

Hunter's Moon is "Spook"tacular



Neel Roberts

The Sky's the Limit

Have you ever wondered how game chasers of earlier generations stockpiled food before the winter months ahead? It seems coincidental that the phenomena's of the Harvest and Hunter's moon occurred at a time of year when it was most necessary. The name is also said to have been used by Native Americans as they tracked and killed their prey by autumn moonlight in anticipation of the months of snowfall. The Hunter's and Harvest Moon are not brighter, smaller, or yellower than during other times of the year, but all full moons have their own special characteristics, based primarily on the whereabouts of the ecliptic in the sky at the time of year that they are visible. The full moons of September, October, and November, as seen from the northern

hemisphere—which correspond to the full moons of March, April and May as seen from the southern hemisphere—are well known in the legend of the sky.

Our Hunter's Moon usually appears in October, near Halloween. Traditionally, it was a feast day in parts of Western Europe and among some Native American tribes, called simply the Feast of the Hunter's Moon, though the celebration had largely died out by the 1700s.

Sky watch for the next month

See the Hunter's Moon on Oct. 22 starting at 5:50 p.m. in the northeast-east horizon, up all night and setting around 9 a.m. the next morning in the northwest-west sky.

Don't miss the Jupiter Halloween Double Transit. With a good set of binos, you can check Europa and Ganymede simultaneously cross the cloud tops of Jupiter from 10:16 p.m., Oct. 30 till the dawn of Halloween morning. As a bonus, you'll notice the planet's cloud rings are tilted!

The Oriniods meteor

shower will peak on Oct. 23 one to two hours before dawn just to the north of constellation Orion's bright star Betelgeuse. With the second-fastest entry velocity of the annual showers at 15 per hour, meteors from the Orionids produce yellow and green colours and have been known to produce the odd fireball.

Did you catch the zodiacal light last month? It's a faint, roughly triangular, whitish glow seen in the night sky extended up from the vicinity of the sun along the ecliptic or zodiac. The best time to catch a glimpse is starting Oct. 5 for two weeks in the northeast before dawn.

Public events for the next month

The Saturday Observer's Night is hosted by the All Star Telescope (<http://www.all-startelescope.com/>) just outside Didsbury, on Oct. 16 starting at 8 p.m. until midnight. This full facility telescope dealer has a heated showroom, with refreshments, washrooms and everything is provided for no charge. I am planning to attend and you are welcome to caravan with a group I am assembling. For

more information, contact Ken From at 866-310-8844, or visit <http://www.all-startelescope.com/index.php/Observer-Nights.html>.

A digital single-lens-reflex (DSLR) camera workshop will be hosted by Alan Dyer at All Star Telescopes (details above) on Oct. 23, starting at 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. In this workshop, you will be shown how to take great photos, using a DSLR camera, to processing the final image, with the emphasis on getting deep-sky images good enough for next year's RASC calendar. An excellent investment for inspiring astro-photographers.

For further information contact Ken From at 866-310-8844, https://www.all-startelescope.com/sales/product_info.php?cPath=130&products_id=727.

Happy Halloween and cooler days!

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