

**Welcome to our
members and guests.
Please sign in and we
hope you enjoy the
evening.**



HAVING ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

November 2011

www.havastro.co.uk

This Month

We welcome Jerry Workman, with a talk entitled Small Bodies of the Solar System.

Last Meeting

John gave us another interesting tour of Messier objects, Liz and Ross showed photos taken in the Sinai Desert while on holiday in Egypt and Tony showed us a light-hearted video of the Star Party at Kelling Heath, Norfolk. Martin showed pictures he has taken and explained his telescope set-up

Our first meeting back in January will be a members evening. Please let Barbara or Frances know if you have anything to contribute.

Observing

Unfortunately the October observing session was clouded out. Our next meeting will be Friday 25th or 26th November, 7.30pm in the Cricket Ground car park at Weald Country Park. Ring Martin on 01708 471606 or Frances on 01708 227397 for confirmation.

STARFEST

The first Starfest North Essex Astronomical Society Convention takes place on November 19th at Braintree. There will be speakers, exhibitions and trade stands. Entry £12 for the day, details on www.neas.me.uk/starfest.

Next Meeting ~ 14th December Members' Evening

We wait with baited breath for the quiz by John. There will be a raffle. We will be in the lounge opposite the kitchen.

NIGHT SKY

Mercury is technically visible in the evening sky towards the end of this month, but in practice it will be a poor apparition until it emerges in the morning sky around the middle of December. In the South West after sunset **Venus** will be visible in November and is an improving prospect into December. **Mars** is also improving over the next few months and is visible now in Leo. **Jupiter** is still an excellent object in telescopes but **Saturn** is not observable. November 16/17th sees the variable rate maximum of the **Leonid** shower. While not particularly favourable, the Moon will be low down in the West by midnight and therefore not a problem. There will be a **lunar eclipse** on 10th December, only partial from the UK. Totality ends before the Moon rises so we will see the partial phase after totality. Look to the North East horizon from about 4pm.

SPACEFLIGHT NEWS

A three man crew has lifted off from Kazakhstan on the way to the ISS after a dramatic launch failure in August. It is due to dock with the space station today (Wednesday 16th). Russia has until December to establish contact with Phobos-Grunt and send it on its way to Mars. The Red Planet strikes again?

Nearly 12 days after achieving China's first automated docking in orbit, the unmanned Shenzhou 8 spacecraft will attempt a more daring daylight link-up with a target module 200 miles above Earth.

Young Astronomers

We will meet next at the home of Terry and Christine on Thursday, 24th November.



Thank you to everyone who helps with refreshments.

News Round-Up

An asteroid has passed between the Earth and Moon. It is 1,300 feet wide and passed approximately 201,700 miles from Earth. Tracked using ground based radars, it was discovered in 2005 and regularly passes nearby. This was the closest it has been since 1976.

Two clumps of gas that formed in the opening moment of the Universe's existence have been found by astronomers at the Keck Observatory. This is the first time that gases never involved in star formation have been detected.