

skywatch

Venus, Mars rise in November sky

By Raymond E. Bullock
special writer

As winter approaches, the decreasing amount of sunshine we receive becomes readily apparent. Not only does the amount of sunshine decrease by one hour during November, but the end of Daylight Saving Time on the last Sunday of October and the return to Eastern Standard Time is quite a shock as nightfall seems to come abruptly early.

Sunrise and sunset on Oct. 29 (the last full day of Daylight Time) was at 8:01 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively. The length of the day was 10 hours 29 minutes.

The next day, Oct. 30, these times were 7:02 a.m. and 5:29 p.m., respectively, but now, with Standard Time, and the length of the day was 10 hours 21 minutes. Obviously, the length of the

day didn't change (the two minutes difference is due to the approach of winter), but the times did change because we set our clocks back.

We did not alter the orbit or rotation of the earth or the position of the sun, we just altered the device by which we measure time: the clock.

By the end of November, sunrise is at 7:40 a.m. and sunset at 5:01 p.m. There are only nine hours and 21 minutes of sunshine.

THE ONLY planets easily visible this month are Venus and Mars. Both are morning objects, rising before the sun. Venus is the brighter of the two. Red Mars was seen directly above Venus on Tuesday morning. Watch as the distance between the two increase during the month. Also in the morning sky on the first is the waning crescent

moon on the north (left) of the planets.

The S. Taurid meteor shower reached its maximum Wednesday night. This is not one of the year's best displays; there are only about 15 meteors visible each hour. The shower is named for the constellation of Taurus, from which the meteors appear to radiate, which rises in the east around 6 p.m.

This morning the thin crescent moon was to the north (left) of the star Spica, in Virgo. They will be very low in the east-southwest.

Venus reaches its maximum elongation (greatest angle from the sun) on Friday. It is 47 degrees west (right) of the sun, standing high in the east-southwest at sunrise. Also on this day the moon is new. It is between the earth and sun and is not visible.

Jupiter is south (left) on the waxing crescent moon on Sunday evening. Both objects are close to the sun but may be seen in the west-southwest after sunset. The moon is at first quarter phase on Nov. 12.

Another meteor shower reaches its maximum on Nov. 17-18. The Leonid meteor shower produces only 15 meteors per hour. The Leonids are famous because, in 1833, a spectacular display of 200,000 meteors was seen within just a few hours, but such a display is not expected in 1983. Leo rises in the east around 1 a.m.

The moon is a beautiful star cluster known as the Pleiades, the shoulder of Taurus the bull. Below the moon is the orange-red star Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus.

Mercury is in conjunction with (near) Jupiter on the evening of the 25th. The planets appear about three degrees from each other but are too close to the sun to be seen. Astronomers understand the motions of the planets well enough to calculate where they are lo-

cal even if they are not visible. The next conjunction (grouping) between the two planets will not occur until Jan. 31, 1985.

LAST QUARTER moon is on Nov. 27.

Venus is in conjunction with Spica, in Virgo, on the morning of the 29th. The objects will be 22 degrees above the east-southeast horizon as morning twilight begins; brilliant Venus outshines Spica.

Also on the morning of the 29th, Mars is four degrees south of (below) the waning crescent moon.

On Nov. 30 the moon has moved above Venus at sunrise.

Although there are no planets easily visible in the evening sky this month, there are many other interesting objects to view through a telescope. The telescope at Cranbrook Institute of Science is open to the public every Saturday night from 8:30-10 p.m. For more information, call 645-3100.

The author is coordinator of the planetarium and observatory at Cranbrook Institute of Science.

Carson-Griffith

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Carson of Redford Township announce the engagement of their daughter Carol Lynn to Kenneth Robert Griffith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Griffith of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Thurston High School and is completing her degree in medical assisting at Oakland Community College. She is employed at Metropolitan West Hospital.

Her fiancé, a graduate of Farmington High School, is completing his degree in retail management at OCC. He works for Bavarian Village.

They plan to be married next October.



Scotfield-Sievert

Wedding vows will be exchanged in December by Leslie Elaine Scotfield and William Grover Sievert. She is the daughter of Paul and Marge Scotfield, former Livoniaans who live in Northville. He is the son of Dale and Pat Sievert of Farmington Hills.

The bride-elect has a bachelor's degree from Madonna College, and is employed as a systems coordinator with Tradin' Times Inc. Her fiancé has a master's degree in business administration from the University of Texas. He is employed as an auditor with the U.S. General Accounting Office.

The couple will live in Northville.

MacDonald-McCaughy

Mr. and Mrs. Lorne S. MacDonald of Grosse Pointe Farms announce the engagement of their daughter Mary to Timothy A. McCaughy, son of Dr. and Mrs. Richard S. McCaughy of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Uni-

versity of Michigan, employed in the cardiac catheterization laboratory of St. John Hospital in Detroit. Her fiancé is a graduate of Albion College, employed with E.W. Bliss Company in Southfield as a sales engineer.

A January 1984 wedding is planned in Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

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Bowlers give gift to camp

Larry Sison, president of Detroit Area Bowling Proprietors Association of Michigan and owner of West Bloomfield Lanes, recently presented a \$500 check to Claire Richmond of Farmington Hills for Camp Michica, the summer camp for diabetic children and teen-agers of the American Diabetes Association-Michigan Affiliate.

The money was raised during the Bowler's Charities Tournament earlier this year.

Richmond, a bowler with Massada B'Nai B'rith, has a 13-year-old daughter, Sara, who has had diabetes for 12 years and has attended Camp Michica for the past five years.

Free informational leaflets about diabetes may be obtained by calling 552-0480.

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