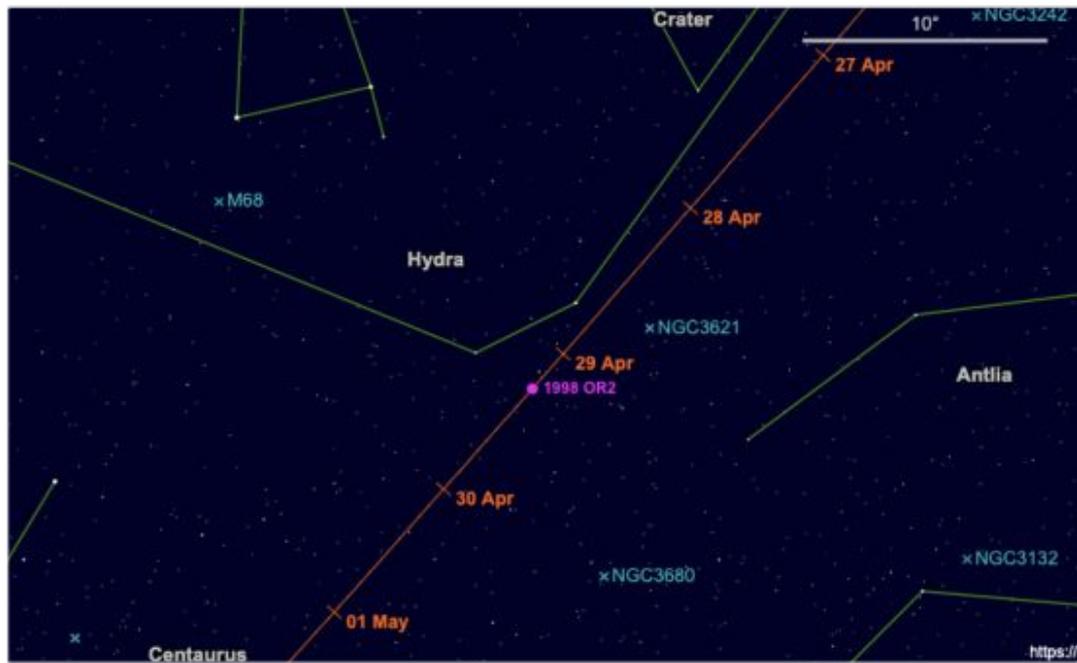




The Astrophile Newsletter

One Fond of Starlore: An Amateur Astronomer

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Huge Asteroid to come close to Earth

The asteroid will zip pass Earth at a distance of 6.3 Million KM travelling at the speed 31,000 kmph

On April 29th 2020, astronomers and stargazers will be focused on an object, an asteroid, about 2-4 KM in size, travelling at a speed of 31,000 kmph. The asteroid, discovered in 1998 is a well studied and observed asteroids which goes around the Sun every few years. The asteroid on this latest trip around the sun, will interest the orbit of Earth from a distance of only 6.3 million km.

The asteroid is absolutely harmless but it will be bright enough to be seeing through amateur telescope of size 150mm or bigger. There is no threat to planet earth and one need not worry. The asteroid will be at about 16 times the Earth Moon Distance and hence we can safely enjoy this pass.

Moon phases and dates

Important phases and dates for Moon to plan your observation

08/04/20	Full Moon	08:05	Super Moon
15/04/20	Third Quarter	04:26	
23/04/20	New Moon	14:58	
01/05/20	First Quarter	01:27	



Mars

The red planet is shining bright in the morning skies, rising last among the three planets in the morning, Rising around 3 Am the planet will be shining bright in the morning hours.



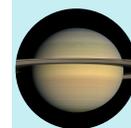
Venus

The brightest planet is now shining bright in the evening skies setting around 8 PM. Currently it is showing a gibbous phase and soon will become half phase.



Jupiter

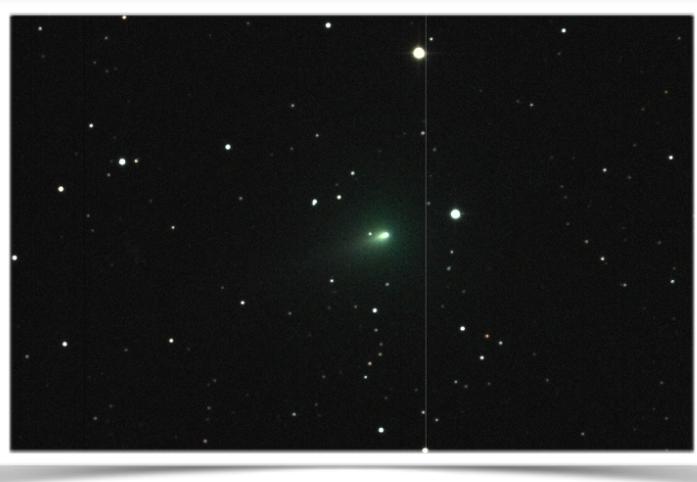
Jupiter will be rising around 2 Am this month and will shine bright next to Milky Way arm through the dawn. The planet is first one to rise in the morning skies. The bands and 4 moons looking beautiful.



Saturn

The ringed planet will be shining bright in the early morning hours as it rises just around 3 AM. The planet is offering excellent views of its ring. The trio looks splendid in the morning.

Comet Atlas will be visible to naked eye soon



C/2019 Y4 aka Comet Atlas will soon become a naked eye comet and shall be visible from dark locations around the northern hemisphere. The comet currently visible from medium sized amateur telescopes will soon be spotted through binoculars by the end of this month.

The comet will come closest to Earth on May 23 while the closest point to Sun would be on May 31. The comet was discovered on Dec 28, 2019 using a system of telescopes known as ATLAS. The comet is expected to have a cycle of 4800-5200 years before it come back to Sun. This comet is a long periodic comet.

The comet is currently in the constellation Camelopardalis and it will move to Perseus by mid May and finally to Taurus near its closest approach.

Lockdown is bringing the sky back to cities



While the nationwide lockdown on one side is causing serious problems for the general public and the administration, it is also clearing the toxins in the atmosphere and helping us realise the beauty of night sky in this hour of struggle and boredom.

The sky is cleaner, darker and more stars are visible in the evening hours as compare to before. The image above is a star trail captured during the evening hours from Delhi. The sky is dark enough to see 50 odd stars in just a small region. While the light pollution still continues to exist but due to drop in air pollution, there are more stars and constellations visible in night sky. Go on terrace and enjoy the views as long as we have the opportunity to enjoy the stars.

GLOBAL ASTRONOMY MONTH - APRIL 2020 : BIGGEST SUPERMOON LIVE WEBCAST

Astrophile Education Services will be doing a live webcast of the upcoming Supermoon or Pink Moon on the evening of April 07, 2020 from 8 PM onwards. The event can be viewed from around the world once you subscribe and visit out [YouTube page](#).

Apart from the Supermoon Live event, there are a host of events and activities which are scheduled to take place. We will organise a SUN-day very soon. Sun-day is a Sunday dedicated for Solar observation.

Also your students are welcome to submit their poetry, drawings and other creative word related to astronomy to us at astrophileeducation@gmail.com for participation in GAM celebrations. The best entries will win special prizes. For more details please contact us on the email address.

