

Mountaineer Skies

From the Editor's Desk

It is that time again. **Daylight Saving Time** ends on the last Sunday in October, October 27. This is when you set your clocks from 3:00 A.M. to 2:00 A.M. Remember "**spring ahead, fall back**" which means that you add an hour in the spring and subtract an hour in the fall.

Daylight Saving Time will return in April, 2003. Clocks are set the other way, from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. on the first Sunday in April, April 6.

Coming next month is a very interesting article by Bruce McClure entitled "**Ramadan**".

Some Interesting Links

1. Free Sky Chart from *Sky and Telescope*:

<http://skyandtelescope.com/observing/skychart/>

2. Free Sky Chart from *Sky Maps*:

<http://www.skymaps.com/downloads.html>

In The Sky This Month

Venus will be visible, and quite bright at - 4.6, very low in the south-southwest early in the month. After mid month it will no longer be seen.

Mars can be acquired very low in the eastern sky just before sunrise, but having a magnitude of 1.8, it will be difficult to see.

Visible Planets in the Sky

Beginning of October

	Const	Rise	Transit	Set	Mag
Sun		7:14	13:09	19:02	- 26.8
Venus	Lib	10:27	15:17	20:04	- 4.6
Mars	Leo	5:46	12:08	18:28	1.8
Jupiter	Cnc	2:29	9:35	16:45	- 2.0
Saturn	Ori	23:07	6:32	14:00	2.3

Middle of October

	Const	Rise	Transit	Set	Mag
Sun		7:28	13:06	18:41	- 26.8
Mercury	Vir	5:59	12:03	18:09	- 0.7
Mars	Vir	5:35	11:44	17:54	1.8
Jupiter	Cnc	1:45	8:49	15:56	- 2.1
Saturn	Ori	22:12	5:37	13:05	2.3

End of October

	Const	Rise	Transit	Set	Mag
Sun		6:45	12:03	17:19	- 26.8
Mars	Vir	4:23	10:18	16:15	1.8
Jupiter	Cnc	23:51	6:54	13:59	- 2.2
Saturn	Ori	20:08	3:32	10:57	2.2

Lib	Libra, The Scales
Leo	Leo, The Lion
Cnc	Cancer, The Crab
Ori	Orion, The Hunter
Vir	Virgo, The Maiden

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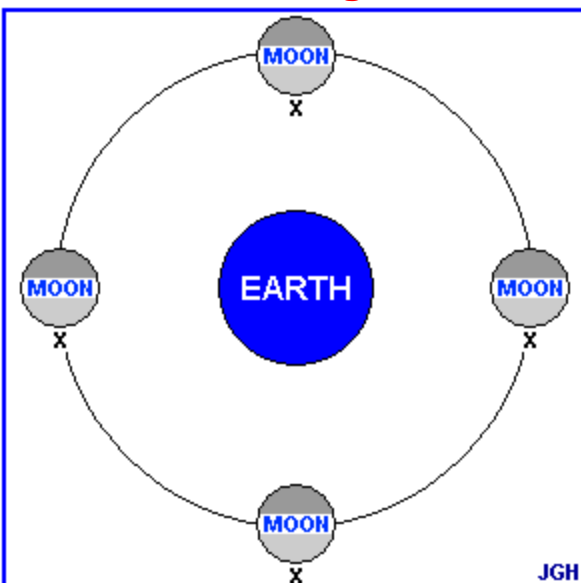
About: Does the Moon rotate on its axis?

Question: Since the same side of the moon always faces the earth, does this mean that the Moon does not rotate about its axis?

Answer: There are really only two possible answers. Either the Moon rotates on its axis or it does not.

Intuitively, it would seem that since we always see the same side of the Moon, it does not rotate on its axis. However, looking at the diagram below, we see that if it did not rotate, we would see different sides of the Moon instead of the same side we always see. Just follow the X.

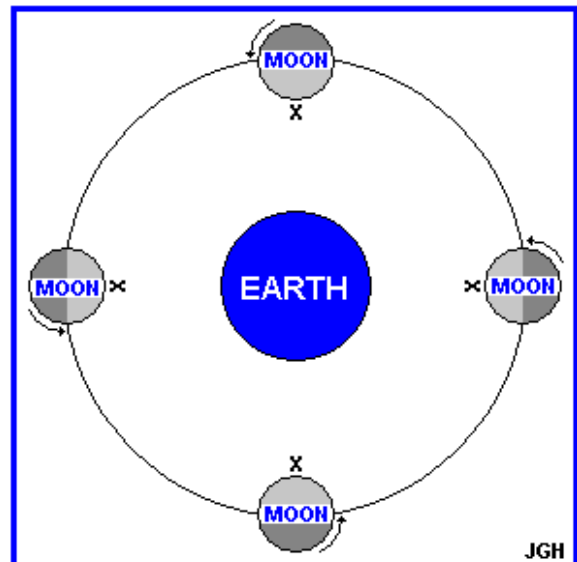
Non-Rotating Moon



Since the non-rotating model is not the solution, then the rotating model should provide the correct explanation.

What actually happens is that the moon does indeed rotate. In fact, it rotates once every 27.3 days which is just about the time it takes to orbit the earth once. This means that the Moon rotates just enough to keep the same face toward us all the time. Just follow the X

Rotating Moon



It is really just a coincidence that the Moon rotates just enough to show us only one face.

Request for Articles or Photographs

If you have an article or a photograph that you would like to submit for publication, please contact John Hopkins at ihopkins@mail.wvu.edu or via phone at (304)293-3422, extension 1443.

2002 – 2003 Planetarium Shows



Narrated by Patrick Stewart

http://www.as.wvu.edu/~planet/mars_quest.htm

Coming in Early November



http://www.as.wvu.edu/~planet/tis_the_season.htm

THIS IS OUR MOST POPULAR SHOW.

OCTOBER 11 & 25, 2002 <i>MarsQuest</i>	NOVEMBER 8 & 15, 2002 <i>'TIS THE SEASON</i>	DECEMBER 13 & 20, 2002 <i>'TIS THE SEASON</i>
JANUARY 10 & 24, 2003 <i>MarsQuest</i>	FEBRUARY 14 & 28, 2003 <i>MarsQuest</i>	MARCH 14 & 28, 2003 <i>MarsQuest</i>
APRIL 11 & 25, 2003 <i>MarsQuest</i>	MAY 9 & 23, 2003 <i>MarsQuest</i>	JUNE 13, 2003 <i>MarsQuest</i>
July, 2003 <i>Closed</i>		

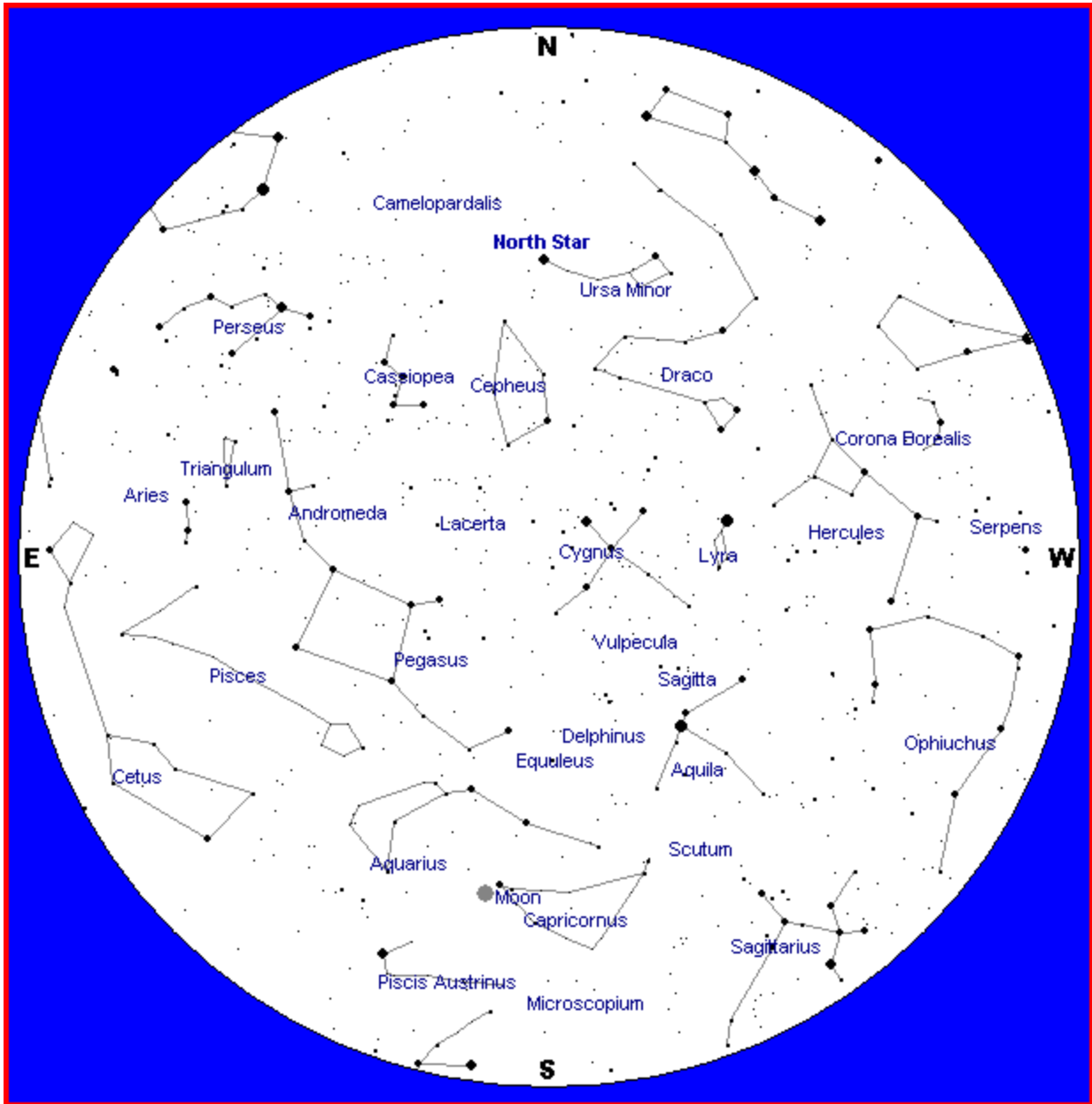
For those who are interested in bringing a group, such as schools or scouts, during the day, please call for more information. These shows are usually given on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

For further information or reservations, please call John Hopkins at (304)293-3422, extension 1443 or by email at: jhopkins@mail.wvu.edu

Selected Sunrise/Sunset and Moon Rise/Moon Set Times

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Moon Rise	Moon Set	Moon Phase
Oct 6	7:20 A.M.	6:55 P.M.	7:18 A.M.	7:24 P.M.	New Moon
Oct 13	7:23 A.M.	6:44 P.M.	3:20 P.M.	NA	First Qtr
Oct 21	7:35 A.M.	6:33 P.M.	7:00 P.M.	7:44 A.M.	Full Moon
Oct 29	6:44 A.M.	5:22 P.M.	NA	2:11 P.M.	Last Qtr

10:00 P.M at the beginning of the month
9:00 P.M in the middle of the month
8:00 P.M at the end of the month



* Sky Chart used with the kind permission of **Heavens-Above** at <http://www.heavens-above.com/>

The TOMCHIN PLANETARIUM is named in honor of the late Harold Tomchin, of Princeton, W.Va., who made a generous donation to ensure its continuing operation, and whose family continues to support the planetarium for the educational benefit of WVU students, staff, and faculty members, as well as the local community. Contributions can be made in support of the planetarium through the **WVU Planetarium Project** at the **WVU Foundation, Inc.**, phone (304)284-4000. **Thank You.**



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