

What's Up, Doc? †

August 2023 (Eastern Daylight Time)

Dr. Aaron B. Clevenson, Observatory Director, Insperty Observatory

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 Eastern Daylight Time at about 39° North Latitude (Washington DC).

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, Scorpius.

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 2003 mid-month.

Venus, Jupiter, and Uranus are too close to the Sun or are morning objects.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 8/8, and after 8/22 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 8/21 or 8/22.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 8/23.

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 Leo and sets at 2123 at mid-month.

Mars is in Leo and sets at 2240 at mid-month.

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

Ceres is in Virgo and is up all evening mid-month.

Saturn is in Aquarius and rises at 2255 at mid-month. All requirements can be done when Saturn is visible: markings, moons, etc.

Neptune is in Pisces and rises at 2334 mid-month.

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

Lunar

Key timings are indicated below:

New, 8/15 4 days, 8/19 7 days, 8/22 10 days, 8/25 14 days, 8/29

Old moon in new moons arms – before 0038 on 8/19, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 0038 on 8/13, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 0038 on 8/18, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 0038 on 8/14, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

Astronomical Events this Month:

- 8/2 – Lunar Perigee
- 8/6 – Jupiter at Western Quadrature
- 8/8 – Eta Eridanids Meteor Shower
- 8/9 – Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation
- 8/9 – Mercury at Dichotomy
- 8/13 – Perseid Meteor Shower
- 8/13 – Venus at Inferior Conjunction
- 8/15 – Uranus at Western Quadrature
- 8/16 – Lunar Apogee
- 8/17 – Kappa Cygnids Meteor Shower
- 8/22 – Mercury is Stationary
- 8/27 – Saturn at Opposition
- 8/28 – Uranus is Stationary
- 8/30 – 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. It is also available on the club website.

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

© 2023 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.

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