

Comet C/2013 US10 (Catalina)

Comet C/2013 US10 Catalina is an Oort cloud comet. It was discovered in 2013 by the Catalina Sky Survey. At that time it was magnitude 19.

Before entering the planetary region (1950), C/2013 US10 had an orbital period of several million years. Galactic tides and passing stars may have shifted it from this orbit. The comet is destined to leave the planetary region (2050) on an ejection trajectory.

(Info sourced from wiki on C/2013 US10 ... https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C/2013_US10).

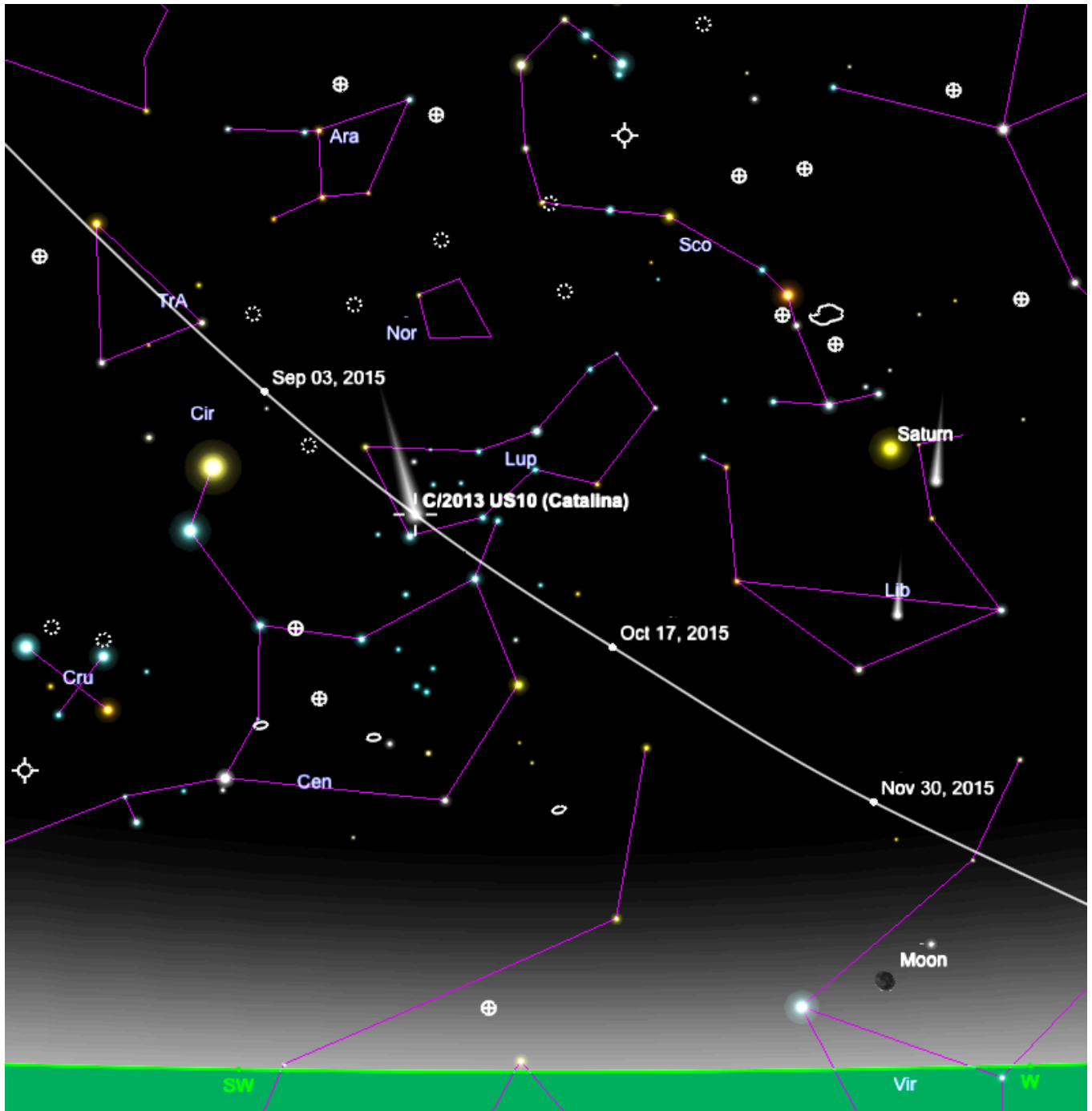
Catalina is brightening. It may reach magnitude 5 or possibly become a naked eye object, peaking sometime late in November. SkySafari gives its magnitude mid-September as about 6.5. On Saturday 12th of September we could see the comet and tail (though faint) in WSAAG member Niv Chandra's 11x70 binos at Linden in the Blue Mountains.

The comet will reside primarily in the Southern Hemisphere until mid-December when it moves quickly into northern skies.

WSAAG member Ted Dobosz produced this really nice wide-field image of the comet at the club's observing site at Linden, taken with his 127mm refractor and Canon DSLR. Image stacked from 60 x 2 minute subs.



As of the middle of September, the comet is about 1.5 degrees from the bright star alpha Lupi, magnitude 2.3. Screen clip below is from SkySafari for this time. Around the middle of October the comet will probably be getting too low in the sky for us to get a decent view in the Sydney area.



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