

What's Up, Doc? †

October 2026

Dr. Aaron B. Clevenson, Director, Insperity Observatory

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

Meteors

<u>Shower</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Type</u>
Orionids	10/15 to 10/29	10/21	Major
Arietids	9/7 to 10/27	10/8 & 10/9	Minor
Delta Aurigids	9/22 to 10/23	10/6 to 10/15	Minor
Eta Cetids	9/20 to 11/2	10/1 to 10/5	Minor
October Cetids	9/8 to 10/30	10/5 & 10/6	Minor
October Cygnids	9/22 to 10/11	10/4 to 10/9	Minor
Draconids	10/6 to 10/10	10/7	Minor
Epsilon Geminids	10/10 to 10/27	10/18 & 10/19	Minor
Northern Piscids	10/5 to 10/16	10/12 & 10/13	Minor
Sextantids	9/24 to 10/9	9/30 to 10/4	DAYTIME

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

Last Chance this cycle: Serpens, Ophiuchus, Sagittarius, Corona Australis.

Transit: Cepheus, Lacerta, Cygnus, Vulpecula, Pegasus, Delphinus, Equuleus, Aquarius, Capricorn, Piscis Austrinus, Microscopium

New arrivals: Perseus, Aries, Triangulum, Cetus, Sculptor, Grus.

Binocular Clubs

Binocular Messier – Monthly highlights include:

Easy – 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 34, 39, 52, 55, 92, 103.

Medium – 14, 28, 30, 33.

Hard – 9, 26, 32, 54, 56, 71, 75, 101.

Big Binoculars – 69, 70, 72, 102, 110.

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

1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60.

Other Clubs

Messier

In addition to those listed under Binocular Messier, check out: 21, 57, 73, 74, 76.

Caldwell

6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 37, 42, 43, 44, 47, 51, 55, 56, 57, 62, 63, 65, 68.

Double Star (by Astronomical League numbers):

1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 19, 21, 24, 26, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 84, 88, 89, 90, 96.

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 at 1830.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 10/3 and after 10/17 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 10/16 and 10/17.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 10/18.

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

Asteroids – Course Plotting and Measuring Movement requirements can be done at any time on any asteroid.

Venus, Mars, Ceres, and Jupiter are not visible in the evening sky.

Mercury is in Libra and Sets at 1940 mid-month

Saturn is in Cetus and is up all evening mid-month.

Uranus is in Taurus and rises at 2052 mid-month.

Neptune is in Pisces and is up all evening mid-month.

Pluto is in Capricornus and is up all evening mid-month.

Lunar

Key timings are indicated below:

New, 10/10 4 days, 10/14 7 days, 10/17 10 days, 10/20 14 days, 10/24

Old moon in new moons arms – before 0950 on 10/13, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 0950 on 10/7, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 0950 on 10/12, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 0950 on 10/8, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

Special Events this month (also see the moon and meteor shower information):

- 10/1 – Lunar Perigee
- 10/3 – Venus begins Retrograde Motion
- 10/4 – Saturn at Opposition
- 10/5 – Makemake at Solar Conjunction
- 10/6 – Moon / Jupiter Conjunction (10')
- 10/6 – October Camelopardalid Meteors
- 10/7 – Draconid Meteors
- 10/12 – Mercury at Greatest Elongation East
- 10/16 – Lunar Apogee
- 10/16 – Pluto ends Retrograde Motion
- 10/18 – Epsilon Geminid Meteors
- 10/22 – Orionid Meteors
- 10/23 – Venus at Inferior Conjunction
- 10/24 – Mercury begins Retrograde Motion
- 10/24 – Leonis Minorid Meteors
- 10/25 – Haumea at Solar Conjunction
- 10/28 – 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.

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

© 2026 Aaron B. Clevenson. All international rights reserved. This work may be copied and distributed as is, without modification, free of charge for educational purposes only.

Inspirity Observatory
2505 S. Houston Avenue, Humble, TX
www.humbleisd.net/observatory