

Sky outlook October 2019



Maidenhead
Astronomical
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Planets

Mercury: Despite coming to greatest eastern elongation from the Sun on the 20th the planet will be poorly placed in the south western evening sky.

Venus: An evening object but due to lying close to Mercury is once again not ideally situated for observing.

Mars: Gradually emerging from the glare of the Sun from mid month in the morning sky but once again can be difficult target.

Jupiter: Prominent evening object for most part of the year but is now descending into the twilight evening sky ending this apparition.

Saturn: Early evening object but coming to the end of its apparition as it gradually sinks into the twilight sky.

Uranus: Comes to opposition on the 28th lying among the stars of Aries.

Neptune: Was at opposition last month and is well placed in the evening sky among the stars of Aquarius.

Uranus at opposition on 28th October



Neptune's position in Aquarius



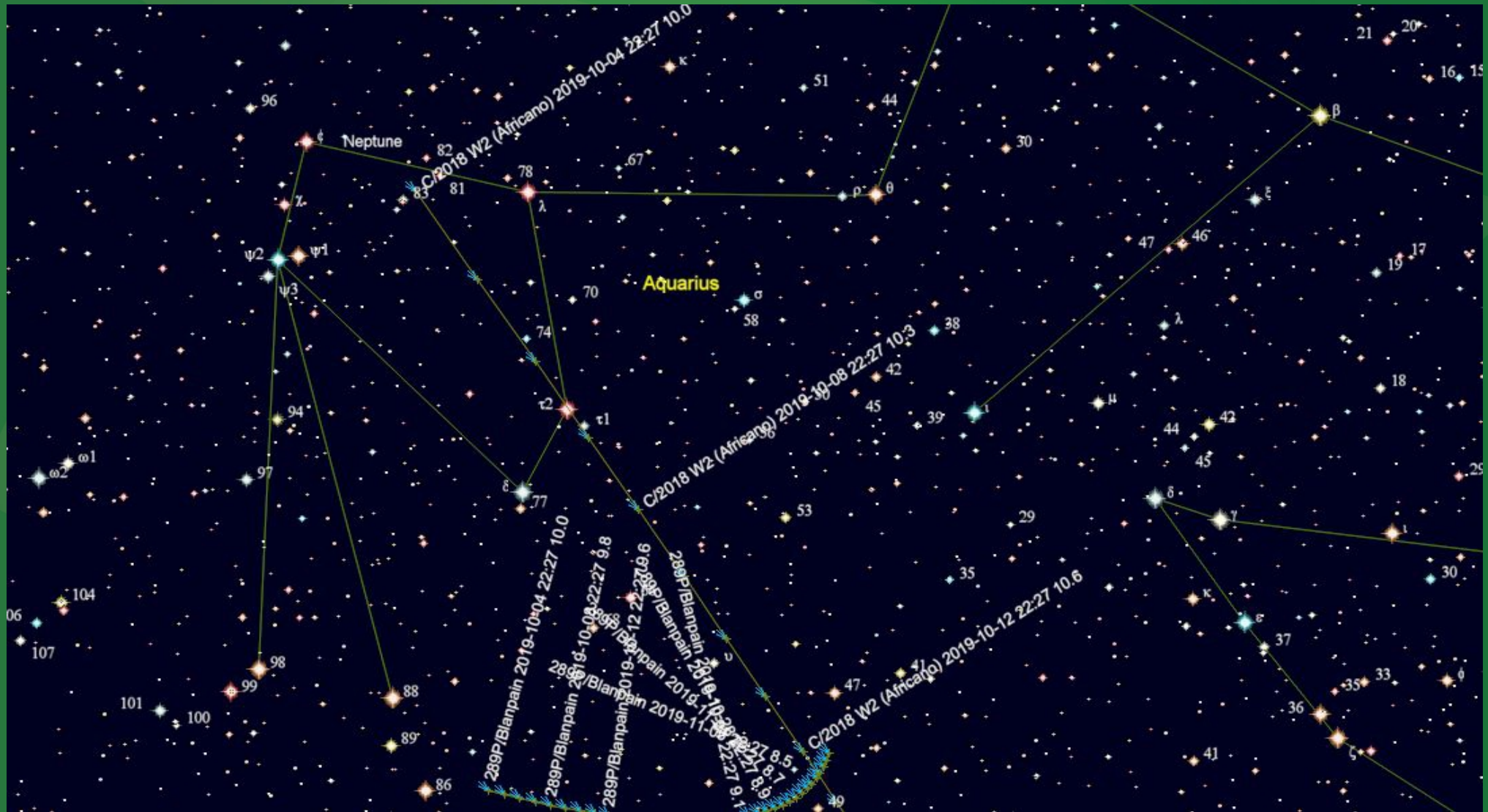
Comet's

Comet 2018 W2 (Africano) is rapidly moving south so look for it as early in the month as possible among the stars of Aquarius. By mid month it will be too far south.

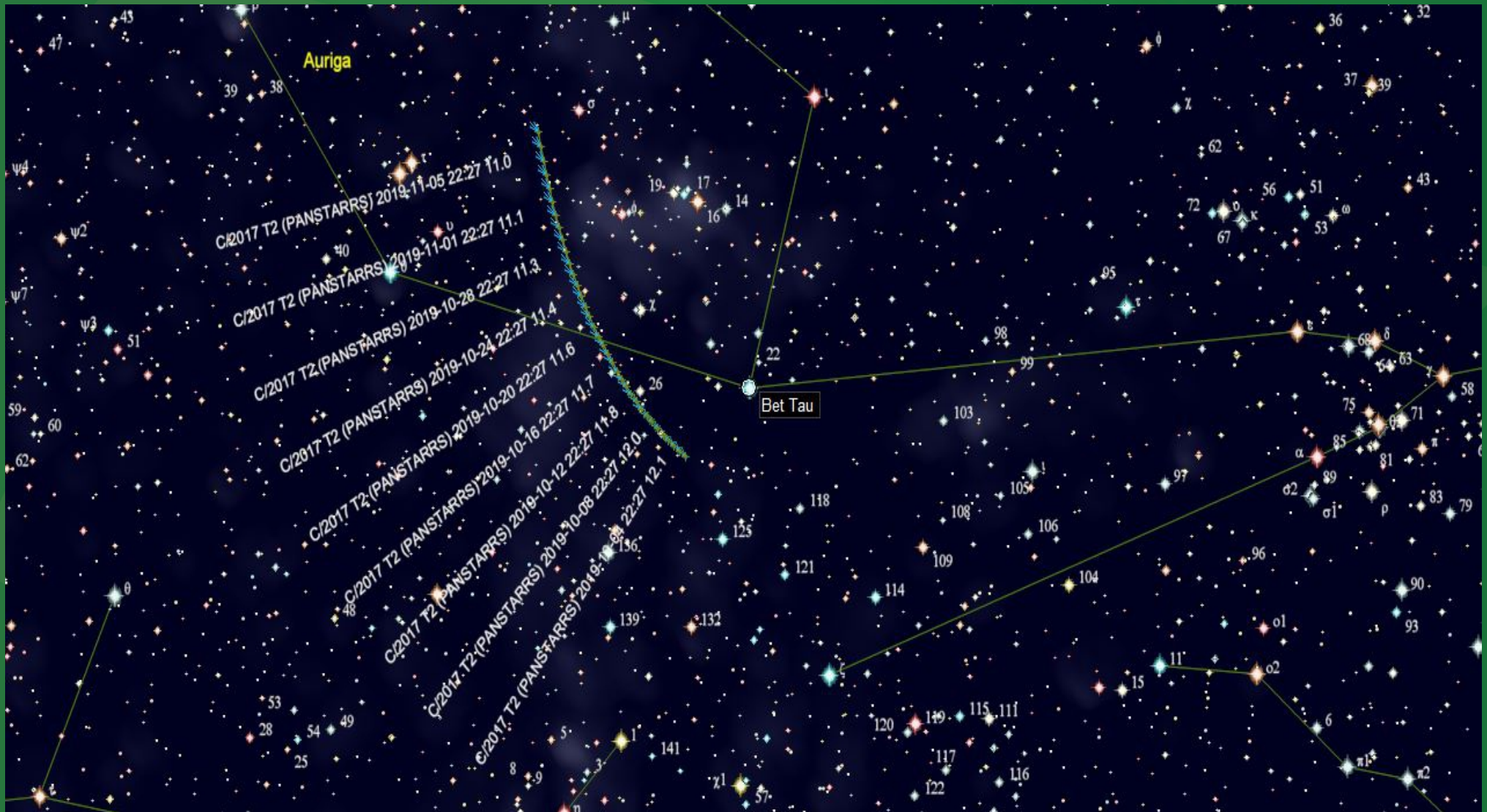
Comet 2017 T2 (PanSTARRS) is a late evening object in October as it moves sedately northwards from Taurus into Auriga. Watch for it on the 27/28th as it passes open cluster M36. One to keep an eye on as it will be at its best in early 2020.

Comet 2018 N2 (ASASSN) can be observed in the east as soon as darkness falls moving westwards through Triangulum passing four degrees north of M33 during second week of month. By the end of the month the comet lies around three degrees south of M31 where it will remain for the first few days of November. Latest images put it at Mag+12 and sporting a curved tail.

C/2018 W2 (Africano)



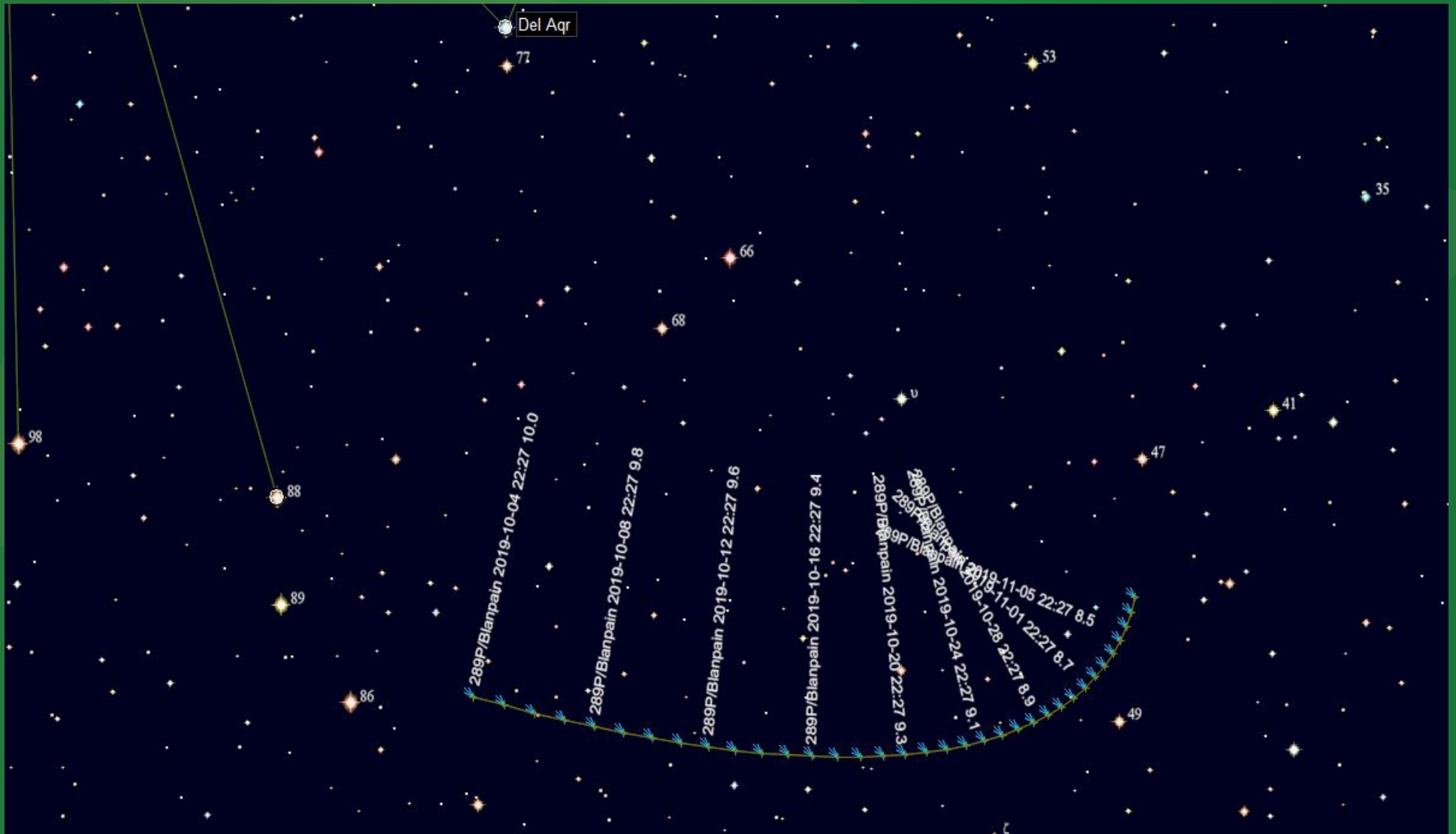
C/2017 T2 (PanSTARRS)



C/2018 N2 (ASASSN)



289P Blanpain, not ideally placed but could be worth a go imaging wise.



Meteor showers

Draconids: 8th/9th October, radiant which is placed within the head of Draco, will be 70 degrees above the western horizon by 21:00 BST. Rate of meteors isn't expected to be great with possibly 10 per hour. Waxing gibbous Moon will hinder observers until after 1am when it sets.

Orionids: Peaks on the night of 21st/22nd with the radiant lying between Betelgeuse and Gemini which will be well placed in the eastern sky after 1am. Same as the Draconids expect around 10 meteors per hour. Last quarter Moon will once again hamper viewing.

Lunar phases in October



Occultations

Lunar: On the night of 18th/19th the gibbous Moon will pass in front of Zeta Tauri at around 1:23 am BST and the star re-emerges from the dark limb an hour later (2:23am BST).







Clear Skies!