What’s Up, Doc? †
August 2023 (Eastern Daylight Time)

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This document presents those objects are visible this next month for many Astronomical League Observing Programs. If you are working on a more advanced program, I assume you are tracking where your objects are all the time. It concentrates on the common and starter level programs. This is based on 9 PM Eastern Daylight Time at about 39° North Latitude (Washington DC).

Naked-Eye Clubs

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shower</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern Delta Aquarids</td>
<td>7/21 to 8/23</td>
<td>7/30 after midnight</td>
<td>MAJOR (ZHR: 16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perseids</td>
<td>7/13 to 8/26</td>
<td>8/13 @ midnight to 3 AM</td>
<td>MAJOR (ZHR: 100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orionids</td>
<td>8/25 to 11/19</td>
<td>10/22 after midnight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha Capricornids</td>
<td>7/8 to 8/10</td>
<td>8/1 &amp; 8/2</td>
<td>Moderate (ZHR: 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aurigids</td>
<td>8/29 to 9/4</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>Moderate (ZHR: 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kappa Cygnids</td>
<td>8/6 to 8/31</td>
<td>8/17</td>
<td>minor (ZHR: 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July Pegasus</td>
<td>6/30 to 8/3</td>
<td>7/10</td>
<td>weak (ZHR: &lt; 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eta Erideranids</td>
<td>7/31 to 8/17</td>
<td>8/5</td>
<td>weak (ZHR: &lt; 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta Perseids</td>
<td>7/24 to 8/20</td>
<td>8/7</td>
<td>weak (ZHR: &lt; 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Delta Aquarids</td>
<td>8/8 to 9/1</td>
<td>8/20</td>
<td>weak (ZHR: &lt; 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August Gamma Cepheids</td>
<td>8/22 to 9/1</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>weak (ZHR: &lt; 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Constellation Hunter, Northern Skies (and some Southern Skies) – any night, any time, anywhere, the darker the sky the better.

Last Chance this cycle: Ursa Major, Leo Minor, Coma Berenices, Virgo.
Transit: Ursa Minor, Draco, Hercules, Corona Borealis, Serpens, Ophiuchus, Scoprius.
New arrivals: Lacerta, Cygnus, Pegasus, Capricornus, Sagittarius.

Binocular Clubs

Binocular Messier – Monthly highlights include:
Easy – 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 39, 52, 55, 92, 103.
Medium – 14, 19, 28, 40, 49, 53, 62, 63, 64, 80, 81, 82, 83, 94.
Hard – 9, 26, 51, 54, 56, 71, 75, 97, 101, 104, 106.
Big Binoculars – 58, 59, 60, 61, 69, 70, 72, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 99, 100, 102, 107, 108, 109.

Deep Sky Binocular – Monthly highlights include (by Astronomical League numbers):
1, 3, 4, 5, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60.

The Astronomical League now offers a total of 9 Binocular Certifications. They include the Solar System and Lunar.

Other Clubs

Messier
In addition to those listed under Binocular Messier, check out: 21, 57, 73, 91, 98.

Caldwell
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 42, 45, 47, 52, 55, 57, 66, 68, 69, 75, 76, 78, 81, 82.

Double Star (by Astronomical League numbers):
1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 26, 29, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 58, 60, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 84, 86, 87, 88, 90, 91, 93, 94, 96, 97.
Other Clubs (of the Solar System)

**Solar System** – These are the tasks that can be done this month:
- **Sun** – Any clear day is a good time to get those sunspots.
- **Sunset** is 2003 mid-month.
- **Venus, Jupiter, and Uranus** are too close to the Sun or are morning objects.
  - **Moon**:
    - The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 8/8, and after 8/22 for the fullest views.
    - The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.
    - The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 8/21 or 8/22.
    - The Scarps requirement is best done on 8/23.
    - Occultations occur all the time, the bright ones can be found on the internet. Objects disappear on the East side of the moon.
  - **Mercury** is in Leo and sets at 21:23 at mid-month.
  - **Mars** is in Leo and sets at 22:40 at mid-month.
  - **Asteroids** – Course Plotting and Measuring Movement requirements can be done at any time on any asteroid.
    - **Ceres** is in Virgo and is up all evening mid-month.
    - **Saturn** is in Aquarius and rises at 22:55 at mid-month. All requirements can be done when Saturn is visible: markings, moons, etc.
    - **Neptune** is in Pisces and rises at 23:34 mid-month.
    - **Pluto** is in Sagittarius and is up all evening mid-month.

**Lunar**

Key timings are indicated below:

- **New, 8/15**
- **4 days, 8/19**
- **7 days, 8/22**
- **10 days, 8/25**
- **14 days, 8/29**

- **Old moon in new moons arms** – before 0038 on 8/19, ~10% illuminated. (72 hr > New)
- **New moon in old moons arms** – after 0038 on 8/13, ~10% illuminated. (72 hr < New)
- **Waxing Crescent** – before 0038 on 8/18, ~4% illuminated. (48 hr > New)
- **Waning Crescent** – after 0038 on 8/14, ~4% illuminated. (48 hr < New)

**Astronomical Events this Month:**

- **8/2** – Lunar Perigee
- **8/6** – Jupiter at Western Quadrature
- **8/8** – Eta Eridanids Meteor Shower
- **8/9** – Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation
- **8/9** – Mercury at Dichotomy
- **8/13** – Perseid Meteor Shower
- **8/13** – Venus at Inferior Conjunction
- **8/15** – Uranus at Western Quadrature
- **8/16** – Lunar Apogee
- **8/17** – Kappa Cygnids Meteor Shower
- **8/22** – Mercury is Stationary
- **8/27** – Saturn at Opposition
- **8/28** – Uranus is Stationary
- **8/30** – Lunar Perigee

* - Although these clubs 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. It is also available on the club website.

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