

Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

What to see April 28th

Planets (Mars Saturn)
Constellation (Ursa Major)
Galaxy (M82)

About 11:00pm 28 April 2014

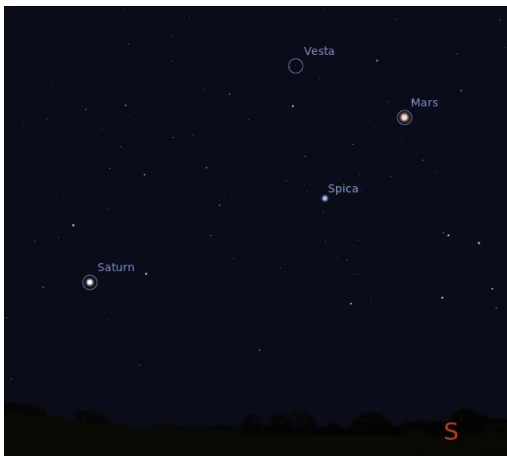
Tonight will be especially dark because the new Moon starts 29th.

Mars

Look South about 35° above the horizon, Mars is very bright, just above and right of the Star Spica. There's no mistaking it's red hue even without a telescope. A good view is never easy when Mars orbit is so low. Mars has several moons the best known are Phobos and Demos.

Saturn

Look South East about 14° above the horizon, Saturn will not get very high above the horizon. To see Saturn through a telescope for the first time is an amazing jaw dropping sight. Saturn has 53 moons and with a small telescope you should see five of them as well as it's amazing rings.



Saturn and Mars

Ursa Major

Ursa Major

Facing South and almost directly above, is The Plough, or, Saucepan, it has many names, it's an Asterism (a recognisable formation of stars). It forms the rear of the constellation Ursa Major. The Plough is comprised of 7 stars, from the left, Alkaid 100ly, Mizar 78ly Mizar has a companion Alcor, they form a binary system, next Alioth 81ly, Magrez 81ly below Phad 83ly move right for Merak 79ly and above Dubhe at 123ly. Draw a line from Merak through Dubhe about the distance from Alkaid, and you arrive at Polaris the Pole star.

M82

Although not visible, nearby are two Galaxies M81& M82, 11.5 million light years distant. In January 2014 some students were looking at M82 and noticed a bright light not previously seen, they had just witnessed a supernova which exploded 11.5 million years ago!

Contact us if you need help or more information.

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West Bay Cafe Saturdays 1-4pm.