

# What's Up, Doc? †

## May 2023

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This document tells you what objects are visible this next month for many of the Astronomical League Clubs. If you are working on one of the more advanced clubs, then I assume that you are tracking where your objects are all the time. I have concentrated on the common and starter level Observing Programs. This information is based on 9 PM **Pacific** Time.

### Naked-Eye Clubs

**Meteors** – any night, any time, anywhere, the darker the sky the better.

<u>Shower</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Type</u>
Eta Aquarids (ETA)	4/21 to 5/12	5/6 0300	MAJOR
Epsilon Aquilids	5/4 to 5/27	5/17 & 5/18	minor
May Librids	5/1 to 5/9	5/6 & 5/7	minor
Eta Lyrids	5/3 to 5/12	5/8 to 5/10	minor
Northern May Ophiuchids	4/8 to 6/16	5/18 & 5/19	minor
Southern May Ophiuchids	4/21 to 6/4	5/13 to 5/18	minor
Epsilon Arietids	4/25 to 5/27	5/9 & 5/10	Daylight
May Arietids	5/4 to 6/6	5/16 & 5/17	Daylight
Omicron Cetids	5/7 to 6/9	5/14 to 5/25	Daylight
May Piscids	5/4 to 5/27	5/12 & 5/13	Daylight

**Constellations, Northern Skies** – any night, any time, anywhere, the darker the sky the better.

Last Chance this cycle: Auriga, Monoceros, Pyxis, Vela (Orion, Taurus, Canis Major).

Transit Ursa Major, Leo Minor, Leo, Hydra, Sextans, Crater, Corvus, Antlia.

New arrivals: Draco, Corona Borealis, Libra.

### Binocular Clubs

**Binocular Messier** – Monthly highlights include:

Easy – 3, 5, 13, 35, 36, 37, 38, 44, 46, 47, 48, 50, 67, 92, 93.

Medium – 40, 49, 53, 63, 64, 81, 82, 83, 94.

Hard – 1, 51, 65, 66, 68, 97, 101, 104, 106.

Big Binoculars – 58, 59, 60, 61, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 95, 96, 99, 100, 102, 105, 108, 109.

**Deep Sky Binocular** – Monthly highlights include (by Astronomical League numbers):

5, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42.

### Other Clubs

#### Messier

In addition to those listed under Binocular Messier, check out: 91, 98.

#### Caldwell

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, 66, 74, 77, 79.

**Double Star** (by Astronomical League numbers):

5, 9, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 74, 82, 91, 92, 98, 100.

## Other Clubs (of the Solar System)

**Planetary** – These are the tasks that can be done this month:

Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto will not be visible during the evening hours. Sun is in Taurus and sets at **2014** mid-month. Any clear day is a good time to get sunspots.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 5/12 and after 5/26 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 5/25 or 5/26.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 5/27.

Occultations occur all the time, the bright ones can be found on the internet. Objects disappear on the East side of the moon.

Venus is in Gemini and is up all evening mid-month.

Mars is in Gemini and is up all evening mid-month.

Ceres is in Leo and is up all evening mid-month.

Asteroids – Course Plotting and Measuring Movement requirements can be done at any time on any asteroid. See above to identify the bright ones this month.

## Lunar

Key timings are indicated below:

New, 5/19      4 days, 5/23      7 days, 5/26      10 days, 5/29      14 days, 5/3

Old moon in new moons arms – before **0353** on 5/22, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after **0353** on 5/16, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before **0353** on 5/21, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after **0353** on 5/17, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

## Special Events this Month:

- 5/1 – Mercury at Inferior Conjunction.
- 5/5 – Penumbral Lunar Eclipse.
- 5/6 – Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower.
- 5/9 – Uranus at Conjunction.
- 5/10 – Eta Lyrids Meteor Shower.
- 5/10 – Lunar Perigee.
- 5/14 – Mercury is Stationary.
- 5/17 – Moon and Jupiter Conjunction (47')
- 5/26 – Lunar Apogee.
- 5/28 – Saturn at Western Quadrature.
- 5/29 – Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation.

\* - Although many Observing Programs are not detailed in this “**What’s Up Doc?**” handout, you can get information on many of their objects by using the “**What’s Up Tonight, Doc?**” spreadsheet (version 4.1). To get your copy, talk to the Doc, Aaron Clevenson, by sending an email to [aaron@clevenson.org](mailto:aaron@clevenson.org). It is also available on the Astronomical League website.

† - “What’s Up Doc?” is used with permission from Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

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