



## Stargazers' Almanac 2011

**Text by Bob Mizon**

**Floris Books, 2010. ISBN 978-086315-757-8. A3 size opening to A2 size. £14.99 (pbk).**

The book is basically a wall calendar for skywatchers in the mid-northern latitudes. The frontispiece has a sky chart showing the constellations included in the calendar and a guide to its use. Each monthly chart shows the northern and southern sky in strip form, the phases of the Moon and the

position of planets with side notes for special events.

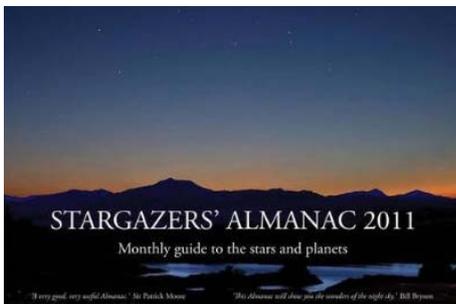
The charts show the Milky Way and the zodiacal constellations in silhouette form. The constellation-of-the-month has classic linklines joining the stars together, but generally such linklines are kept to a minimum.

The final two pages are titled Sunspots, with text and some images of the Sun both in and out of eclipse. Figures show the sunspot cycle, differential sunspot rotation and the earth's magnetosphere – these illustrations are of indifferent quality. A page features light pollution and what it means to the stargazer, and a Signs of the Zodiac chart should give the calendar wide appeal.

This calendar has a place in the study or library as a reminder on what's up in the sky, and has popular appeal especially for newcomers to astronomy.

### **Maurice Gavin**

*Maurice Gavin is a past President of the BAA, and still avidly observes the deep sky from suburbia via his 30cm astrograph.*



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