

# What's Up, Doc? †

## March, 2010

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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>Showers</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

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)

**Comets** – down to magnitude 12:

81P/Wild 2 (9.5), C/2007 Q3 Siding Spring (10.0), C/2009 O2 Catalina (9.0).

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

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

Venus is in Pisces and sets about an hour after sunset.

Mars is in Gemini and is up all night long. Enjoy it while it is close to Earth.

Ceres is in Taurus and sets close to midnight.

Saturn is in Virgo and will be up all night long. The rings are starting to open back up. Any time that Saturn is visible it is possible to do the four Saturnian requirements: the Rings, the Cassini Division, Disk Markings and the Satellites.

Uranus is in Pisces and very soon after sunset.

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 3/7 and after 3/22 for the fullest views.

The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time.

The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 3/21 or 3/22.

The Scarps requirement is best done on 3/23.

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, 3/15                      4 days, 3/19                      7 days, 3/22                      10 days, 3/25                      14 days, 3/29

Old moon in new moons arms – before 16:01 CDT on 3/18, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New)

New moon in old moons arms – after 16:01 CST on 3/12, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New)

Waxing Crescent – before 20:06 CDT on 3/17, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New)

Waning Crescent – after 16:01 CST on 3/13, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

## Clubs Not Covered

\* ARP Peculiar Galaxies

Constellation Hunter – South

\* Galaxy Groups & Clusters

\* Southern Skies Binocular

\* Southern Skies Telescope

Earth Orbiting Satellites

\* Universe Sampler

\* Sky Puppies

\* Urban

Asteroids

Master Observer

\* Herschel 400

\* Herschel II

Sunspotters

\* - 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](mailto:aaron@clevenson.org)

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