

What's Up, Doc? †

August 2026 (Central 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 Central Daylight Time at about 30° North Latitude (Houston, TX)..

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>
Southern Delta Aquarids	7/21 to 8/23	7/30 after midnight	MAJOR (ZHR: 16)
Perseids	7/13 to 8/26	8/13 @ midnight to 3 AM	MAJOR (ZHR: 100)
Orionids	8/25 to 11/19	10/22 after midnight	MAJOR (ZHR: 15)
Alpha Capricornids	7/8 to 8/10	8/1 & 8/2	Moderate (ZHR: 5)
Aurigids	8/29 to 9/4	9/1	Moderate (ZHR: 6)
Kappa Cygnids	8/6 to 8/31	8/17	minor (ZHR: 3)
July Pegasids	6/30 to 8/3	7/10	weak (ZHR: < 2)
Eta Eridanids	7/31 to 8/17	8/5	weak (ZHR: < 2)
Beta Perseids	7/24 to 8/20	8/7	weak (ZHR: < 2)
Northern Delta Aquarids	8/8 to 9/1	8/20	weak (ZHR: < 2)
August Gamma Cepheids	8/22 to 9/1	8/28	weak (ZHR: < 2)

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, Scorprius.

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 2002 mid-month. The Sun is in Leo.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 8/5 or after 8/19 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 8/18 and 8/19.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 8/20.

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

Mercury, Mars, Ceres, Jupiter, and Uranus will not be visible during the evening hours.

Venus is in Virgo and sets at 2140 mid-month.

Saturn is in Pisces and rises at 2213 mid-month.

Neptune is in Pisces and rises at 2146 mid-month.

Pluto is in Capricornus 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, 8/12 4 days, 8/16 7 days, 8/19 10 days, 8/22 14 days, 8/26

Old moon in new moons arms – before 1236 on 8/15, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 1236 on 8/9, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 1236 on 8/14, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 1236 on 8/10, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

Astronomical Events this Month:

- 8/2 – Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation
- 8/7 – Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower
- 8/10 – Lunar Perigee
- 8/12 – Total Solar Eclipse
- 8/13 – Perseid Meteor Shower
- 8/14 – Kappa Cygnid Meteor Shower
- 8/15 – Jupiter/Mercury Conjunction (33')
- 8/15 – Venus at Greatest Eastern Elongation
- 8/22 – Lunar Apogee
- 8/27 – Mercury at Superior Conjunction
- 8/28 – Partial Lunar Eclipse
- 8/28 – Uranus at Western Quadrature

* - 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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