

What's Up, Doc? †

January, 2012

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

Naked-Eye Clubs

Meteors – any night, any time, anywhere; the darker the sky the better. Major showers are in **BOLD**:

| <u>Showers</u> | <u>Duration</u> | <u>Maximum</u> | <u>Type</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Quadrantids | 1/1 to 1/5 | 1/3 | Major |
| Zeta Aurigids | 12/11 to 1/21 | 12/31 & 1/1 | Minor |
| January Bootids | 1/9 to 1/18 | 1/16 to 1/18 | Minor |
| Alpha Centaurids | 1/28 to 2/21 | 2/8 | Minor |
| Delta Cancrids | 12/14 to 2/14 | 1/17 | Minor |
| Canids | 1/13 to 1/30 | 1/24 & 1/25 | Minor |
| Eta Carinids | 1/14 to 1/27 | 1/21 & 1/22 | Minor |
| Eta Craterids | 1/11 to 1/22 | 1/16 & 1/17 | Minor |
| January Draconids | 1/10 to 1/24 | 1/13 to 1/16 | Minor |
| Rho Geminids | 12/28 to 1/28 | 1/8 & 1/9 | Minor |
| Alpha Hydrids | 1/15 to 1/30 | 1/20 & 1/21 | Minor |
| Alpha Leonids | 1/13 to 2/13 | 1/24 to 1/31 | Minor |
| Gamma Velids | 1/1 to 1/17 | 1/5 to 1/8 | Minor |

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

Last Chance: Cygnus, Lyra, Vulpecula, Sagitta, Delphinus, Equuleus, Aquarius, Piscis Austrinus.

Transit: Camelopardalis, Perseus, Aries, Taurus, Eridanus, Fornax, .

New Arrivals: Lynx, Ursa Major, Leo Minor, Cancer, Canis Minor, Monoceros, Canis Major, Columba.

Binocular Clubs

Binocular Messier – Monthly highlights include:

Easy – 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 67, 103

Medium – 33, 78, 79, 81, 82

Hard – 1, 32, 97

Big Binoculars – 77, 108, 110

Deep Sky Binocular – Monthly highlights include:

1, 2, 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, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60

Other Clubs

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

Caldwell

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 39, 41, 43, 44, 46, 49, 50, 51, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 65, 67, 70, 73

Double Star

2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 16, 19, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 32, 33, 34, 40, 42, 46, 47, 49, 50, 53, 55, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 89, 95, 99

Other Clubs (continued)

Comets – down to magnitude 12:

C/2009 P1 Garradd (6.2), P/2006 T1 Levy (11.0).

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

Sun – Any clear day is a good time to get those sunspots.

Moon:

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look after 1/30 and before 1/16 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 1/29 or 1/30.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 1/1.

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

Mercury and Pluto are not visible in the evening sky this month.

Sunset is at 1740 CT.

Venus is in Aquarius and sets at 20:37 by mid-month.

Ceres is in Virgo and rises at 00:20 by mid-month.

Mars is in Virgo and rises at 22:05 by mid-month.

Jupiter is in Pisces and sets at 01:08 by mid-month.

Saturn is in Virgo and rises at 00:52 CT by mid-month.

Uranus is in Pisces and sets at 22:51 by mid-month.

Neptune is in Aquarius and sets at 20:24 by 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 Moon, January 23, 2012 at 07:39 CT)

4 days, 1/27 7 days, 1/30 10 days, 1/3 14 days, 1/7

Old moon in new moons arms – before 01:39 CT on 1/26, 10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 01:39 CT on 1/20, 10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 17:39 CT on 1/24, 4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 01:39 CT on 1/20, 4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

Clubs Not Covered

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| * ARP Peculiar Galaxies | Earth Orbiting Satellites | Master Observer |
| Constellation Hunter – South | * Universe Sampler | * Herschel 400 |
| * Galaxy Groups & Clusters | * Sky Puppies | * Herschel II |
| * Southern Skies Binocular | * Urban | Sunspotters |
| * Southern Skies Telescope | * Open Cluster | * Globular Cluster |
| * Planetary Nebulae | Lunar II | |

* - 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 5.0). To get your copy, talk to the Doc: Aaron Clevenson, by sending an email to aaron@clevenson.org

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