CADAS

**Night Sky 2017- March**

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| **Moon Phases** | **Sunrise** | **Sunset** | **Venus Sets** |
| First Quarter – 5th  Full Moon – 12th  Last Quarter – 20th  New Moon – 28th | 1st – 6:55am  10th – 6:36am  20th – 6:13am  30th – 6:51am | 1st – 5:52pm  10th – 6:07pm  20th – 6:24pm  30th – 7:41pm | 1st – 9:04pm  10th – 8:29pm  20th – 7:26pm  25th – **Inf Conj** |
| **Moon Rises New-Full** | **Moon Sets New-Full** | **Moon Rises Full-New** | **Moon Sets Full-New** |
| 1st – 8:25am  2nd – 8:53am  3rd – 9:25am  4th – 10:01am  5th – 10:43am **FQ**  6th – 11:32am  7th – 12:29pm  8th – 1:32pm  9th – 2:20pm  10th -3:50pm  11th – 5:00pm  12th – 6:10pm **Full**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**    29th – 7:53am  30th – 8:24am  31st – 8:59am | 1st – 9:33pm  2nd – 10:49pm  3rd – **No MS**  4th – 00:04am  5th – 1:17am **FQ**  6th – 2:25am  7th – 3:25am  8th – 4:17am  9th – 5:01am  10th – 5:38am  11th -6:09am  12th – 6:37am **Full**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**    29th – 9:30pm  30th – 10:40pm  31st - **No MS** | 13th – 7:17pm  14th – 8:24pm  15th – 9:28pm  16th – 10:32pm  17th – 11:33pm  18th – **NO MR**  19th – 12:32am  20th – 1:28am **LQ**  21st – 2:20am  22nd – 3:06am  23rd – 3:48am  24th – 4:25am  25th – 4:58am  **Clocks Change**  26th – 6:28am  27th – 6:56am  28th – 7:24am **New** | 13th – 7:02am  14th – 7:26am  15th – 7:50am  16th – 8:15am  17th – 8:43am  18th – 9:13am  19th – 9:48am  20th – 10:29am **LQ**  21st – 11:15am  22nd – 12:09pm  23rd – 1:09pm  24th – 2:14pm  25th – 3:24pm  **Clocks Change**  26th – 5:37pm  27th – 6:53pm  28th – 8:11pm **New** |

 The asteroid **Vesta** will be 3 ½ degrees to 2 ½ degrees to the right of the bright star **Pollux** during this month. Two an a half degrees to the right of **Pollux** is another bright star, though not as bright as **Castor** or **Pollux,** and its just to the right of it (see star charts which will be sent seperately). Around 9:00pm at the beginning of the month, **Castor** and **Pollux** will lie due south and at 60 degrees altitude **(Pollux is the lower of the two stars)**. Watching the area daily or when there are cloudless skies (not often enough) will confirm which one is moving, and which is **Vesta**. It will easily be seen with binoculars as it at 6.9 magnitude.

On the **1st** at 8:00pm **Mars** will be 4 degrees to the upper right of the crescent **Moon** with **Uranus** 1½ degrees below **Mars**. **Venus** too will be 11 degrees to the right of the **Moon**.

**Neptune** is in conjunction with the **Sun** on the 2nd.

On the evening of the **2nd**, **Mars** lies approximately half way between the **Moon** and **Venus**.

On the evenings of the **2nd** and the **4th**, **Comet Johnson** will be **¼ of a degree** away from the northern marked star (3.9Mag) in the constellation of **Hercules**. On the **3rd** it will be directly in front of the star. A telescope will be needed to view it. See star charts of **Hercules** for details which will follow seperately.

On the evening of the **4th** the **Moon** will be in the constellation of **Taurus**.

On the **7th** at **1:49:24am\*** there is a planned launch from **Kourou**, **French Guiana**. An Arianespace Vega rocket, designated VV09, will launch with the **Sentinel 2B** Earth observation satellite for the European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Commission.

**Mercury** is at superior conjunction with the **Sun** on the **7th**.

On the night of the **8th** at **11:48pm – 00:53am\*** there is planned launch from **Cape Canaveral, Florida**. A United Alliance Delta 4 rocket will launch the ninth **Wideband Global SATCOM** spacecraft, formerly known as the Wideband Gapfiller Satellite. Built by Boeing, this geostationary communications spacecraft will serve U.S. Military forces. The rocket will fly in the Medium plus configuration with four solid rocket boosters.

**Comet 2P Encke** is at Perihelion (nearest to the Sun) on the **10th** and within the orbit of **Mercury**.

On the **10th**at **10:45pm** the bright star **Regulus** in the constellation of **Leo** will be just 1 degree from the **Moon**.

**Comet 2P Encke** is in conjunction with the **Sun** on the **11th**.

**Comet 2P Encke** is at its closest to the **Earth** on the **13th** when it will be **0.655AU** (97,464,000km or 60,915,000miles) from us.

On the **14th** soon after moonrise**,** **Jupiter** will be just 2 degrees to the right of the **Moon**.

On the **16th** between **1:00am – 3:00am**\* there is a planned launch from **Tanegashima Space Centre**, **Japan**. A Japanese H-2A rocket will launch an **Information Gathering Satellite** with a radar reconnaissance payload for the Japanese government.

On the **20th** between **2:56am – 3:26am**\* there is a planned launch from the Space Launch Complex 41 at **Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida**. A United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket, designated AV-070, will launch the eighth **Cygnus** cargo freighter on the seventh operational cargo delivery flight to the International Space Station (ISS). The mission is known as OA-7. The rocket will fly in the 401 vehicle configuration with a four-meter fairing, no solid rocket boosters and a single-engine Centaur upper stage.

On the **20th** at 5:00am **Saturn** will be 4 degrees to the lower left of the **Moon**.

**Saturn** will be 10 degrees to the right of the **Moon** at 5:00am on the **21st**.

In the dark sky before dawn on the **22nd**, **Comet C/2015 ER 61 Panstarrs** will be 4 – 5 degrees to the right of the **Moon**. On Feb 20th it was at magnitude 11. A telescope will be best to view it.

**Mercury** reaches perihelion (Its closet to the **Sun** in its orbit ) on the **23rd**.

**Venus** is at inferior conjunction with the **Sun** on the **25th**.

An occultation of **Neptune** by the **Moon** occurs on the **26th**. This will only be observable from the lower half of **Africa** and **India**.

On the **29th** at **8:30pm Mercury** will be 8 degrees to the right of the **Moon**. **Mars** also at the same time will be 13 degrees above the **Moon**. **Uranus** too will be in the area below **Mercury** though just a few degrees above the western horizon.

On the **30th** at **8:30pm Mars** will be 6 degrees to the upper right of the **Moon**.

Comet Johnson will be **1.697AU** from the **Earth** on the **31st**.

There are further launches planned this month from Vandenberg Air Force Base California, Kennedy Space Center Florida, French Guiana and Satish Dhawan, India.

**\* =** Dates and Times are subject to change.

**News:** **NASA's Cassini** mission discovered active geysers at the south pole of of **Saturn's** Moon **Enceladus**. After several flybys it was determined that an ocean lies beneath its icy surface that has the potential to support life.

**Facts:** **Vesta** is the second most massive body in the asteroid belt, surpassed only by **Ceres**, which is classified as a dwarf planet. **Vesta** is the brightest asteroid in the sky, and is occasionally visible with the naked eye. It is also the first asteroid to be visited by a spacecraft. The **Dawn** mission orbited **Vesta** in 2011, providing new insights into this rocky world.

A useful site: [www.heavens-above.co.uk](http://www.heavens-above.co.uk/)

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