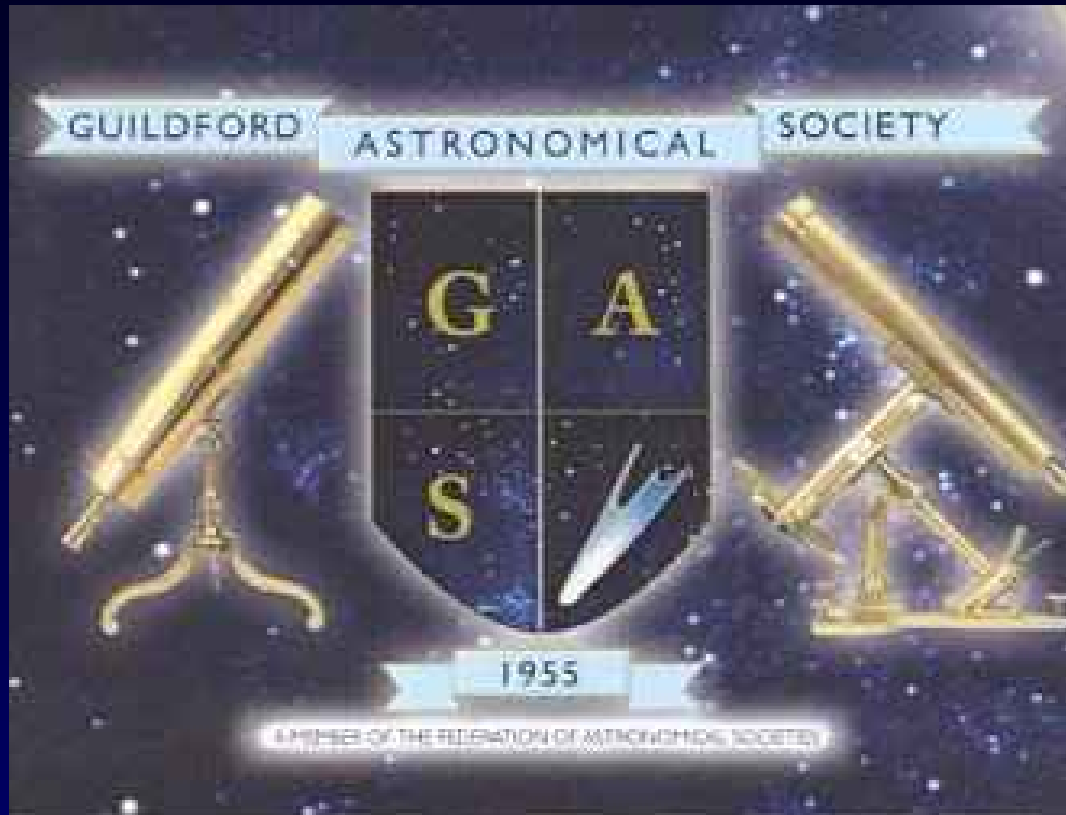
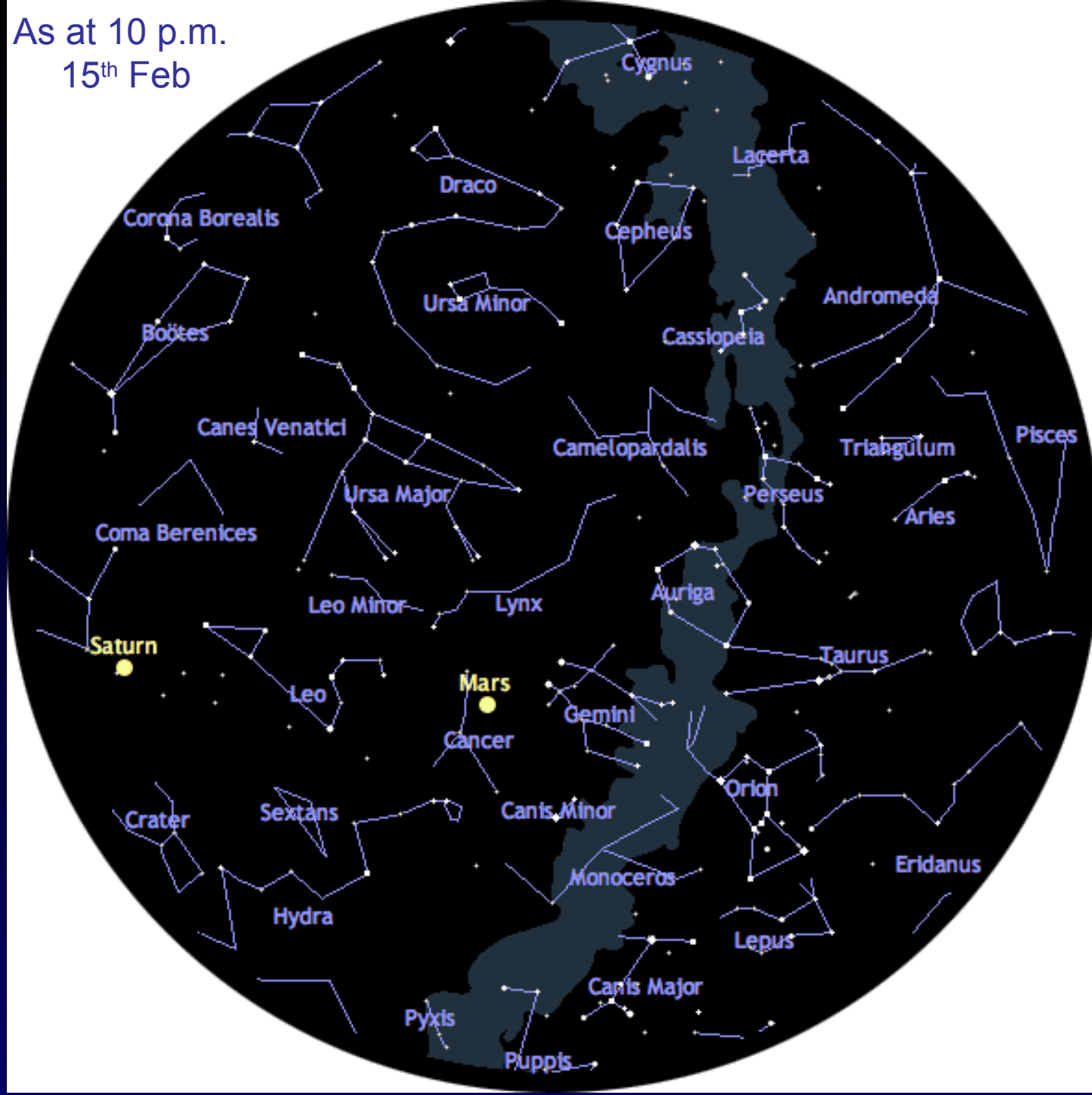


What's Up!

4th February 2010



As at 10 p.m.
15th Feb



What's Up - Planets

- **Mercury**

- Not visible until late March

- **Venus**

- Becomes visible from middle of month, very low after sunset, but at magnitude -3.9

- **Mars**

- The best of this month's planets, fading from Mag -1.2 to -0.7 and shrinking from 14" to 12" disc, culminating around 23.30 now & by 22.00 at end.

- **Jupiter**

- Still very bright at Mag -2, low in West, lost by end of month

- **Saturn**

- Mag +0.6 and 19" disc, evening object in Virgo, rising around 21.00 now and 19.45 hrs at end of month.

- **Uranus**

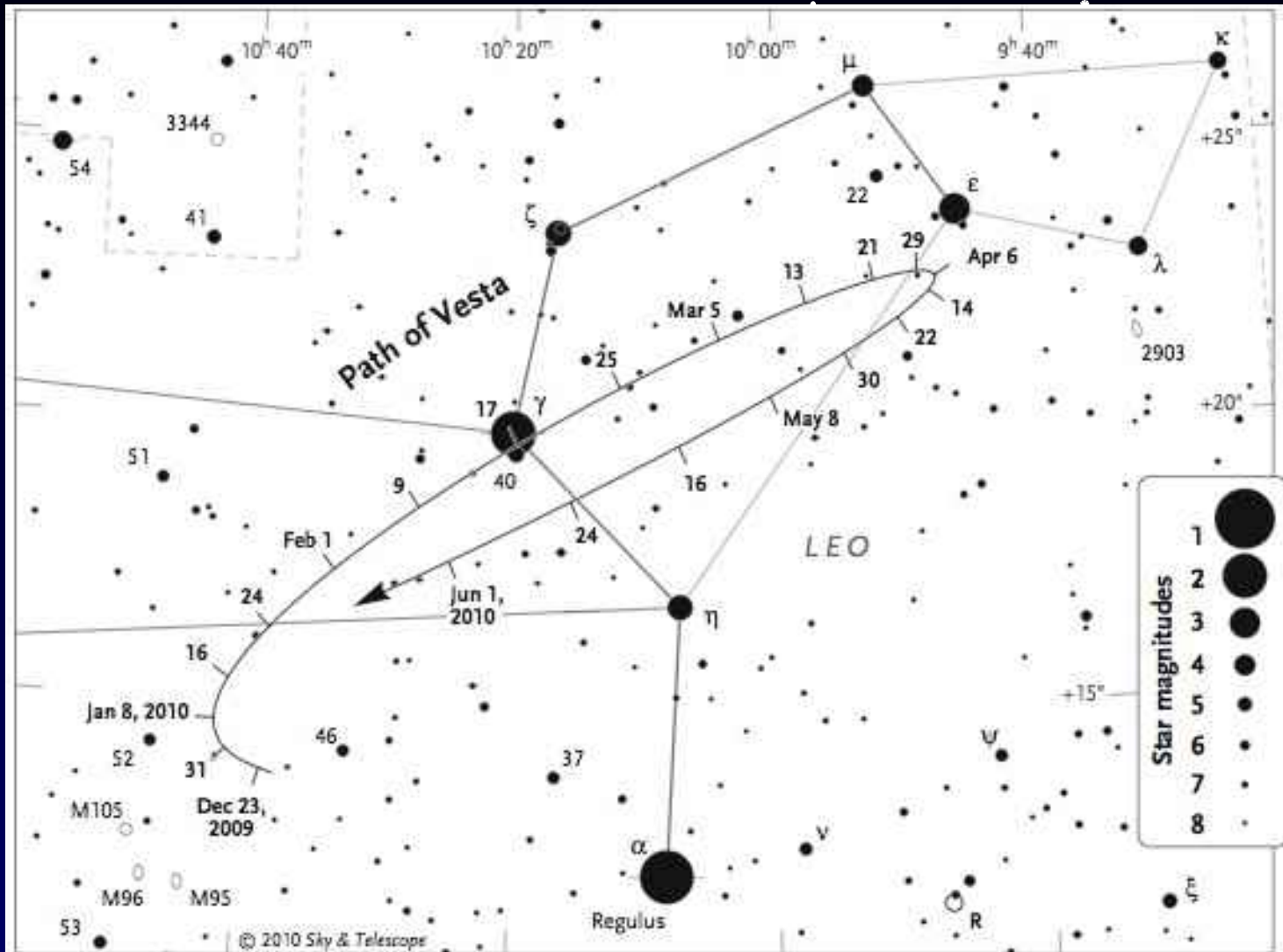
- Early evening object in Aquarius, Mag +5.9 only a 3.3" disc,

- **Neptune**

- Not visible

What's Up – Asteroid Vesta

- At opposition in Leo 20th Feb, magnitude 6.1



What's Up - Phenomena

- **February's Photo Opportunities**

- **15th** : Jupiter and Venus only 2.5° apart in SW just after sunset, but only 4° above horizon.
Exceeding thin crescent Moon just 5° to North
- **16th** : Jupiter and Venus now only 1.5° apart, Moon now about 10° above pair

What's Up - Occultations

- **20th** : Dark leading edge of gibbous Moon occults Epsilon Arietis, a binary star, at 23.00 hrs
- **21st** : From about 19.00 hrs, fainter outlying members of the Pleiades

Astronomy on TV & radio - February

- **The Sky at Night**
 - *“The Spirit of Mars”*



- *Featuring an interview with the head investigator of the Mars Exploration Rover Mission*

Tuesday 9th BBC4, 20.00 hrs

Tuesday 9th BBC4, 23.30 hrs

Wednesday 10th, BBC4, 03.00 hrs

Monday 15th, BBC1, 00.25

Meetings at Local Societies

- **Tuesday 9th February**

- **Farnham AS** : “Space, The Next 50 Years”
 - Dr. David Whitehouse

- **Friday 12th February**

- **Ewell AS** : “Eclipses”, Mike Maunder (GAS)
- **Herschell AS** : “Apollo Revisited”, Gerry Workman

- **Friday 19th February**

- **Crawley AS** : “The Hinode Mission to The Sun”
 - Dr Lucie Green, MSSSL
- **Croydon AS** : “Sputnik in Context”, John Axtell

- **Throughout Feb:** **Science Museum, “Exploring Space”**

Advance Notice

- **Saturday 10th July**

- **SAGAS Summer Meeting** : hosted by GAS

- SSTL, Tycho House, Surrey Research Park

- **Speakers** :

- Dr Stuart Evès SSTL
- Nik Szymanek & John Evans
- Invited – MSSL, LOFAR

- **Trade Stands** :

- Astronomia
- Ian King Imaging
- Aurora Books

