

What to look for in the night sky over the next few weeks.

Was to be presented to Ewell Astronomical Society by Ron

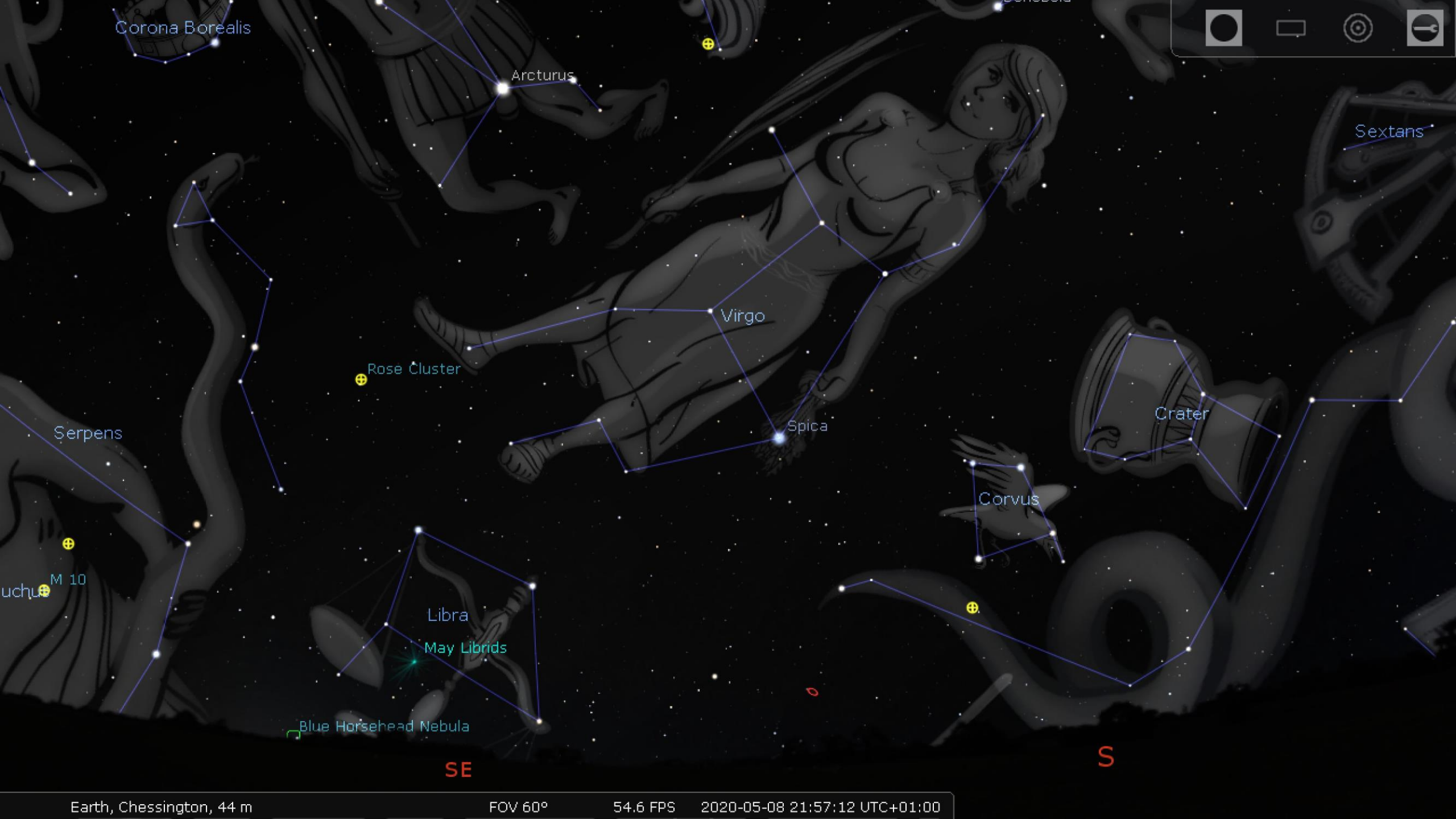
Canham

At Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam

Friday 8th May 2020

Topic: Constellation Virgo

<https://ewellastronomy.org/>



Corona Borealis

Arcturus

Virgo

Rose Cluster

Spica

Serpens

Crater

Corvus

Sextans

M 10

Libra

May Librids

Blue Horsehead Nebula

SE

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Earth, Chessington, 44 m

FOV 60°

17.9 FPS

2020-05-08 21:58:03 UTC+01:00



Double Stars:

Vindemiatrix, double, mag 2.85

Minelauva, double, mag 3.35

Vir, double, mag 4,2

Heze, double, mag 3.35

Zaniah, double, mag 3,85

Porrima, double, mag 3.4

Spica, variable, double, mag 0.95

There is also a concentration of galaxies

Virgo: Latin for virgin. The second largest constellation after Hydra.

According to the Babylonians 1000–686 BC, this constellation was known as "The Furrow", representing the goddess Shala and her ear of grain. One star in this constellation, Spica, retains this tradition as it is Latin for "ear of grain". This constellation has always been depicted as a woman and, although assigned many different roles, has been associated especially with the tension between fertility and beauty.

There are 35 verified exoplanets orbiting 29 stars in Virgo.

May 5/6 There were some sightings during the Eta Equarid meteor shower .

May 7 Is another large full moon.

May 12-13 morning sees the Moon with Jupiter and Saturn.

May 14 morning sees Mars near a crescent Moon.

May 21-22 evening sees Venus and Mercury close.

May 24 northwest horizon is a crescent Moon with Venus and Mercury.

Moon is full 7th, new 22nd, full 5th June

June 8-9 early, Moon appears near Jupiter and Saturn.

June 20 is summer solstice.

June 21 is an annular eclipse in Africa, India and China.

(My thanks to Stellarium 0.19.3, Philip's 2020 Stargazing, Collins 2020 Guide to the Night Sky, Astronomy Now magazine, BBC Sky at Night magazine, Janus and numerous other sources.)