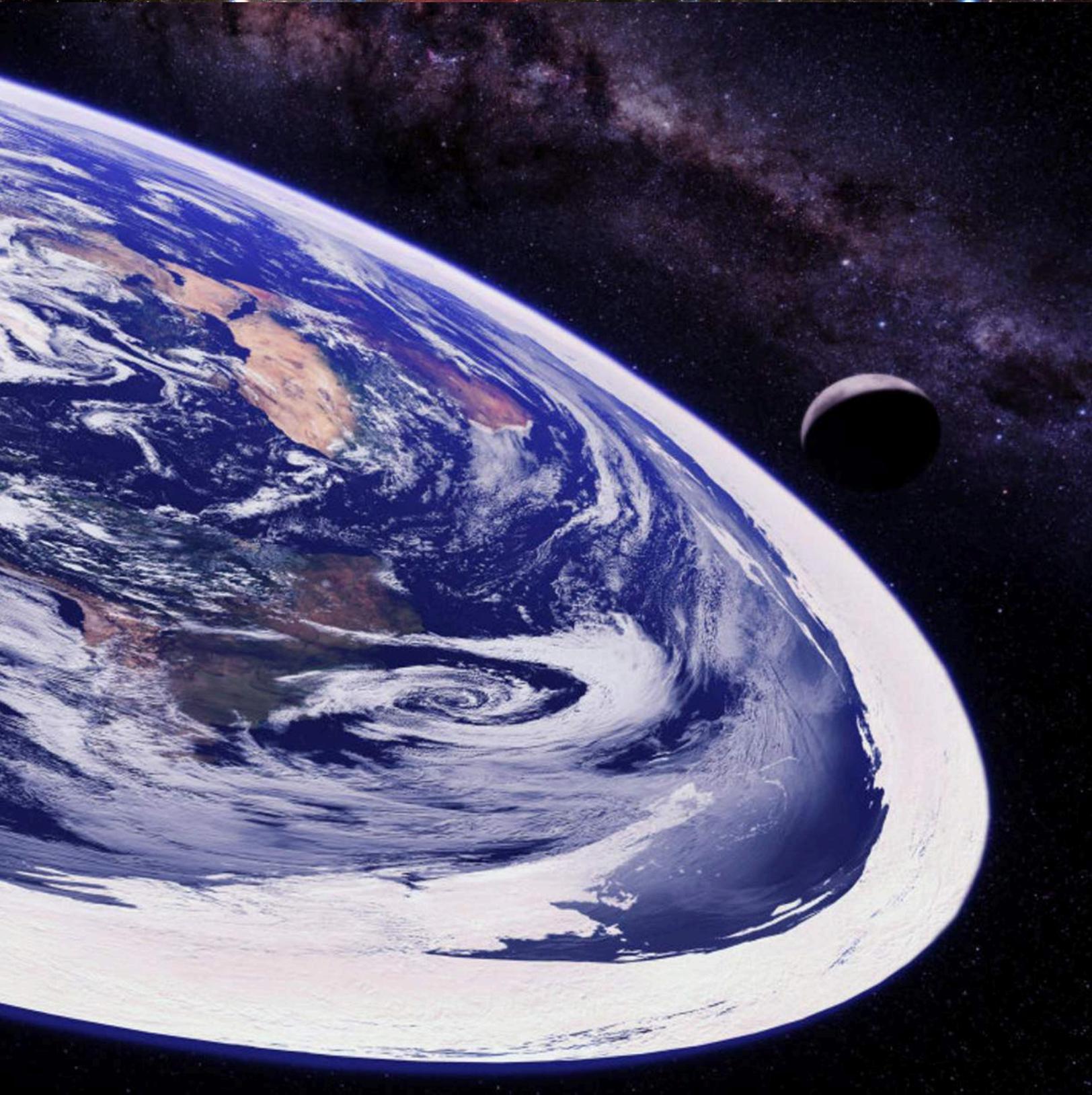


# JANITOR'S PECTORALS

APRIL 2019  
VOLUME 30 ISSUE 4



# CONTENTS

## What's Inside?

- Page 2: Event Calendar
- Page 3: Recap
- Page 4: Weird News
- Page 5: Night Sky Notes
- Page 6: World News
- Page 7: Horoscopes
- Page 8: Observing Calendar
- Page 8: Club Benefits

## Cover Photo

Take that, globalists! Here's a true, actual verified image taken by the space shuttle on its final mission confirming the Earth is flat! Took a lot of work to get Never A Straight Answer (NASA) to cough up this perfectly cromulent image after several FOIA requests!  
Image credit: Ian Cumming via Getty Images. Astral Projections and ASTRA claims fair use under Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. § 107 as non-profit educational purposes.

## EVENT CALENDAR



### April 12th - Monthly Meeting

Location: Ocean County College, Novins Planetarium, Building #13

Following club business, ASTRA member and R. Erik Zimmermann honoree Rich Brady will give a presentation on the Top Astronomy Stories of 2018!

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### April 13th - Jakes Branch Star Party

Location: Jakes Branch County Park, Beachwood, NJ

Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### April 22nd - First Contact With Zeta Reticulans Party

Location: Apple Pie Hill, Tabernacle, NJ

Coordinates: 39°48'26"N, 74°35'22"W

Please remember to bring your tin foil hats, glowsticks, and remember only one piece of carry-on luggage is permitted by our alien overlords

Time: 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

### April 27th - Cloverdale Farm Park Star Party

Location: Cloverdale Farm County Park, Barnegat, NJ

Time: 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

## EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Members will receive an email notification of an event cancellation, or call the ASTRA Hotline: 609-971-3331

**A.S.T.R.A.**  
**Robert J. Novins Planetarium**  
**Ocean County College**  
**P.O. Box 2001**  
**Toms River, NJ 08754-2001**

<b>Dear Leader:</b> John Endreson President@astra-nj.org	<b>Consiglieri:</b> Ro Spedaliere Treasurer@astra-nj.org	<b>Head Propagandist:</b> Chris Savia newsletter@astra-nj.org	<b>Minister of Grammar:</b> Matthew McCue
<b>Head of Secret Police:</b> Chris Savia VP@astra-nj.org	<b>Hacker Supreme:</b> Donald Durett Webmaster@astra-nj.org	<b>Asst. Propagandist:</b> Geoff Redington	

# RECAP

Yet another rousing success for ASTRA when it comes to the monthly meeting held on March Friday the 8th in the Planetarium.

After covering club business, ASTRA President John Endreson welcomed Ryan Knipple to give his presentation addressing the question, "Why is Mars red?" The easy answer is "iron oxide", but Ryan got into the nitty-gritty of the origin of that iron oxide, along with pursuing a few fun rabbit holes like science fiction and the terraformation of Mars.

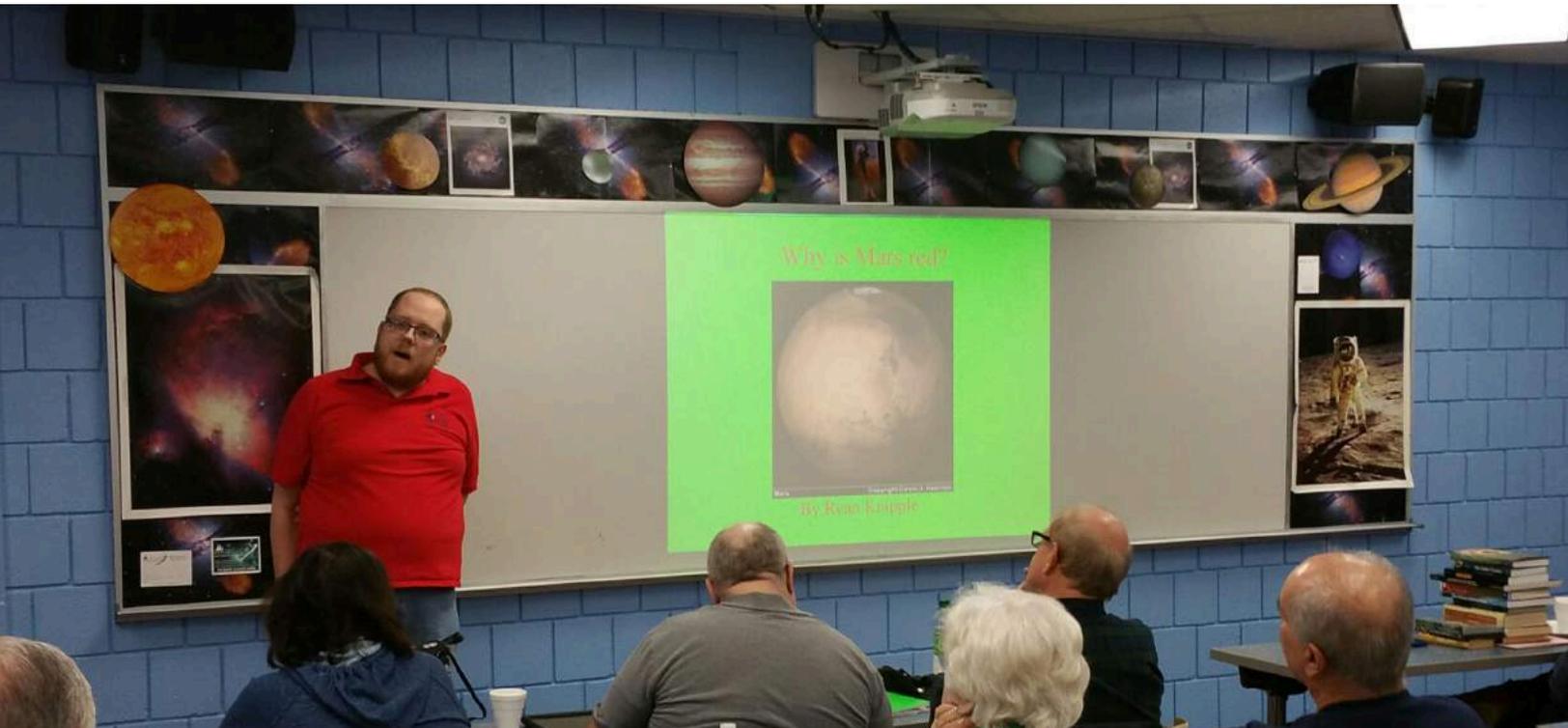
Regarding terraformation, Ryan went on to propose using all of Mars's iron to create a planet-sized magnet to restore the martian magnetic field!

Afterwards, ASTRA President John Endreson shared a few videos from the recent SpaceX

Crew Dragon Demo-1 mission from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida launched on March 2nd. The crew Dragon docked with the International Space Station (ISS) at 6:02 a.m. EST where it stayed until March 8th when it detached from the ISS at 2:32 a.m., then splashed down in the Atlantic more than six hours later.

Vice President-Secretary Chris Savia rounded out the evening's festivities with his presentation, "Flat Earth, Round Moon", posing serious questions concerning the concept of a "flat Earth" like, "Do dinosaurs live on the other side and their bones are merely moving to ours", "How come cats haven't knocked anything over the edge of the Earth yet", "Why is the moon round if the Earth is flat", and "What happened to all the turtles". Until next time, true believers!

Ryan Knipple giving his presentation. Image credit: John Endreson, Jr.



## SUBMIT, PUNY HUMAN!

Members are encouraged to submit propaganda, photoshops, or alien abduction stories for inclusion with Astral Projections. Contact Chris Savia at [newsletter@astra-nj.org](mailto:newsletter@astra-nj.org).

**MAY'S NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: APRIL 29, 2019**

## UFO Hotspots Just Got A Little Hotter

by Chris Savia

Ufology is one of fortiana's toughest nuts. Organizations like MUFON, NUFORC, and others have tons of data winding up as interactive maps and infographics. That's all well and good knowing where to see saucers, but what does it all mean? Could there be an underlying pattern?

Over at the Toulouse School of Economics some researchers have submitted an analysis of locations known for sightings. They draw upon the UFO reports archived with GEIPAN, a branch of the French Space Program (CNES). French citizens can submit their sightings to the local police, passing the buck over to GEIPAN, who classify each account into one of four categories. Type A sightings have been explained without a

shadow of a doubt, B's are probably identified, and C-class encounters lack enough meaningful data to be of any use. Type D events are the sweet spot. The kinds of reports that, despite a wealth of data, defy identification. Real, unidentified flying objects.

Out of the 1,961 sightings recorded between 1951 and 2013, Thibault Laurent, Christine Thomas-Agnan, and Michaël Vaillant have 381 D-class observations, and their conclusions are provocative. They considered many variables surrounding these events. Population density being a key factor for their models. More people and more sightings mean more reports. But this is only the tip of the iceberg as Thibault and pals note a strong correspondence of D-class reports around nuclear power plants and toxic waste dumps. Also factoring into the mix are rural areas, forests, and wetlands. Either our space brothers are playing guardian angel as humanity self-destructs, or it's a whole lot of swamp gas.

They lay out all the math in black and white for anyone hoping to crunch the numbers for their own country. A cursory Google search brings up American, Australian, and other world UFO maps, in addition to many public domain records regarding contaminated land, nuclear power plants, population centers, and sacred sites like Uluru and Roswell.

Investigations like *Spatial Point Pattern Analysis of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon in France* (<https://arxiv.org/abs/1509.00571>) should inspire researchers to apply the same methodologies to their work, broadening our understanding of the phenomenon. Goodness only knows what can be learned by comparing sightings over rich and poor neighborhoods, or if the UFOs appeared after a major event with a profound psychological impact on the population. Bringing us back to Charles Fort's admonition of "One measures a circle, beginning anywhere", lending fresh insights on an old topic.

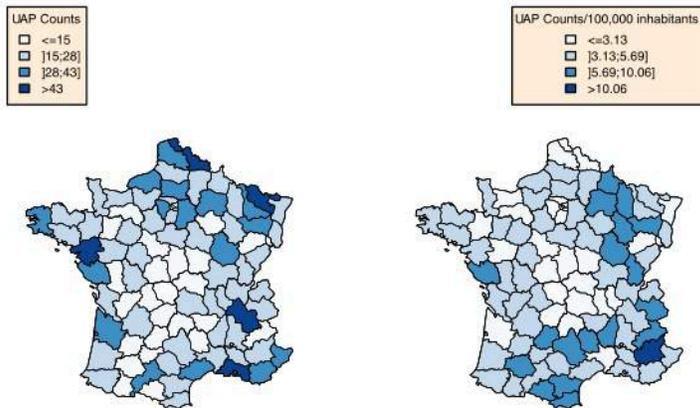


Figure 2: Locations of the 1969 UAPs observed in France from 1951 to 2013 (source: GEIPAN and INSEE).

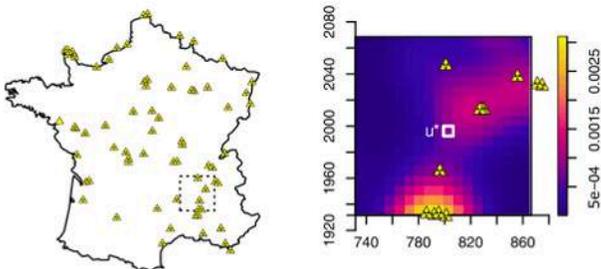


Figure 6: Locations of the 102 sites which present a nuclear risk in France. The right panel shows an example of computation for attributing to  $u^*$  the kernel smoothed intensity with a value of  $\sigma$  equal to 20 kilometers.

Image credit: Thibault Laurent, *Spatial Point Pattern Analysis of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in France*

## Mars The Wanderer

by David Prosper

April's skies find Mars traveling between star clusters after sunset, and a great gathering of planets just before sunrise.

Mars shows stargazers exactly what the term "planet" originally meant with its rapid movement across the evening sky this month. The ancient Greeks used the term *planete*, meaning wanderer, to label the bright star-like objects that travelled between the constellations of the zodiac year after year.

You can watch Mars as it wanders through the sky throughout April, visible in the west for several hours after sunset. Mars travels past two of the most famous star clusters in our night sky: the Pleiades and Hyades. Look for the red planet next to the tiny but bright Pleiades on April 1st.

By the second week in April, it has moved eastward in Taurus towards the larger V-shaped Hyades. Red Mars appears to the right of the slightly brighter red-orange star Aldebaran on April 11th. We see only the brightest stars in these clusters with our unaided

eyes; how many additional stars can you observe through binoculars?

Open clusters are made up of young stars born from the same "star nursery" of gas and dust. These two open clusters are roughly similar in size. The Pleiades appears much smaller as they are 444 light years away, roughly 3 times the distance of the Hyades, at 151 light years distant.

Aldebaran is in the same line of sight as the Hyades, but is actually not a member of the cluster; it actually shines just 65 light years away! By comparison, Mars is practically

next door to us, this month just a mere 18 light minutes from Earth - that's about almost 200 million miles. Think of the difference between how long it takes the light to travel from these bodies: 18 minutes vs. 65 years!

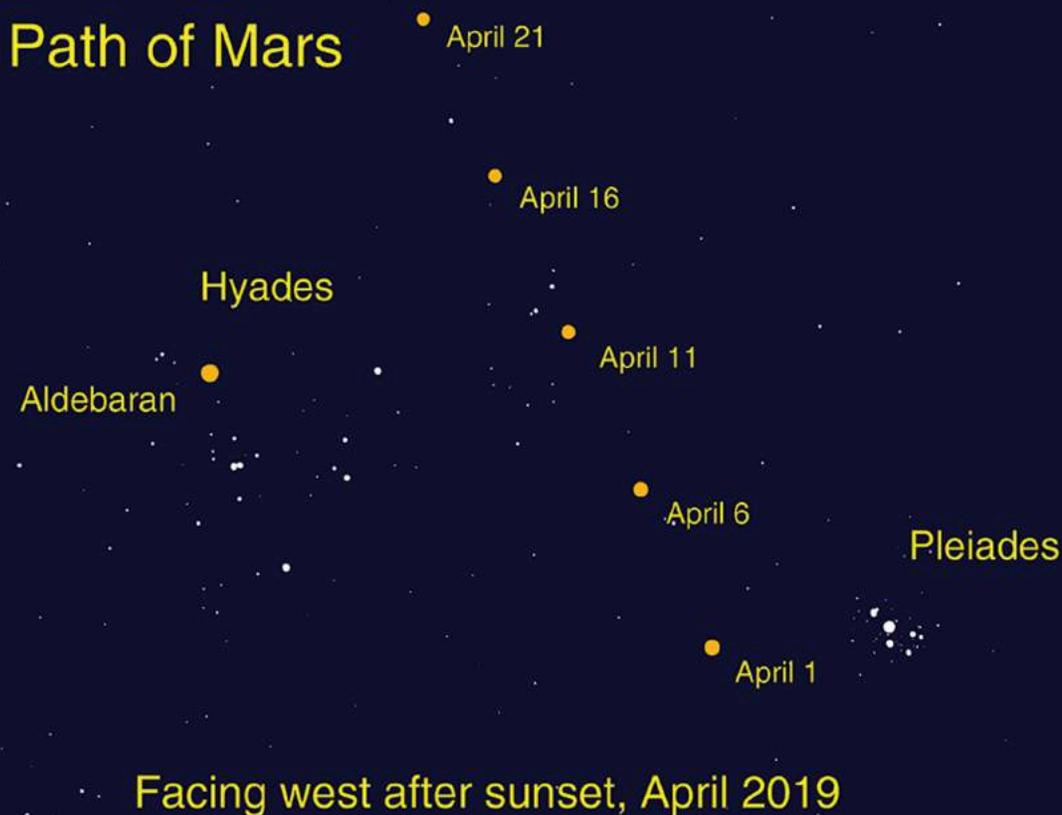
The rest of the bright planets rise before dawn, in a loose lineup starting from just above the eastern horizon to high above the south:

Mercury, Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter. Watch this month as the apparent gap widens considerably between the gas giants and terrestrial planets.

Mercury hugs the horizon all month, with Venus racing down morning after morning to join its dimmer inner solar system companion right before sunrise. In contrast, the giants Jupiter and Saturn move away from the horizon and rise earlier all month long, with Jupiter rising before midnight by the end of April.

The Lyrids meteor shower peaks on April 22nd, but sadly all but the brightest meteors will be washed out by the light of a bright gibbous Moon.

### Path of Mars



## Springing Forward At Stonehenge

by Chris Savia

Wiltshire, England – With the new deadline extension for Brexit to April 12th, many in the United Kingdom are preparing for any eventuality precipitating from the imminent separation from the European Union.

Citizens are stocking up on canned goods and supplies in the face of potential economic collapse, politicians are girding themselves for long nights in Parliament to mitigate the looming disaster, while the National Trust is focused upon a more important topic: British Summer Time. As of 31 March, 2019, labour crews have been working around the clock to set Stonehenge forward by one hour to ensure the monument's accuracy.

"Moving the heavy equipment here was easy," according to National Trust representative Hayley Stevens "what with the ongoing improvements for the nearby A303. It's the damned hippies and

druids getting in our way to stop us from doing the work."

One local, a Mr. John Reppion, expressed his support for the moving of the famous stones. "Every morning, before putting the kettle on and give a tin to the cat, I align with the heelstone and the sun to set my watch for the day. Cracking accurate! If these lot weren't setting Stonehenge right, I'd miss an episode of Big Fat Quiz of Everything!"

Others are less enthusiastic with the programme, like Daffodil Goodweather declaring the adjustment as a waste of Britain's money. "If we just stayed with the bleeding European Union, we wouldn't have to do this nonsense anymore since moving the clocks will be abolished in 2021." Meanwhile battle chieftain of the Council of British Druid Orders, Arthur Uther Pendragon, was more sanguine about the situation. "It's all a bit silly, innit?"

Crews hard at work setting Stonehenge forward an hour.

Image credit: the Right Hon. Lt. Colonel Lord Nigel Tinkleberry, Looney on the Cream, Jam and Bun



# ASTROLOGY

**Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr 20)** - Say, "Thanks Mister Skeltal" aloud for good luck.

**Taurus (Apr. 21 - May 20)** - That Scorpio knows where you hid the bodies.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun. 21)** - You will meet a tall, dark Capricorn who will not give you up, let you down, run around, nor hurt you.

**Tardigrade (Jun. 12 - Jun. 14 in the afternoon unless the 12th, 13th, or 14th fall on a Thursday then it's in the morning)** - Don't forget to drink your Ovaltine.

**Cancer (Jun. 22 - Jul. 21)** - Reality isn't a constant for you. It's an outfit: sometimes you wear it, sometimes you don't. Kick back in your boxer shorts for a few days. All the suits will be envious.

**Leo (Jul. 22 - Aug. 21)** - Why are you in the Scorpio's crawlspace? Who are these other people? What smells funny?

**Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sep. 21)** - If at first you don't succeed, try eating a large pizza in one sitting. You'll be glad you did.

**Wombat (Alternate Tuesdays in October)** - Call your mom. She misses you.

**Libra (Sep. 22 - Oct. 21)** - I see great things in your future, but right now I can also see you are not fully realising your potential. Soon you will have to make a critical decision that will bring great change in your life.

**Scorpio (Oct. 22 - Nov 21)** - Taurus, in the conservatory, with the candlestick. Check the Taurus's crawlspace.

**Ophiuchus (Nov. 29 - Dec 18)** - Let your emotions cloud your judgement. You'll finally meet your father under the most surprising, and heartwarming, circumstances. Don't ask for gloves this Christmas.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)** - Many consider you to be suave, debonair, while envying your magnificent beard and desktop publishing skills.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)** - THE LIGHT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] THREE STRANGE LIGHTS (NFI) [REDACTED] A STATIONARY, BLINKING LIGHT; THE TWO OTHER, MOVING, LIGHTS CROSSED PATHS. [REDACTED]

**Chupacabras (February 29th)** - You're so normal that you're strange. Don't divide by zero on the weekends.

**Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)** - Nobody knows that you still giggle like a twelve-year old when you hear "Uranus".

**Pisces (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)** - Something fishy's going on between the Taurus and the Scorpio. Use caution when feeding ducks.

## OBSERVING CALENDAR

**April 2nd** - Conjunction of the Moon and Venus. The moon and Venus will pass within 2°40' of each other in the constellation of Aquarius. Look east starting at 5:21 a.m. EDT.

**April 5th** - New moon at 4:50 a.m. EDT.

**April 9th** - Conjunction of the Moon and Mars. A 4 day-old moon and Mars will pass within 4°43' of each other in the constellation of Taurus. Look west starting at 11:23 p.m. EDT.

**April 11th** - Mercury at greatest western elongation. Our system's innermost planet will be 27.7° from the sun. Look to the east before sunrise to catch a glimpse of this elusive planet.

**April 19th** - Full moon at 7:11 a.m. EDT.

**April 22nd-23rd** - Lyrids meteor shower. The Lyrids average about 20 meteors/hour at its peak. This show is produced by the dust particles left behind by Comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher. The waning gibbous moon will not do observers any favors. Look for the constellation Lyra after midnight to catch some of the magic. Note the Lyrids will be used to camouflage the approach of the Zeta Reticulan mothership upon Apple Pie Hill.

**April 25th** - Conjunction of the Moon and Saturn. The moon and Saturn will pass within 0°22' of each other in the constellation of Sagittarius. Look east starting at 1:25 a.m. EDT.

## WHY JOIN?

For \$15.00 a year, you will be part of an elite cabal of illuminated minds with access to top-secret equipment from governmental black projects entrusted to A.S.T.R.A.'s forbidden telescope library, acquire the required clearances to visit forbidden sites like Area 51 and Island Beach State Park, in addition to having the fates of nations in the palm of your hand!

## ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK PERMITS

Island Beach State Park is not only a fun summertime destination, but it's a hotspot of paranormal activity full of were-raccoons, flying saucers, and the Barnegat Bay's water monster "Barney". Plus the skies are pretty dark for observing if you're into that. Please contact the inner circle about acquiring your 2019 permit.

## ASTRA'S TELESCOPES

Disguised as consumer-grade astronomical equipment, Dear Leader John Endreson maintains an enviable collection of human and extraterrestrial technology for the sole purpose of spying upon villainous aliens and their schemes! Check out A.S.T.R.A.'s website and then dare to contact John Endreson at [telescope-loan@astra-nj.org](mailto:telescope-loan@astra-nj.org), or phone the hotline at 609-971-3331.

## VOLUNTEER PRESENTERS

All A.S.T.R.A. cultists are invited to air their crackpot theories, share conspiracies, and share intelligence on extraterrestrial invasions! Contact the inner circle to make arrangements.