

2018 Retrospective

As the rest of Phil's Scribblings, this is now written in Word and exported to PDF.

Annual Summary

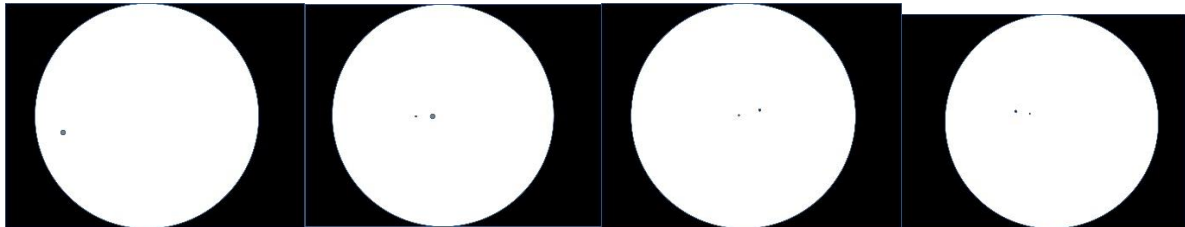
This will be completed at the end of the year.

February

Weather and work restricted my viewing and photography but I managed to do a little more than the month before.

The Sun

The Sun was quiet. I struggled with hydrogen alpha light but made some progress with afocal photography with my DSLR. Some sunspots made a fleeting appearance.



Sunspot Drawings February 6th, 9th, 11th and 12th



Sun in hydrogen alpha light February 28th

The Moon

Owing to shortness of time and cold weather, I only took photos with my DSLR. The best was on February 23rd.



The Moon February 23rd

Planets

Venus is now visible in the evening sky. Its disc is rather small and it will be a few weeks before any of us can take photos that show anything other than a full phase. I caught it in the evening sky on February 25th, shortly after sunset.



Venus in the evening sky February 25th
Constellations

I did not manage any constellation photos in February, either.

Deep Sky

I took no deep sky photos in February.

Meteors

I neither saw neither meteors nor photographed any during February.

Report

The full report is on my blog: <http://sungazer127mak.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/february-2018.html>.

Video

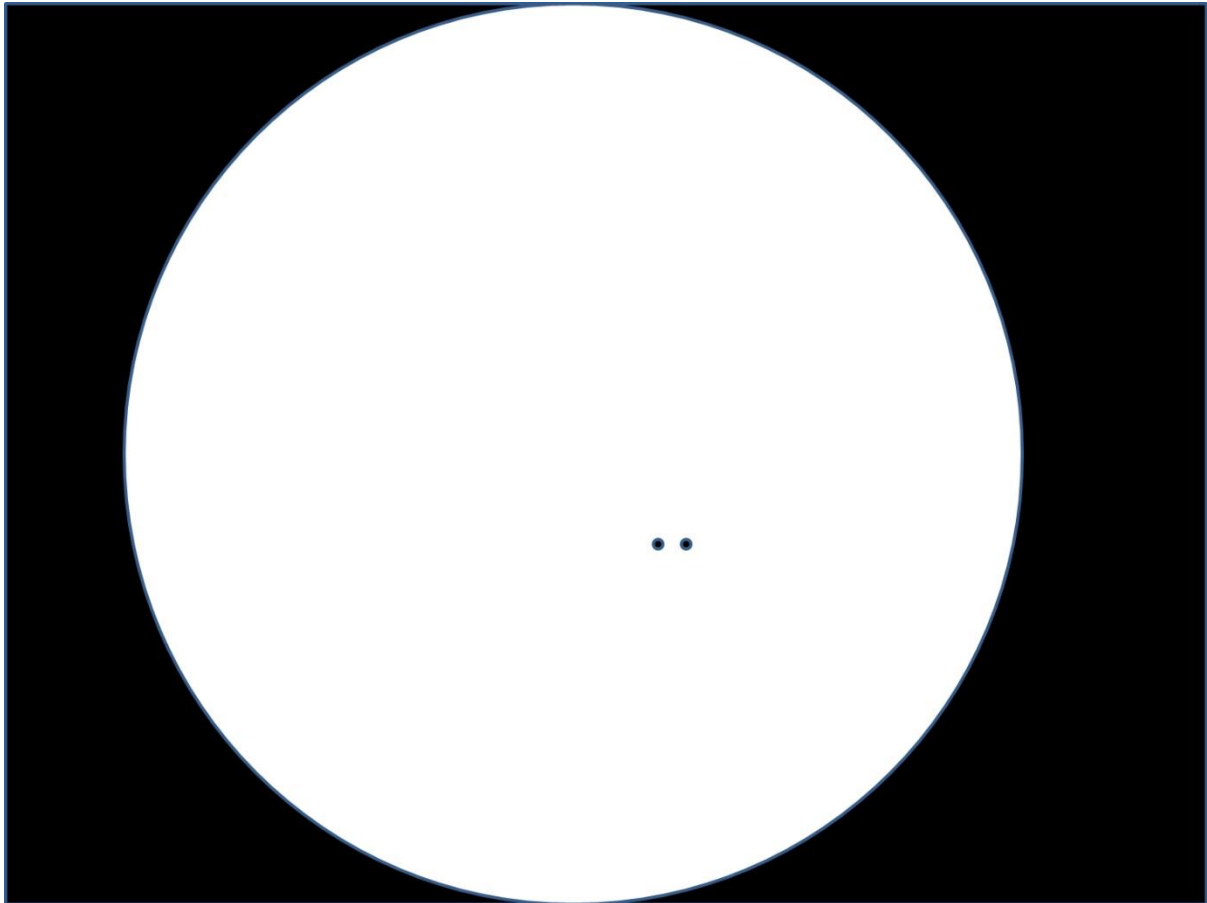
This video includes the January and February shots, accompanied by “Because the Night” by 10 000 Maniacs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHNNhR2QTFs&list=PL--6h1svyG-FeycYHvs0ZwCSHl3LAi1xg&index=9>.

January

Some of my off-field issues were resolved or I had started the process of resolving them. On-field, the general pattern of 2017 spilled over into 2018. The weather was mostly awful and, when it wasn't, I was working or ill!

The Sun

The Sun was very quiet, even in hydrogen alpha light. Unfortunately, my compact digital camera packed up, so I was unable to do any shots, not that any shots would have shown any detail. I saw two sunspots through my binoculars one day. Even the professional observatories did not show much.



Sunspot Drawing January 17th

The Moon

I made some interesting visual observations but, for the first time for ages, did not take any worthwhile photos. It was a pity that the UK was one of the few places on Earth where the total lunar eclipse was not visible.

Planets

No bright planets were visible in the evening sky.

Constellations

I did not manage any constellation photos.

Deep Sky

I took some deep sky photos but only one was interesting and of acceptable quality.



Polar Regions January 18th

Meteors

The Quadrantid meteor shower was clouded out and my camera lens packed up, so no sporadic meteors seen or photographed either!

Report

The full report is on my blog: <http://sungazer127mak.blogspot.co.uk/2018/01/january-2018.html>.

Video

This video includes the January and February shots, accompanied by "Because the Night" by 10 000 Maniacs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHNNhR2QTFs&list=PL--6h1svyG-FeycYHvs0ZwCSHI3LAI1xg&index=9>.