

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, Triangulum, 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:

Mercury, Venus, Ceres, Saturn, Neptune, and Pluto will not be visible during the evening hours.

They are morning stars or too close to the sun.

Mars is in Scorpius and rises at 2338 mid-month.

Jupiter is in Leo and is visible all night mid-month. Transit is at 0003 mid-month.

Uranus is in Pisces and sets at 2018 mid-month.

Sun – Any clear day is a good time to get those sunspots. Sunset is at 1828 mid-month.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 3/1, after 3/15, and before 3/31 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 3/14 or 3/15 CDT.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 3/16 CDT.

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, 3/8 4 days, 3/12 7 days, 3/15 10 days, 3/18 14 days, 3/22

Old moon in new moons arms – before 1954 CST on 3/11, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 1954 CST on 3/5, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 1154 CST on 3/10, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 19954 CST on 3/6, ~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.

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