

What's Up, Doc? †

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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 **Central** 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:

The Sun is in Taurus and sets at **2008** mid-month. Any clear day is a good time to get sunspots. Mars, Ceres, Saturn, Neptune, and Pluto will not be visible during the evening hours.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 5/9 and after 5/23 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 5/22 or 5/23.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 5/24.

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 Taurus and sets at 2011 mid-month.

Venus is in Taurus and sets at 2231 mid-month.

Jupiter is in Gemini and sets at 0014 mid-month.

Uranus is in Taurus and sets at 2029 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, 5/16 4 days, 5/20 7 days, 5/23 10 days, 5/26 14 days, 5/30

Old moon in new moons arms – before **1501** on 5/19, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after **1501** on 5/23, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before **1501** on 5/18, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after **1501** on 5/14, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

Special Events this Month:

- 5-4 Lunar Apogee
- 5-6 Pluto begins retrograde motion
- 5-7 Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower
- 5-11 Eta Lyrid Meteor Shower
- 5-14 Ceres at Opposition
- 5-14 Mercury at Superior Conjunction
- 5-14 Venus at Perihelion
- 5-17 Lunar Perigee
- 5-18 Mercury at Perihelion
- 5-11 Uranus at Solar Conjunction
- 5-11 Lunar Apogee
- 5-23 Venus at Perihelion

* - 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. It is also available on the Astronomical League website.

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