

## CAS Sky Notes for June 2023

June is never a great month for amateur astronomers, apart from observing the Sun. Astronomical twilight lasts throughout the night, especially later in the month.

### Planets:

**Mercury:** Mercury is not well placed, but might be picked up in the morning sky in the first half of the month. It has an elongation of  $24^\circ$  at the start of June, which is your best time to pick it up.

**Venus:** Venus reaches greatest eastern elongation on the 6<sup>th</sup> June and is  $45^\circ$  east of the Sun. It also reaches its brightest, with a magnitude of  $-4.7^\circ$ . The apparent diameter is rapidly increasing from  $23^\circ$  at the start of the month to  $33^\circ$  by the end of June. The phase drops from 50% at the start of the month, to a crescent of 35% by the end.

**Mars** is still visible in the evening sky in Cancer. During the month it passes south of the Beehive Cluster (M44), but by the time it's dark enough to make out the cluster, they will have set. The disc size drops to 4.5 arc seconds this month and it is very low in the western sky by the time it gets dark. It is a difficult object now.

**Jupiter** is now a prominent object in the morning sky, but you'll need to be up by 3 a.m. to see it properly!

**Saturn** is also a morning object in Aquarius, but is still low in the sky this month, rising around 1 a.m. (BST).

**Uranus** and **Neptune** are morning objects, but very poorly placed this month.

### The Sun

Solar activity is still increasing and solar observations are a good idea. **Take great care to never look directly at the Sun, or directly through an optical instrument.**

Ensure a proper filter is in place or project the image onto card.

As I am writing this, I am aware of a couple of sizeable sunspot groups visible.

**Meteor Showers:** There are no favourable meteor showers this month.

**Aurora:** The increased solar activity should raise the possibility of seeing the aurora borealis, although the lack of darkness means this is unlikely before the Autumn. Download an App that warns you of auroral activity in readiness for the darker nights.

### Moon

**4<sup>th</sup> June:** Full Moon

**18<sup>th</sup> June:** New Moon

**10<sup>th</sup> June:** Moon is at last quarter

**26<sup>th</sup> June:** Moon is at First Quarter