

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 concentrate 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>
Aurigids	1/31 to 2/23	2/5 to 2/10	Minor
Alpha Centaurids	2/2 to 2/25	2/8 & 2/9	Minor
Beta Centaurids	2/2 to 2/25	2/8 & 2/9	Minor
Delta Leonids	2/5 to 3/19	2/22 & 2/23	Minor
Sigma Leonids	2/9 to 3/13	2/25 & 2/26	Minor
Capricornids-Sagittariids	1/13 to 2/28	1/30 to 2/3	DAYLIGHT
Chi Capricornids	1/29 to 2/28	2/13 & 2/14	DAYLIGHT

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

Last Chance this cycle: Cepheus, Lacerta, Andromeda, Pisces, Cetus, Fornax.

Transit Camelopardis, Auriga, Taurus, Orion, Lepus, Columba, Caelum.

New arrivals: Ursa Major, Leo Minor, Leo, Sextans, Pyxis, Puppis.

Binocular Clubs

Binocular Messier – Monthly highlights include:

Easy – 3, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 67, 93, 103.

Medium – 40, 49, 53, 63, 64, 78, 79, 81, 21, 94.

Hard – 1, 51, 65, 66, 68, 97, 101, 104, 106.

Big Binoculars – 58, 59, 60, 61, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 95, 96, 99, 100, 102, 105, 108, 109.

Deep Sky Binocular – Monthly highlights include:

3, 4, 5, 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.

Other Clubs

Messier

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

Caldwell

1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, 71, 74, 79.

Double Star

5, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 92, 95, 98, 99, 100.

Other Clubs (of the Solar System)

Comets – down to magnitude 12:

C/2007 Q3 Siding-Spring (9.4), 81P Wild 2 (9.5).

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

Mercury and Neptune will not be visible during the evening hours. They are morning stars or too close to the sun.

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 before 2/6 and after 2/20 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 2/19 or 2/20.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 2/21.

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.

Venus is in Aquarius and sets by 1851 in midmonth.

Mars is in Cancer and is up all night.

Ceres is in Pisces and sets by 2239 in midmonth.

Jupiter is in Aquarius and sets by 1856 in midmonth.

Saturn is in Virgo and rises by 2054 in midmonth.

Uranus is in Pisces and sets by 2054 in midmonth.

Pluto is in Sagittarius and rises by 0340 in midmonth.

Lunar

Key timings are indicated below:

New, 2/13 4 days, 2/17 7 days, 2/20 10 days, 2/2 14 days, 2/27

Old moon in new moons arms – before 20:51 on 2/16, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 19:51 on 2/10, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 12:51 on 2/15, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 20:51 on 2/11, ~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	* Planetary Nebulae	* Open Clusters
* Globular Clusters	Lunar II	Galileo
Dark Sky Advocate	Asteroids	

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

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