

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 club, then I assume that you are also probably tracking where your objects are all the time. I have concentrated on the more common and starter level clubs.

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 Draconids	3/22-4/8	3/29-3/31	Minor
Beta Leonids	2/14-4/25	3/19-3/21	Minor
Rho Leonids	2/13-3/13	3/1-3/4	Minor
Leonids-Ursids	3/18-4/7	3/10 & 3/11	Minor
Delta Mensids	3/14-3/21	3/18 & 3/19	Minor
Gamma Normids	3/11-3/21	3/16 & 3/17	Minor
Eta Virginids	2/24-3/27	3/18 & 3/19	Minor
Pi Virginids	2/13-4/8	3/3-3/9	Minor
Theta Virginids	3/10-4/21	3/20 & 3/21	Minor
March Aquarids	2/1-4/30	3/15-3/18	Daytime Shower

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

Last Chance this cycle: Cassiopeia, Andromeda, Traingulum, Aries, Caelum.

Transit Camelopardis, Lynx, Gemini, Canis Minor, Monoceros, Canis Major, Puppis.

New arrivals: Canes Venatici, Coma Berenecis, Crater, Corvus, Antlia, Pyxis.

Binocular Clubs

Binocular Messier – Monthly highlights include:

Easy – 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 67, 93, 103.

Medium – 33, 40, 49, 63, 64, 78, 79, 81, 82, 94.

Hard – 1, 32, 51, 65, 66, 97, 101, 106.

Big Binoculars – 58, 59, 60, 61, 77, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 95, 96, 99, 100, 102, 105, 108, 109, 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, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 60.

Other Clubs

Messier: Messier Marathon (seeing all 110 in one night) is ideal on 3/14/2015 and 3/21/2015!

In addition to those listed under Binocular Messier, check out: 43, 74, 76, 91, 98.

Caldwell

1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 46, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 58, 59, 64, 71, 73.

Double Star (by Astronomical League numbers):

2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 40, 42, 45, 49, 51, 52, 53, 55, 57, 59, 60, 61, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 95, 98, 99.

Other Clubs (of the Solar System)

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

Venus, Saturn, and Pluto will not be visible during the evening hours. They are morning stars or too close to the sun.

Mercury is in Pisces and sets at 1914 by mid-month.

Mars is in Ophiuchus and rises at 0156 by mid-month.

Jupiter is in Libra and rises at 2338 by mid-month.

Uranus is in Pisces and sets at 1819 mid-month.

Neptune is in Aquarius and at 1819 by mid-month.

Sun – Any clear day is a good time to get those sunspots. Sunset is at 19299 mid-month.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 3/10, after 3/24 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 3/23 or 3/24.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 3/25.

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. See above to identify the bright ones this month.

Lunar

Key timings are indicated below:

New, 3/17 4 days, 3/21 7 days, 3/24 10 days, 3/27 14 days, 3/1 & 3/31

Old moon in new moons arms – before 0812 CST on 3/20, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 0812 CST on 3/14, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 0012 CST on 3/19, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 0812 CST on 3/15, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

The Astronomical League Observing Programs:

Analemma	ARP Peculiar Galaxies	Asterisms	Asteroids
Binocular Double Star	Binocular Messier	Caldwell	Carbon Star
Comets	Constellation Hunter – North	Constellation Hunter – South	Dark Nebulae
Dark Sky Advocate	Deep Sky Binocular	Double Star	Earth Orbiting Satellite
Flat Galaxy	Galaxy Groups & Clusters	Galileo	Globular Clusters
Herschel 400	Herschel II	Local Galaxy Group & Neighborhood	
Lunar	Lunar II	Master Observer	Messier
Meteor	NEO	Open Clusters	Outreach
Planetary Nebulae	Planetary Transit	Solar System Observers	Sky Puppy
Southern Skies Binocular	Southern Skies Telescope	Sunspotters	Stellar Evolution
Universe Sampler	Urban	Variable Star	Planetary Transit

* - 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.

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

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