

THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA OBSERVER'S CALENDAR

2011



JANUARY

Fires of Creation

This narrowband, multi-filtered spectacular close-up of a small emission nebula in Cassiopeia reveals structure associated with star formation. Dense pillars of gas cloak prenatal stars, while ultraviolet radiation strips less dense gas away to give shape and form to the pillars and horns that shelter newly created stars.

Photo by Serge Théberge

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
The planets this month Mercury: low in SE in morning twilight Venus: in SE in morning twilight Mars: not observable this month Jupiter: in SW after dark sets in W near 10 pm Saturn: rises in E after 1 am high in S at sunrise	Times in the upper half of the daily boxes are in the 24-hour clock; times in the lower half are given in the 12-hour clock. Eastern time is used, except for rise and set events and changes to/from Daylight Saving Time, which are given in local time. Times for events involving planetary satellites refer to the start time Detailed instructions on adjusting times for location are given in the back pages. Please see back pages for photo details and additional information about this Calendar.	DECEMBER S M T W T F S 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 FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26				40°N 50°N Rise 4:53 5:34 Set 14:20 13:37 1 Sunrise 7:22 7:59 5 Sunset 16:45 16:09 1	
Rise 5:53 6:36 Set 15:15 14:33 2	Rise 6:45 7:25 Set 16:16 15:36 3	40°N 50°N 7:29 8:04 Set 7:19 16:45 New Moon 4:03	Rise 8:35 Set 18:22 17:55 5	Rise 8:37 8:59 Set 19:24 19:05 6	Rise 9:05 9:19 Set 20:24 20:12 7	40°N 50°N Rise 9:30 9:37 Set 21:22 21:18 Sunrise 7:22 7:57 Sunset 16:52 16:17	
Vranus 31' north of Jupiter, last of 3 in triple conjunction Rise 9:53 9:53 Set 22:20 22:24	Earth at perihelion (147,105,800 km) 2 pm Quadrantid meteors (ZHR=120) 8 pm Prise 10:17 10:10 Set 23:18 23:29 10	Partial Solar Eclipse visible in most of Europe and N Africa Pise 40°N 50°N 10:41 10:27 Set 111	Set 0:17 0:35 Rise 11:08 10:47 First Quarter 6:31	Set 1:17 1:42 Rise 11:38 11:10 13	Set 2:18 2:51 Rise 12:13 11:39 14	Venus at greatest elongation W (47°) 	
Mercury at greatest elongation W (23°) Two shadows on Jupiter visible in N. America except E best in W 10:49 pm	Robert Wilson, co discoverer of Cosmic Microwave Background radiation, born 75 years ago Two shadows on Jupiter visible in Atlantic and Arctic Canada 4:06 pm	Lunar X near crater Werner visible in all of N. America except W 6 pm	Lunar Straight Wall visible in all of N. America 5 pm		Mercury in front of star cluster M21 visible in all of N. America 6 am 28 Bellona at opposition (m=10.0)	Mercury 2° left of M8, M20, M21 visible in all of N. America 6 am	
. Set 4:21 5:03 Rise 13:47 13:05 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (USA) Mechain discovered Encke's Comet 225 years ago	40°N 50°N 6:10 6:48 Rise 15:56 15:19 Rise 15:56 15:19	40°N 50°N 8:55 7:26 Rise 17:09 16:40 Full Moon 16:21	Set 7:34 7:57 Rise 18:24 18:04 20	Set 8:09 8:23 Rise 19:39 19:28 21	Set 8:41 8:46 Rise 20:53 20:52 222 Sunrise 7:17 7:46 Sunset 17:07 16:37	
Moon occuits eta Geminorum tomorrow night N of graze Oregon-Regina 7 pm Moon occuits mu Geminorum tomorrow night N of graze San Fran-N. Carolina 10 pm 40°N 50°N	Two shadows on Jupiter visible in E of N. America except S Two shadows on Jupiter visible in all of N. America except W coast 40°N 50°N	40°N 50°N	Mercury 1.3° above globular cl. M22 visible in all of N. America 6 am Today's full Moon is the Wolf Moon 40°N 50°N	Mercury 1.3° left of globular cl. M22 visible in all of N. America 6 am 40°N 50°N	40941 60941	23 Thalia at opposition (m=9.1)	
Set 9:11 9:07 Rise 22:06 22:14 23	Set 9:41 9:29 Rise 23:18 23:36 224	Set 10:14 9:53 Rise 225	Rise 0:00 0:56 226	Rise 1:39 2:14 Set 11:30 10:54 27	40°N 50°N 2:46 3:26 Set 12:16 11:36 28	40°N 50°N Set 3:47 4:29 Sunrise 7:11 7:38 Sunset 17:15 16:49	
		J. L. Lagrange, celestial mathematician, born 275 years ago	Mrs. George Craig heard aurora in the Yukon 100 years ago	Edmund Halley was elected Clerk of Royal Society 325 years ago Saturn stationary	Space shuttle Challenger and crew were lost on ascent 25 years ago Johannes Hevelius, noted for comet and Moon publications, born 400 years ago	Moon near Venus in morning sky today and tomorrow	
Rise 4:40 5:22 Set 14:07 13:26 30	Prise Set 15:08 14:32 31						
Cres. Moon occults M8 at dawn NW B.C. to Yellowknite							

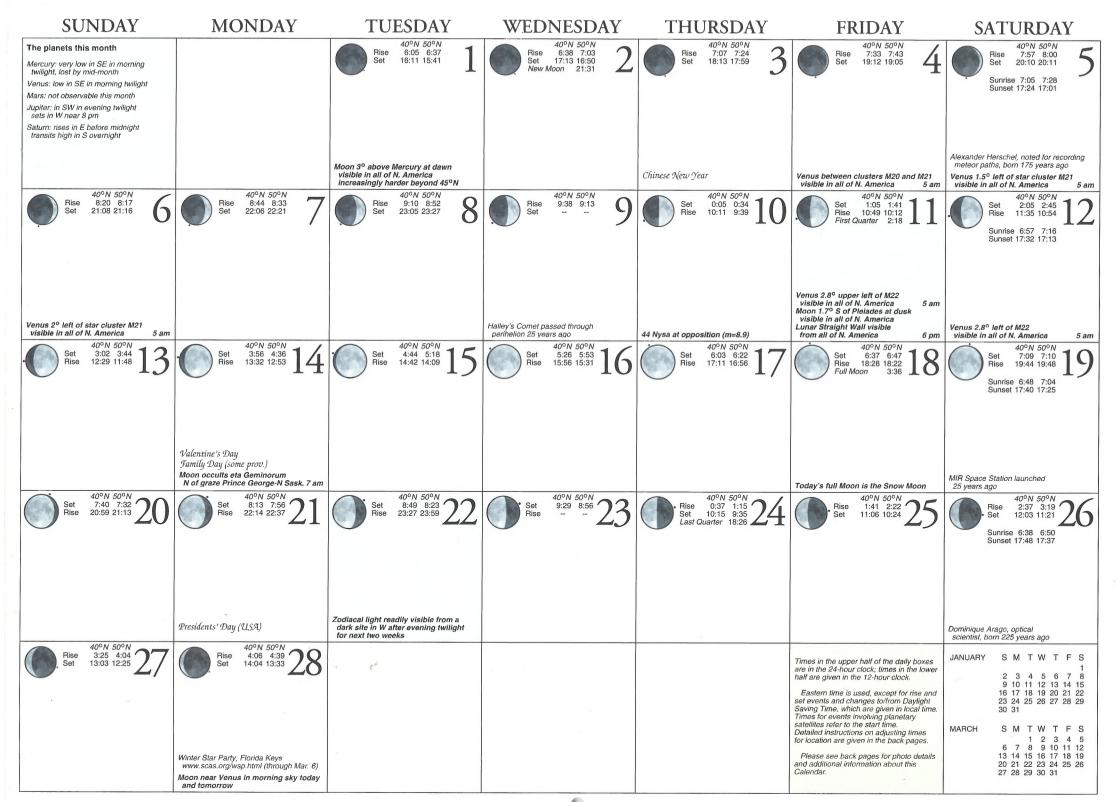


FEBRUARY

Ultraviolet Sculpture

Interstellar dust and gas are carved and lit up by intense radiation from hot, energetic young stars into weird and wonderful shapes. The brightest blue star just left of centre is S Mon. Above it is the strangely textured Fox Fur Nebula. To the right of S Mon is the Cone Nebula, a star-forming pillar of gas.

Photo by Kerry-Ann Lecky Hepburn and Stefano Cancelli





MARCH

Gravity's Apron String The Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) is kept on the short leash of gravity by its massive master, the Milky Way. The LMC is an irregular dwarf galaxy and a satellite in orbit about our own, at a distance of 180,000 light-years. This close galactic neighbour is undergoing active star formation and is full of bright nebulae and sparkling new star clusters. Photo by Jack Newton

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The planets this month Mercury: low in W in evening twilight Venus: very low in SE in morning twilight Mars: not observable this month Jupiter: very low in W soon after sunset lost in twilight late this month Saturn: rises in E in mid-evening transits high in S after midnight		40°N 50°N Rise 4:40 5:07 Set 15:05 14:41 1	^{40°N 50°N} Set 5:10 5:30 16:06 15:49 2	Pise 5:37 5:49 Set 17:05 16:55 3	40°N 50°N Pise 6:02 6:07 Set 18:03 18:01 New Moon 15:46	40°N 50°N Rise 6:25 6:24 Set 19:01 19:06 Sunrise 6:28 6:36 Sunset 17:56 17:48
Rise 6:49 6:41 Set 19:58 20:11	Rise 7:14 6:59 Set 20:57 21:16	Moon near Venus in morning sky 40°N 50°N Rise 7:42 7:19 Set 21:56 22:23 Q	Rise 8:12 7:44 Set 22:55 23:28	Rise 8:48 8:13 Set 23:54 10	Set 0:33 Rise 9:30 8:51	Set 0:51 1:32 12 Rise 10:20 9:38 12
						First Quarter 18:45 Sunrise 6:17 6:21 Sunset 18:03 18:00
Halley's Cornet was first to be probed by spacecraft (Giotto), 25 years ago			7.4-mag star occulted by 72 Feronia from Texas to Oregon www.asteroidoccultation.com 10 pm		Urbain Le Verrier, co-discoverer of Neptune, born 200 years ago Lunar X near crater Werner visible in all of N. America 11 pm	3 Juno at opposition (m=8.8) Lunar Straight Wall visible in all of N. America 10 pm
· () Set 1:45 3:25 Rise 12:17 11:37 13	· Set 3:33 4:10 Rise 13:21 12:45 14	40°N 50°N 4:17 4:48 Rise 14:30 14:02 15	^{40°N 50°N} ^{Set} 4:55 5:18 ^{Hise} 15:43 15:23 16	⁴⁰ Set 5:30 5:45 Rise 16:58 16:47 17	Set 6:03 6:09 Rise 18:14 18:13 18	40°N 50°N Set 6:35 6:32 Rise 19:31 19:39 Full Moon 14:10 Sunrise 7:06 7:06 Sunset 19:11 19:11
Daylight Saving Time begins 2 am Moon occults mu Geminorum S of graze Manitoba-Cape Breton 7 pm	visible in all of N. America at evening civil twilight	Mercury 2 ^o right of Jupiter visible in all of N. America at evening civil twilight	Mercury 2.5° upper right of Jupiter visible in all of N. America at evening civil twilight	Arthur Covington, Canada's first radio astronomer, died 10 years ago		Largest full Moon of 2011 Today's full Moon is the Worm Moon
Set 7:08 6:56 Rise 20:48 21:06 20	Set 7:43 7:22 Rise 22:05 22:32 21	(1) Set 8:23 7:53 Rise 23:19 23:54 222	^{40°N 50°N} ^{9:08 8:32} ^{Rise} 23	Rise 0:27 1:08 Set 9:59 9:19 24	Rise Set 1:29 2:10 10:56 10:15 25	40°N 50°N Set 2:21 3:00 Set 11:56 11:18 Last Quarter 8:07 Sunrise 6:54 6:50 Sunset 19:18 19:22
		м ³				
Spring Equinox 7:21 pm	Zodiacal light readily visible from a dark site in W after evening twilight for next two weeks	Mercury at greatest elongation E (19°) best evening view in 2011	MIR Space Station was destroyed in controlled re-entry 10 years ago			Earth Hour (8-9 pm local) www.earthhourus.org
An end of the set of t	^{40°N 50°N} Set 3:42 4:10 13:59 13:33 28	Hise 40°N 50°N 4:13 4:35 5et 15:00 14:41 29	Hise 40°N 50°N 4:41 4:55 5et 15:59 15:47 30	Rise Set 16:57 16:52 31	Times in the upper half of the daily boxes are in the 24-hour clock; times in the lower half are given in the 12-hour clock. Eastern time is used, except for rise and set events and changes to/from Daylight Saving Time, which are given in local time. Times for events involving planetary	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 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
а -					satellites refer to the start time. Detailed instructions on adjusting times for location are given in the back pages.	APRIL SM TW TF S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
				Moon 6° above Venus at dawn visible in all of N. America	Please see back pages for photo details and additional information about this Calendar.	10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

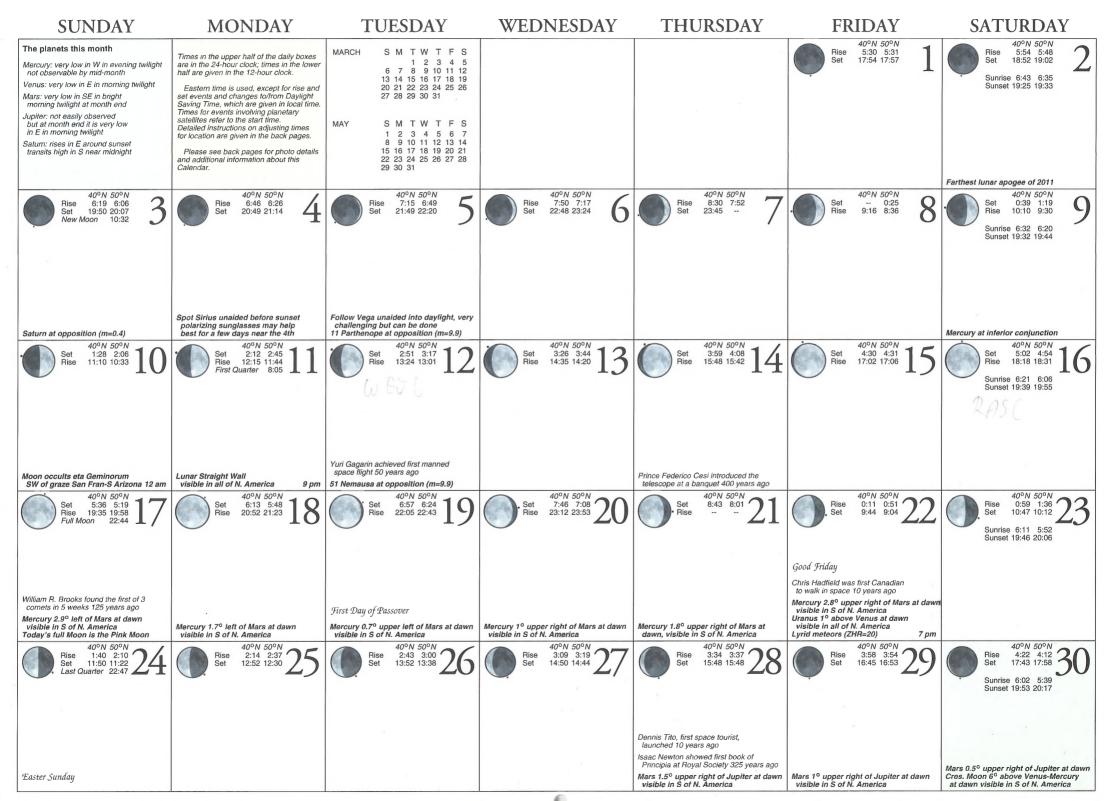


APRIL

The Stuff of Southern-Sky Dreams

Icon of the southern skies, Crux, or the Southern Cross, floats in front of the multitude of Milky Way background stars. To its lower left is the dark Coal Sack Nebula, an accumulation of cold obscuring gas that blocks the light of more distant stars. At lower right is the glowing pink hydrogen of the Lambda Centauri Nebula.

Photo by Alan Dyer



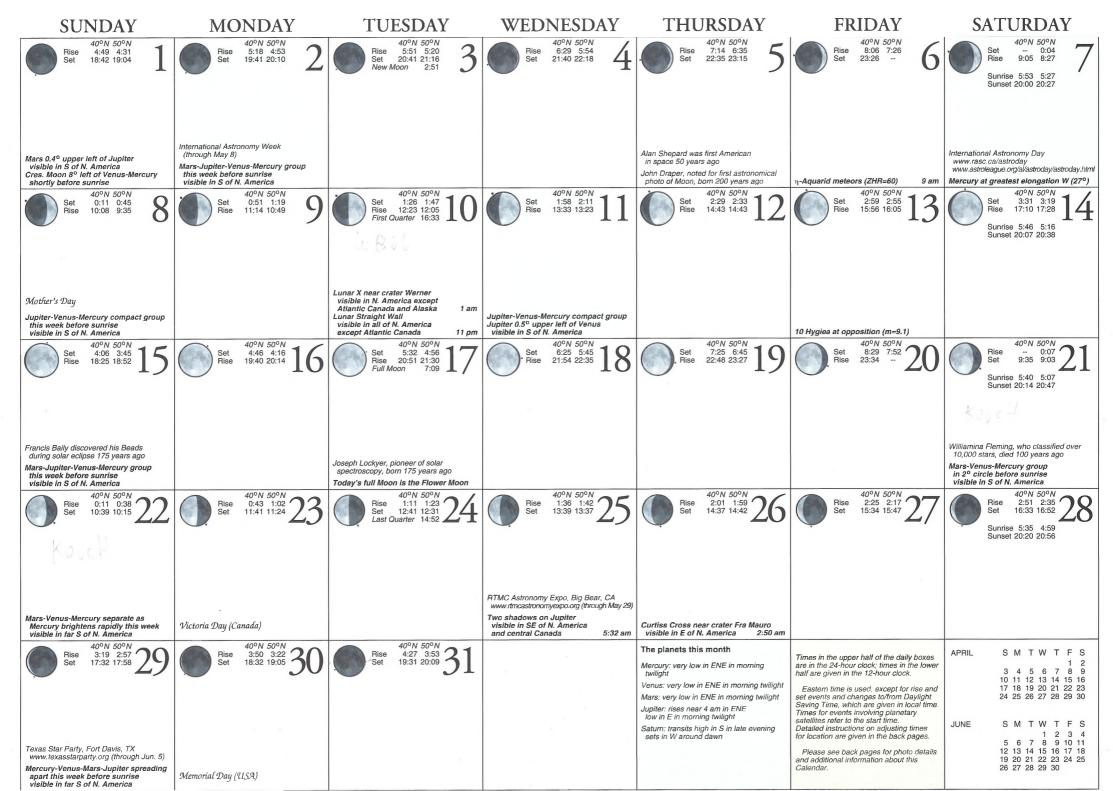


MAY

Luminous Pinwheel

Sparkling with the red of abundant star-forming regions and the blue of countless hot, young, massive stars, is M101, an enormous face-on spiral galaxy in the constellation Ursa Major. At a distance of about 27 million light-years, it has a diameter of about 170,000 light-years – almost twice the breadth of the Milky Way!

Photo by Serge Theberge





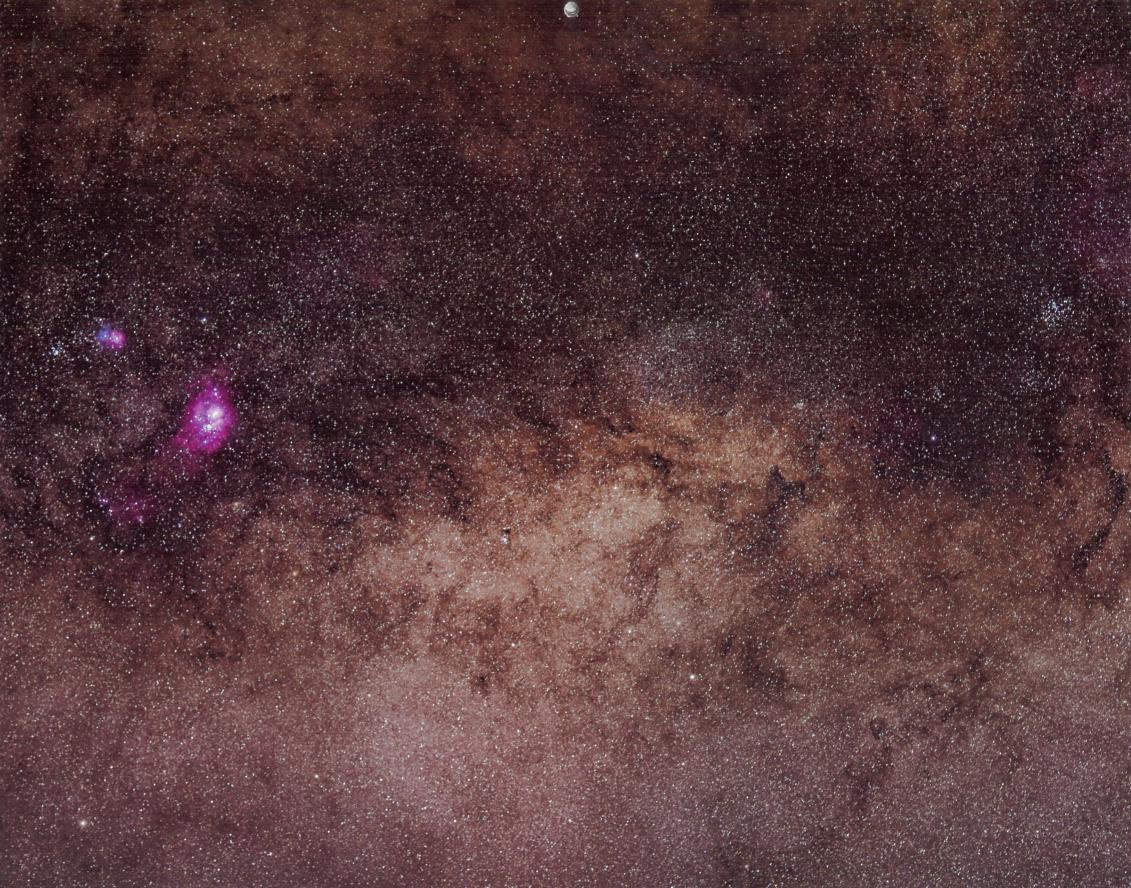
JUNE

Sapphires and Diamond Dust

Messier 7, sometimes called "Ptolemy's Cluster," is a splendid open cluster of about 80 stars at a distance of 800–1000 light-years, in the direction of the heart of the Milky Way. At 220 million years of age, these young stars shine brilliantly against the thick star clouds of the galaxy. The cluster is moving toward us at 14 km/sec.

Photo by Debra and Peter Ceravolo

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The planets this month Mercury: observed with difficulty early in month in moring twilight and at end of month in evening twilight Venus: very low in NE in morning twilight observed with difficulty at month end Mars: very low in NE in morning twilight Jupiter: rises before 3 am in NE in E in morning twilight Satum: high in S early evening sets in W after midnight	Times in the upper half of the daily boxes are in the 24-hour clock; times in the lower half are given in the 12-hour clock. Eastern time is used, except for rise and set events and changes toffrom Daylight Saving Time, which are given in local time. Times for events involving planetary satellites refer to the start time. Detailed instructions on adjusting times for location are given in the back pages. Please see back pages for photo details and additional information about this Calendar.	MAY S M T W T F S 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 JULY S M T W T F S 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	40°N 50°N Rise 5:10 4:32 Set 20:29 21:09 New Moon 17:03 1 Mercury-Venus-Mars-Jupiter spreading this week before sunrise visible in tar S of N. America Two shadows on Jupiter visible in W of N. America 7:26 am Partial Solar Eclipse visible N of line from Halifax to Churchill-Yellowknife-central Alaska. First eclipse of Saros 156	40°N 50°N €1:22 22:01 2	100N 500N Fise 6:58 6:19 Set 22:09 22:45 3	40°N 50°N Rise 8:01 7:26 Set 22:51 23:21 Sunrise 5:32 4:54 Sunset 20:25 21:03
Rise 9:07 8:39 Set 23:28 23:51 5	John Winthrop saw first transit of Venus in North America, at St. John's, 250 years ago Mikhail Lomonosov inferred Venetian atmosphere during solar transit 250 years ago Johannes Muller, who prepared planetary	40°N 50°N 901 0:16 Rise 11:24 11:12 7	40°N 50°N Set 0:32 0:39 Fise 12:33 12:30 First Quarter 22:11	Lunar Straight Wall	We shadows on Jupiter visible in N. America	40°N 50°N Set 2:04 1:46 Rise 16:07 16:30 Sunrise 5:31 4:51 Sunset 20:29 21:09
() Set Rise 17:20 17:51 12 12 12 12 12	tables for Columbus, born 575 years ago 40°N 50°N Set 3:23 2:49 Rise 18:31 19:09 13	. Set 40°N 50°N 4:12 3:33 19:37 20:18 14	40°N 50°N Set 5:08 4:27 Rise 20:35 21:15 Full Moon 16:14	visible in all of N. America 10 pm 40°N 50°N Set 6:10 5:31 Rise 21:25 22:01 16	except NE and Arctic 5:25 am 40°N 50°N Set 7:16 6:42 Rise 22:06 22:36 177	(1) Set 8:22 7:54 Rise 22:41 23:04 Sunrise 5:31 4:50 Sunset 20:31 21:12
		Saturn stationary	Total Lunar Eclipse visible in E hemisphere Today's full Moon is the Honey Moon		Moon occults pl Sagittarii W of line Arizona-Whitehorse 7 am	
Set 9:26 9:06 19	Set 10:27 10:15 Rise 23:38 23:46 20	Set ^{40°N 50°N} ^{11:27} 11:22 ^{11:22} 21	Rise Set 12:26 12:28 22	Rise 0:27 0:22 Set 13:24 13:33 Last Quarter 7:48	Rise 0:52 0:40 Set 14:22 14:38 24	Rise 1:19 1:00 Set 1:5:20 15:44 Sunrise 5:32 4:52 Sunset 20:33 21:13
Father's Day Two shadows on Jupiter visible in E of Atlantic Canada 1:25 am	-	Summer Solstice 1:16 pm				
Rise 1:49 1:23 Set 16:20 16:50 26	Rise 2:24 1:52 Set 17:19 17:55 27	. Rise 3:04 2:27 Set 18:18 18:57 28	• Rise 3:52 3:12 Set 19:13 19:53 29	Rise 4:47 4:07 Set 20:04 20:41 30		
Two shadows on Jupiter visible in N. America except W and Arctic 4:03 am	43 Ariados at conceition (m-0.0)	Meteorite fall reportedly killed dog in Egypt 100 years ago Pluto at opposition (m=14.0) Cres. Moon between Mars and Pleiades visible in all of N. America 5 am		RASC General Assembly hosted by the Winnipeg Centre www.rasc.ca/ga2011 (through Jul. 3) Earth passed through tail of a comet 16 wase so		
Choope in and Arolic 4.05 dill	43 Ariadne at opposition (m=9.0)	NSIDE II OL ULIY. AUTOLIGA D'ATT	6	comet 150 years ago		l



JULY

Delicate Filigree of Dust and Stars

Wispy tendrils of cold, dark dust curl among the thick star fields of the central Milky Way, reddening, dimming, or blocking the light from background stars. This region of our galaxy is packed with legions of stars, clusters, and emission nebulae, from the small pink and blue Trifid Nebula on the left to the clusters M6 and M7 on the right. Photo by Alan Dyer

SUNDAY MOND	DAY TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The planets this month Times in the upper half of are in the 24-hour clock; this half are given in the 12-hour	JUNE S M I W I F S ur clock. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 cept for rise and Virom Daylight ven in local time. planetary time 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 Value 20 21 22 23 24 25 planetary time AUGUST S M T W T F S b back pages. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 910 11 12 13 4 5 6 5 6 7 8 910 11 12 13 4 5 6 5 6 7 8 910 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 14 15 16 17 18 12 23 24			Canada Day Stargazing Manitoulin www.gordonspark.com (through Jul. 4) Partial Solar Eclipse visible in Antarctica, India side	40°N 50°N Rise 6:55 6:25 Set 21:28 21:54 Sunrise 5:35 4:56 Sunset 20:33 21:12
Rise 8:04 7:41 Set 22:03 22:21	9:00 22:45 4 Rise 10:25 10:19 Set 23:05 23:07 5	Mercury in Beehive Cluster (M44)	Mercury 1.6° upper left of Beehive Cluster (M44) just after sunset Lunar X near crater Werner visible in N. America except	40°N 50°N Set 0:07 Rise 13:57 14:17 First Quarter 2:29	9 Set 0:41 0:18 Rise 15:08 15:37 Sunrise 5:39 5:01 Sunset 20:31 21:09
Cluster (M44) just after s 40°N 50°N Set 1:20 0:49 Rise 16:18 16:54 10	sunset Cluster (M44) just after sunset 50°N 1 1:28 1 Set 2:58 2:17 1	Just after sunset Set 3:56 3:16 19:17 19:55 13	Atlantic Canada and W 11 pm 410°N 50°N Set 5:00 4:23 Rise 20:02 20:34 14 Spot Arcturus unaided before sunset polarizing sunglasses may help, very challenging but can be done	except Atlantic Canada 11 pm 40°N 50°N Set 6:05 5:34 Rise 20:39 21:05 Full Moon 2:40	40°N 50°N Rise 21:11 21:29 Sunrise 5:44 5:08 Sunset 20:27 21:03
Set 8:13 7:57 Rise 21:39 21:50 17 Set 9:14 Rise 22:05 2	9:06 12:09 18 Set 10:14 10:13 Rise 22:30 22:27 19 Altion (m=10.0) 90 Antiope nia	Set 11:12 11:18 22:55 22:45 20	^{40°N} 50°N Set 12:10 12:24 Rise 23:21 23:04 21	Today's full Moon is the Thunder Moon 40°N 50°N Set 13:08 13:29 Rise 23:49 23:26 222	40°N 50°N Set 14:07 14:34 Fise - 23:52 Last Quarter 1:02 Sunset 20:22 20:55
Curtiss Cross near crater Fra Mauro visible in E of N. America but not SE 12:46 am Spot Jupiter unaided after sunrise 7° to right of the Moon	on (m=9.8)	Cres. Moon approaches Mars visible in all of N. America 5 am 9 Metis at opposition (m=9.6) Mercury 3° lower left of Regulus just after sunset	Rise 8:2:54 Set 18:41 19:16 Stellafane Convention, Springfield, VT www.stellafane.org (through Jul. 31)	Rise 40°N 50°N 4:37 4:04 19:24 19:52 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 29 20 29 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	40°N 50°N Rise 5:47 5:20 Set 20:02 20:22 New Moon 14:40 Sunrise 5:56 5:26 Sunset 20:16 20:46
Mount Kobau Star Party, Osoyoos, BC www.mksp.ca (through Aug. 7)					

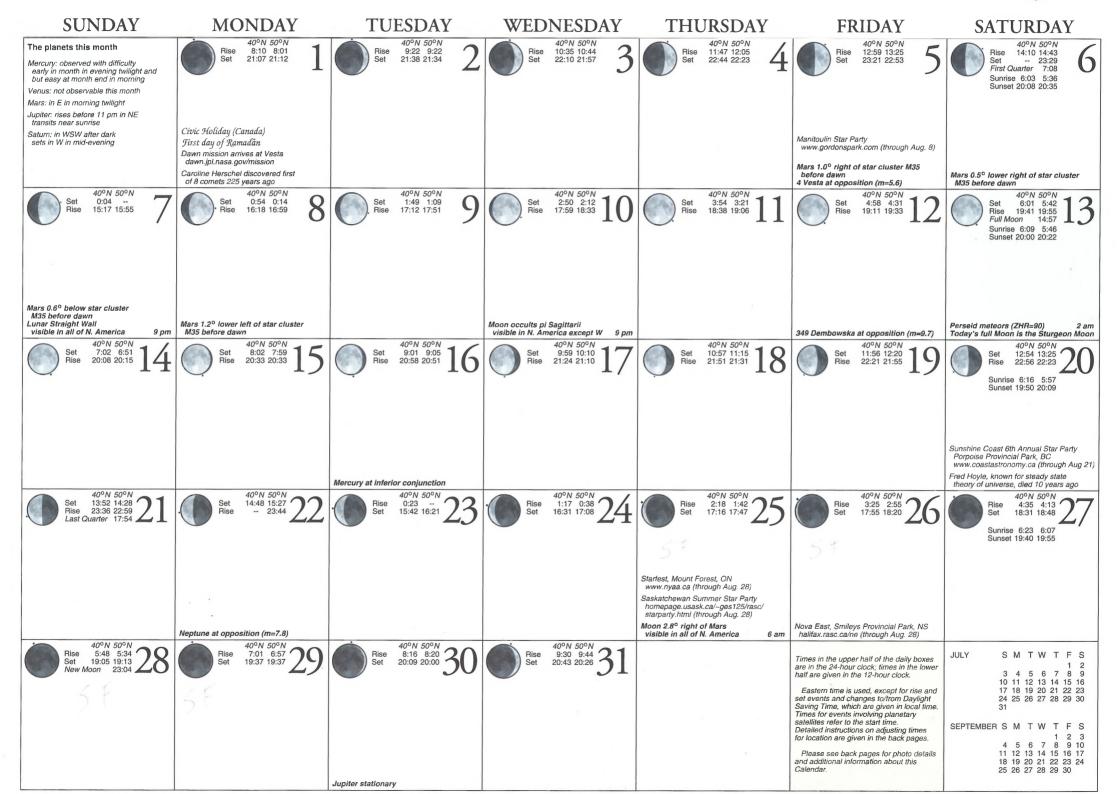


AUGUST

Celestial Harbour

The famous Lagoon Nebula, M8, is one of the galaxy's most magnificent star-forming regions. Glittering hot blue stars push back the cloud that gave them birth, carving caverns and ridges into the hydrogen, energizing it to glow garishly pink. Dense dark knots give promise of more new stars to come.

Photo by Paul Mortfield and Stefano Cancelli



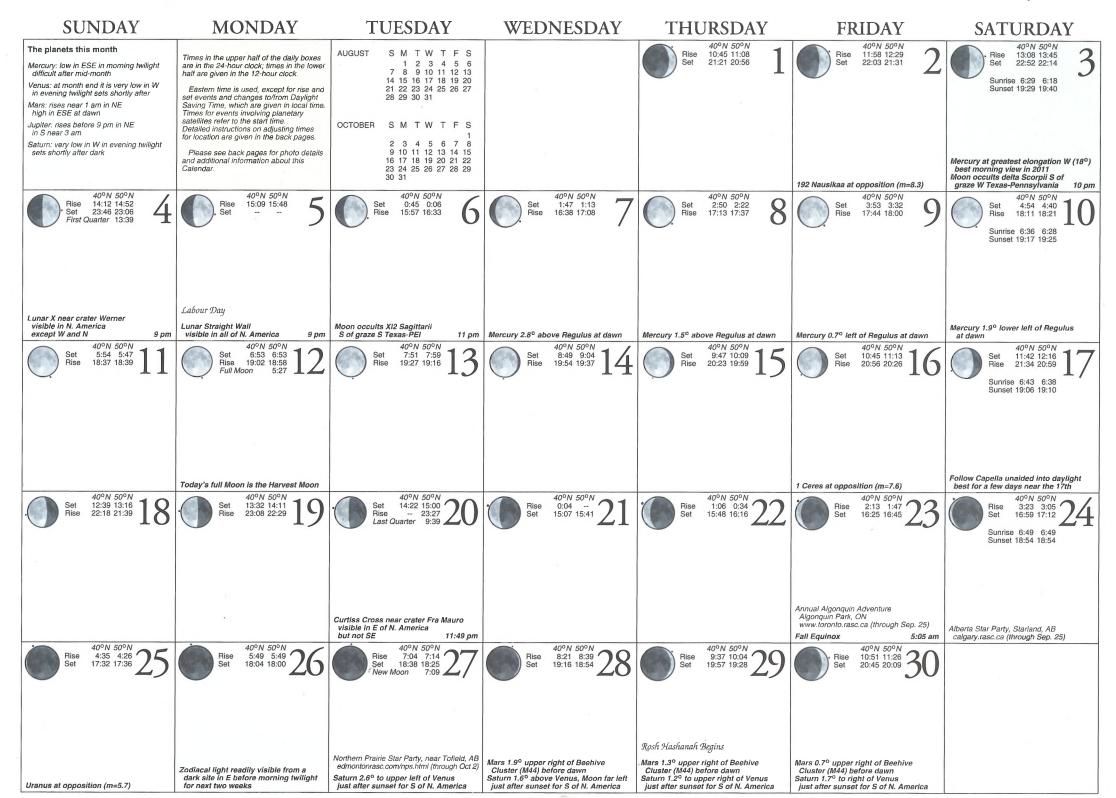


SEPTEMBER

Shadow Play

Earth is spherical, as evidenced by the curved edges of its round shadow. This multiple exposure records the Moon's right-to-left orbital motion through Earth's shadow cast into space. The orange central image is mid-eclipse. The bracketing of the camera exposure time shows partial eclipse phases, not lunar phases.

Photo by Leslie Marczi

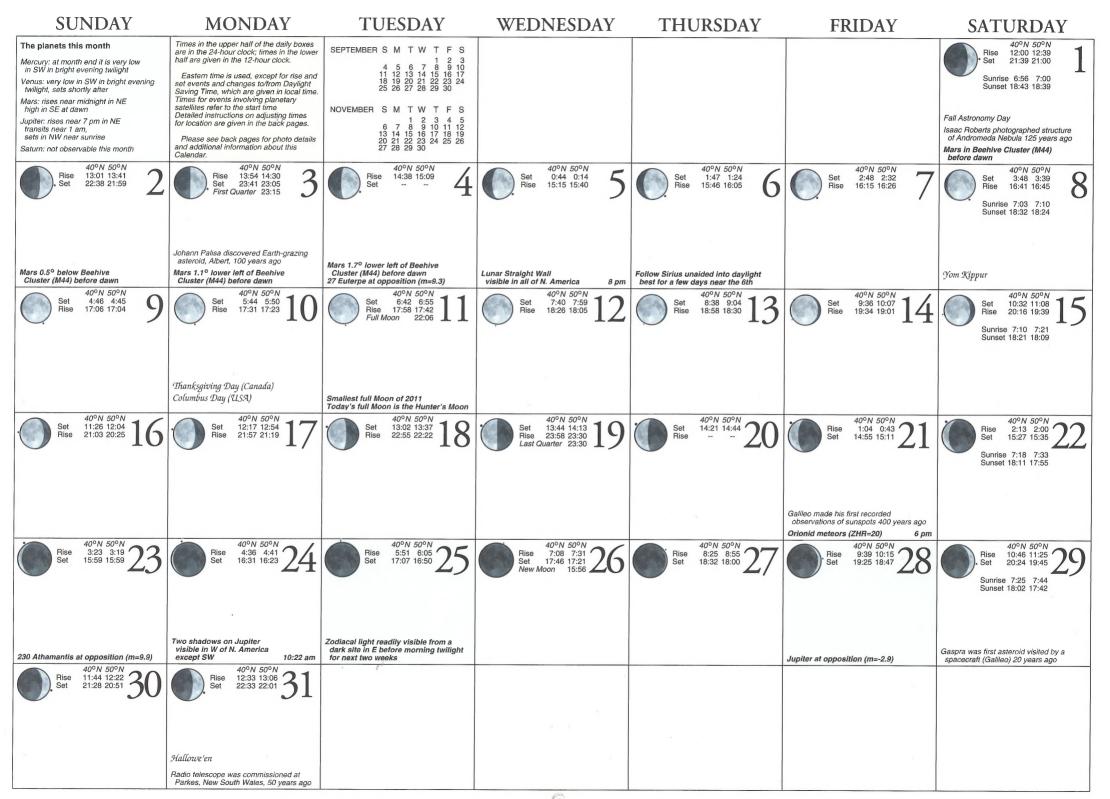




OCTOBER

Twisted Into Shape

The glowing coil of the Helix Nebula, some 700 light-years away, is the second nearest planetary nebula to the Sun. The colourful shells of gas are the outer layers of a dying star, whose super-hot white-dwarf core appears as a bright white dot floating in the centre of the nebula. We see this twisting tunnel of gas end-on, making it appear round.
Photo by Debra and Peter Ceravolo





NOVEMBER

Radiant and Shiny

The Universe is but the Thing of Things, The things but balls all going round in rings Some of them mighty huge, some mighty tiny, All of them radiant and mighty shiny. – Robert Frost Our spinning Earth creates shiny star trails, here slashed by radiant Perseid meteors.

Photo by Jennifer West

SUNDAY	MONDAY	ONDAY TUESDAY		THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The planets this month Mercury: very low in SW in bright evening twilight, difficult at month end Venus: very low in SW in evening twilight, sets before dark Mars: rises near midnight in NE transits high in S at dawn Jupiter: in SE after dark transits in S near 11 pm sets in NW near 5 am Saturn: very low in ESE in moring twilight		Archbishop of Capua urged Copernicus to publish heliocentric theory 475 years ago	40°N 50°N Rise 13:47 14:08 Set 7 First Quarter 12:38	^{40°N 50°N} Set 0:41 0:23 Rise 14:17 14:31 3	40°N 50°N Set 1:41 1:31 Rise 14:44 14:51 4	40°N 50°N Set 2:40 2:37 Rise 15:10 15:10 Sunrise 7:33 7:56 Sunset 17:53 17:31
	400 N 500 N	Mercury 2.0° below Venus all week during the day in all of N. America and at dusk in S of N. America	Lunar X near crater Werner visible in N. America except Atlantic Canada 11 pm		10041 5004	29 Amphitrite at opposition (m=8.7) tomorrow S Taurid meteors (ZHR=10) 7 pm
40°N 50°N Set 2:38 2:42 Rise 14:35 14:28 6	Set 3:36 3:46 Rise 15:01 14:48 7	40°N 50°N Set 4:33 4:51 Rise 15:29 15:09	Set 5:31 5:55 Rise 16:00 15:34	^{40°N 50°N} Set 6:29 6:59 Pise 16:35 16:03 <i>Full Moon</i> 15:16	40°N 50°N Set 7:27 8:01 Rise 17:15 16:39	€ Set 8:22 8:59 Rise 18:01 17:23 Sunrise 6:41 7:08 Sunset 16:46 16:20
Daylight Saving Time ends 2 am Mercury 1.9° below Venus all week during the day in all of N. America and at dusk in S of N. America	Mars passes N of Regulus this week best after midnight		Mars 1.3° N of Regulus best after midnight	Mercury 1.9° below Venus Antares 1.9° below Mercury during the day in all of N. America and at dusk in S of N. America Today's full Moon is the Beaver Moon	Remembrance Day (Canada) Veterans Day (USA) 68 Leto at opposition (m=9.6)	Canadarm was first carried into space on shuttle Columbia 30 years ago 40 Harmonia at opposition (m=9.4) N Taurid meteors (ZHR=15) 5 pm
· Set 9:13 9:52 Rise 18:53 18:15 13	^{40°N 50°N} Rise ^{10:01} 10:36 ^{19:50} 19:15	^{40°N 50°N} Set 10:43 11:14 Rise 20:51 20:21 15	^{40°N 50°N} Set 11:21 11:46 Rise 21:54 21:31 16	^{40°N 50°N} Set 11:55 12:13 Rise 23:00 22:44 17	40°N 50°N Rise 12:26 12:37 Last Quarter 10:09	40°N 50°N Set 0:07 0:00 12:57 13:00 Sunrise 6:49 7:19 Sunset 16:41 16:11
30 Urania at opposition (m=9.6) Mercury 2.5° below right of Venus all week after sunset, tougher above 45°N	Mercury at greatest elongation E (23°) Mars separating from Regulus this week best after midnight			Leonid meteors (ZHR=15) 11 pm		Curtiss Cross near crater Fra Mauro visible in E of N. America 1:13 am
Hise ^{40°N 50°N} Set 1:16 1:17 13:28 13:23 20	^{40°N 50°N} Set 2:27 2:37 14:00 13:48 21	Hise Bet 14:37 14:16 222	Rise Set 4:56 5:22 15:18 14:50 23	Rise Set 16:07 15:32 24	Hise 7:22 8:00 Set 17:04 16:25 New Moon 1:10	40°N 50°N 8:26 9:05 Set 18:07 17:28 Sunrise 6:57 7:29 Sunset 16:37 16:05
Mercury below right of Venus all week after sunset, separating and fading	115 Thyra at opposition (m=9.6)			Thanksgiving Day (USA) Partial Solar Eclipse visible in Antarctica, Tasmania, and South Africa	Venus 1.9° lower right of Lagoon Neb. (M8) at dusk	Venus 0.7° below Lagoon Neb. (M8) at dusk Cres. Moon between Venus and Mercury visible in all of N. America 6 pm
Rise 9:21 9:57 Set 19:13 18:39 27	Rise 10:07 10:37 Set 20:21 19:53 28	(10.45 11:08 29) Rise 21:27 21:06 29	Rise Set 22:30 22:17 300		Times in the upper half of the daily boxes are in the 24-hour clock; times in the lower half are given in the 12-hour clock. Eastern time is used, except for rise and set events and changes to/form Daylight Saving Time, which are given in local time. Times for events involving planetary satellites refer to the start time.	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 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
Islamic New Year Venus 0.7° left of Lagoon Nebula (M8) at dusk Moon occults Xi2 Sagittarii visible from W Alacka-Hidro Gwail	15 Euromia at opposition (m-7.0)				Detailed instructions on adjusting times for location are given in the back pages. Please see back pages for photo details and additional information about this Calendar.	DECEMBER S M T W T F S 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
from W Alaska-Haida Gwaii 9 pm	15 Eunomia at opposition (m=7.9)		C			l



DECEMBER

Bursting with Stars

The spiral Sculptor Galaxy, NGC 253, belongs to one of the nearest galaxy clusters to our own Local Group. At about ten million light-years away in the southern sky, it is bright enough to see with a good pair of binoculars. It is a starburst galaxy with dense dust clouds and a high rate of star formation.

Photo by Stefano Cancelli and Paul Mortfield

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The planets this month Mercury: low in SE in morning twilight by mid-month Venus: in SW in evening twilight sets in W before 7 pm Mars: rises in ESE near 11 pm transits in S near 5 am Jupiter: high in SE after dark transits in S near 8 pm sets in NW after midnight Satum: in SE in morning twilight	Times in the upper half of the daily boxes are in the 24-hour clock; times in the lower half are given in the 12-hour clock. Eastern time is used, except for rise and set events and changes to/from Daylight Saving Time, which are given in local time. Times for events involving planetary satellites refer to the start time. Detailed instructions on adjusting times for location are given in the back pages. Please see back pages for photo details	NOVEMBER S M T W T F S 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 JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21		40°N 50°N Rise 11:46 11:55 Set 23:31 23:25 1	^{40°N} 50°N Pise 12:12 12:15 Set - First Quarter 4:52 2	40°N 50°N Rise 0:30 0:31 12:38 12:33 Sunrise 7:04 7:39 Sunset 16:35 16:00
and SSE near sunrise	and additional information about this Calendar.	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			Venus 1.0° below globular cl. M22 at dusk	Venus 1.0° left of globular cl. M22 at dusk Lunar Straight Wall visible in all of N. America 6 pm
40°N 50°N Set 1:28 1:36 Rise 13:04 12:53	Set 2:25 2:40 Rise 13:31 13:13 5	Set 3:23 3:45 Rise 14:00 13:37 6	^{40°N 50°N} Set 4:21 4:49 Rise 14:34 14:04 7	Set 5:19 5:52 Rise 15:12 14:38	40°N 50°N Set 6:15 6:52 Rise 15:57 15:19 9	40°N 50°N Set 7:09 7:47 Rise 16:47 16:09 Full Moon 9:36 Sunrise 7:11 7:47 Sunset 16:35 15:58
Mercury at inferior conjunction	40°N 50°N	40°N 50°N	- 400N 500N	- 400NL500N	100N 500N	Total Lunar Eclipse visible in N. America except E 7 am This full Moon is the Long Night's Moon
Set 7:58 8:35 Rise 17:43 17:07 11	Set 8:43 9:16 Rise 18:44 18:12 12	Set 9:22 9:49 Rise 19:47 19:22 13	Set 9:57 10:18 Rise 20:53 20:35 14	^{40°N 50°N} Set 10:30 10:43 Rise 21:59 21:49	Set 11:00 11:06 Rise 23:06 23:04 16	40°N 50°N Rise 11:30 11:28 Last Quarter 19:48 Sunrise 7:16 7:53 Sunset 16:36 15:59
			Geminid meteors (ZHR=120) 1 pm			7.2 mag star occulted by 1404 Ajax from SW BC to N Alberta www.asteroidoccultation.com 10 pm
Rise 0:14 0:20 Set 12:00 11:51 18	Rise 1:24 1:216 Set 12:34 12:16	Rise 2:36 2:59 Set 13:11 12:46 20	Rise 3:48 4:19 Set 13:55 13:23 21	Prise Set 14:46 14:09 222	Rise 6:06 6:45 Set 15:45 15:06 23	40°N 50°N Set 16:50 16:13 New Moon 13:06 Sunrise 7:20 7:57 Sunset 16:39 16:02
				Grote Reber, a father of radio astronomy, born 100 years ago 1st photographic asteroid discovery, 323 Brucia, by Wolf 120 years ago Winter Solstice 12:30 am Moon occults delta Scorpii W of line San Fran-N Saskatchewan after 15 UT Ursid meteors (ZHR=10) 9 pm Mercury at greatest elongation W (22°)		Jean-Louis Pons, discoverer of 37 comets, born 250 years ago 22 Kalliope at opposition (m=10.0)
Rise 7:56 8:29 Set 17:58 17:27 25	Rise Set 19:06 18:42 26	Rise 9:14 9:34 Set 20:12 19:55 27	Rise 9:45 9:58 Set 21:16 21:06 28	Rise 10°N 50°N 10:13 10:19 22:17 22:15 29	Rise Set 23:16 23:21 300	40°N 50°N Rise 11:06 10:57 Set
	Boxing Day (Canada)					
Christmas Day	Jupiter stationary	Two shadows on Jupiter visible in N. America 10:51 pm				

How to Use this Calendar

A graphical representation of the Moon's appearance in the late evening is given in each daily box. In addition to the varying phase, the depicted size of the Moon varies, reflecting the change in the apparent size of the Moon in the sky as it moves closer to or farther from Earth. The depicted face of the Moon also changes slightly to reflect lunar libration, the rocking motion of the Moon, which means that over time approximately 59% of the lunar surface can be seen from Earth. A small dot of size proportional to the amount of libration appears near the lunar limb that is librated. These daily lunar graphics were prepared using images provided by Roger Fell.

Daily Moon and weekly Sun rise and set times, and the times of Moon phases, are shown in the top portion of the boxes. If no Moon rise or set time is given, this event occurs the next day.

A summary of the naked-eye visibility and position of the planets is given each month. Descriptions are for approximate latitude 45° and unless otherwise stated apply to midmonth; rise and set times at the beginning or end of the month may vary by an hour or more from those given. Times and compass directions may also differ somewhat from the given ones at other latitudes.

Special astronomical events are given at the bottom of the daily boxes. Events observable in some part of Canada or the continental United States are listed. Days on which particularly interesting phenomena or events occur are highlighted with light-green shading. Detailed information on all events, including their visibility from particular locations, may be determined by consulting the Observer's Handbook, which is published annually by the RASC.

Adjustments for Actual Location

When it is in effect, times are adjusted for Daylight Saving Time. Moon phases and special events are given in Eastern time. The user's local time for events other than Moon and Sun rise and set may be determined by converting the given time to the user's time zone (e.g. Pacific time is Eastern time minus 3 hours). For occultations, a further adjustment of an hour or more may be needed for any particular geographical location because of parallax effects. Parallax also means that actual angular separations for events involving the Moon may vary by close to 1° from those given. Also, the Moon's rapid movement of approximately 0.5° per hour means that separations may be considerably larger at a time that is even a few hours away from the given time.

Two sets of rise and set times are given to accommodate North American observers in midnorthern latitudes. Times are displayed for locations 40°N latitude and 75°W longitude and for 50°N, 75°W. The actual times for a given location must be calculated using the tables at the right.

The tables give (longitude) corrections in minutes to the tabulated rise and set times for selected Canadian and U.S. cities. In the column labeled **Correction**, an entry such as $50^{\circ}N + 25$ means add 25 minutes to the displayed 50°N time. This computed time is an approximation. In the column labeled **Accuracy**, the approximate maximum error in minutes for Moon rise and set using this method is indicated. The error for Sun rise and set is less. These errors can be substantially reduced by interpolating according to latitude, as explained in the following section.

Note that the rise and set times calculated using the above method will be local times. It is not necessary to adjust them for time zone.

	Canadian Lo	ocations		
City	Correction	Accuracy	Latitude	
Calgary	50°N + 36	15	51	
Charlottetown	40°N + 12	20	46	
Edmonton	50°N + 34	25	54	
Halifax	40°N + 14	25	45	
Hamilton	40°N + 20	15	43	
Kingston	40°N + 6	20	44	
Kitchener	40°N + 22	15	43	
London	40°N + 25	15	43	
Moncton	40°N + 19	20	46	
Montreal	50°N – 6	20	46	
Niagara	40°N + 16	15	43	
Kelowna	50°N 3	10	50	
Ottawa	50°N + 3	20	45	
Prince George	50°N + 11	25	54	
Quebec	50°N – 15	15	47	
Regina	50°N + 58 (1)	10	50	
St. John's	50°N + 1	20	48	
Sarnia	40°N + 30	15	43	
Saskatoon	50°N + 67 (1)	15	52	
Thunder Bay	50°N + 57	10	48	
Toronto	40°N + 18	20	44	
Vancouver	50°N + 12	15	49	
Victoria	50°N + 13	20	49	
Windsor	40°N + 32	15	42	
Winnipeg	50°N + 29	5	50	

U.S. Locations				
City	Correction	Accuracy	Latitude	
Atlanta	40°N + 37	30	34	
Boston	40°N – 16	10	42	
Chicago	40°N - 10	15	42	
Cincinnati	40°N + 38	10	39	
Denver	40°N + 0	10	40	
Flagstaff	40°N + 27 (1)	30	35	
Kansas City	40°N + 18	10	39	
Los Angeles	40°N – 7	35	34	
Minneapolis	40°N + 13	25	45	
New York	40°N – 4	5	41	
San Francisco	40°N + 10	20	38	
Seattle	50°N + 9	20	48	
Tucson	40°N + 24 (1)	40	32	
Washington	40°N + 8	5	39	

(1) Subtract 60 minutes in the summer.

Other Locations, and Improving Accuracy

For locations not listed in the tables to the left, the user should calculate a correction factor. This amount is +4 minutes for each degree that the user's location is west of the central meridian of the user's time zone or -4 minutes for each degree that it is east. This correction factor should be added to the displayed 50°N or 40°N time for the location whose latitude is nearest that of the user's site. The accuracy in minutes for Moon rise and set can be calculated by multiplying the difference between the user's latitude and 50°N/40°N respectively by 4.5, and then adding 0.2 times the difference between the user's longitude and 75°W.

Improvement in accuracy may be obtained for many sites by interpolating or extrapolating the 50°N and 40°N times depending on the user's latitude. For example, the latitude of Ottawa is approximately midway between 50°N and 40°N. An observer in Ottawa can improve accuracy to better than 5 minutes by averaging the given 50°N and 40°N times and then adding the correction factor for Ottawa, which is 3 minutes. Western observers may gain additional accuracy by adding about 10% of the difference between the listed time and the next day's time.

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Since it was founded in 1890, the RASC has filled a special role in both amateur and professional astronomy. Today, it has over 4000 members worldwide who share a passion for the night sky and make contributions to astronomy in many ways.

The RASC has a long tradition of high-quality, volunteer-produced publications. The Observer's Handbook has been published since 1907 and is recognized worldwide as the leading handbook of its type. The Journal, also published since 1907, contains articles of interest to amateur astronomers. The Beginner's Observing Guide is an introduction to the night sky for the novice observer, the Observer's Calendar is a forum for astrophotography by amateur astronomers, and Skyways (available in French as "Explorons l'Astronomie") is a astronomy teacher's guide. For information on joining the Society, or to order an RASC

publication, visit www.rasc.ca or contact the national office at:

203-4920 Dundas Street West Toronto ON M9A 1B7 Canada Phone: 416- 924-7973 Email: nationaloffice@rasc.ca

The Photos and the Calendar

Details on the photos are given below and to the right. Monthly grids were mostly generated using custom software written in the Fortran and PostScript programming languages and kindly provided to the editor by **Dr. Rajiv Gupta**. Some minor modifications to this software were made by the editor. Additional software written by both editors was also used.

Editors

Dave Lane (calendareditor@rasc.ca) Alister Ling

Production

Brian G. Segal, Redgull Incorporated

Images

Stefano Cancelli Debra and Peter Ceravolo Alan Dyer Kerry-Ann Lecky Hepburn Les Marczi Paul Mortfield Jack Newton Serge Thebérge Jennifer West

Captions

Mary Lou Whitehorne

Historical Anniversaries Diane Brooks David Chapman

Proofreading James Edgar Bruce McCurdy

Printing Maritime Digital Colour Inc.



Cover/August (Celestial Harbour): A colour composite image made from 6.5 hours of total exposure time through an Astrodon luminance and RGB filters on an Apogee U16 CCD camera using an RCOS 16-inch f/8.9 telescope; processed with CCDAP, MaxIm DL, and Photoshop CS3 software; taken on 2009 September 15 from the Sierra Remote Observatories, California (Paul Mortfield and Stefano Cancelli).



January (Fires of Creation): A false-colour composite image made from a total exposure time of 12.9 hours in Astrodon H-alpha, SII, and Olli filters on an SBIG ST-10XME CCD camera using a Takahashi FS-152 f/8 telescope; processed with MaxIm DL, FITS Liberator, ImagesPlus, and Photoshop CS3; taken on 2008 December 10 and 2009 January 25 from Orangeville, Ontario (Serge Théberge).

February (Ultraviolet Sculpture): A composite image made from a two-panel mosaic (7.5 hours) in an H-alpha filter on an SBIG ST-10XME CCD camera using a Takahashi FS-102 //6 telescope and a two-panel mosaic in RGB (5.4 hours each) filters on an OHY-8 CCD camera using a AstroTech 8-inch RC telescope from within the Golden Horseshoe area of Ontario (Kerry-Ann Lecky Hepburn and Stefano Cancelli).

March (Gravity's Apron String): A composite image made from one 5-minute exposure on a modified Cold Canon EOS 40D DSLR camera using a Borg 101-mm telescope at f/4 combined with a 10-minute exposure using a Takahashi 180ED f2.8 telescope; processed with MaxIm DL, ImagesPlus, and Photoshop CS3; taken on 2010 February 4 from Gisborne, New Zealand (Jack Newton).

April (The Stuff of Southern-Sky Dreams): A composite image made from a stack of 5 x 3-minute exposures at ISO 800 and 2 x 3-minute exposures (with Kenko Softon filter) on a modified Canon 5D MkII DSLR camera using a Canon L-Series 135-mm lens set at f/2.8; taken on 2010 March 18 from the Atacama Lodge, Chile (Alan Dyer).

May (Luminous Pinwheel): A composite image made from a total exposure time of about 15 hours in Astrodon luminance and RGB filters on an SBIG ST-10XME CCD camera using a Takahashi FS-152 f/8 telescope; processed with MaxIm DL, FITS Liberator, ImagesPlus, and Photoshop CSS; taken on 2009 March 20, 23, and 24 from Orangeville, Ontario (Serge Théberge).

June (Sapphires and Diamond Dust): A composite image made from 1.9 hours of total exposure time through Astrodon LRGB filters on an Apogee U16M CCD camera using a Ceravolo 300 Astrograph working at 1/4.9; processed with MaxIm DL, Registar, and Photoshop CS2 software; taken in August 2009 from the Atacama Desert, Chile (Debra and Peter Ceravolo).

July (Delicate Filigree of Dust and Stars): A composite image made from a stack of 5 x 4-minute exposures at ISO 800 on a filter-modified Canon 5D MkII DSLR camera using a Canon L-Series 135-mm lens set at f/2.8; taken on 2010 March 18 from the Atacama Lodge, Chile (Alan Dyer).

September (Shadow Play): A composite image made with a Canon EOS 40D DSLR camera using a Takahashi Sky 90 II t/5.6 telescope; partial-eclipse exposures were 1/1500 second at ISO 320; total-eclipse exposure was 2 seconds at ISO 200; processed with ImagesPlus and Photoshop CS2 software; taken on 2008 February 20/21 from the Niagara Centre Observatory in Wellandport, Ontario (Leslie Marzz).

October (Twisted Into Shape): A composite image made from 10.5 hours of total exposure time through Astrodon LRGB, H-alpha, and Olll filters on an Apogee U16M CCD camera using a Ceravolo 300 Astrograph working at f/4.9; processed with MaxIm DL, Registar, and Photoshop CS2 software; taken in August 2009 from the Atacama Desert, Chile (Debra and Peter Ceravolo).

November (Radiant and Shiny): A composite image made from 179 20-second exposures on a Canon 20Da DSLR camera using a Canon 15-mm f2.8 lens; processed with ImageJ and Photoshop CS3 software; taken between 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. on 2009 August 12 from Mantario Lake, Whiteshell Provincial Park, Manitoba (Jennifer West).

December (Bursting with Stars): A composite image made from 9 hours of total exposure time through an Astrodon luminance and RGB filters on an Apogee U16 CCD camera using an RCOS 16-inch f/8.9 telescope; processed with CCDAP, CCDStack, MaxIm DL, and Photoshop CS3 software; taken on 2008 October 8 from the Sierra Remote Observatories, California (Stefano Cancelli and Paul Mortfield).

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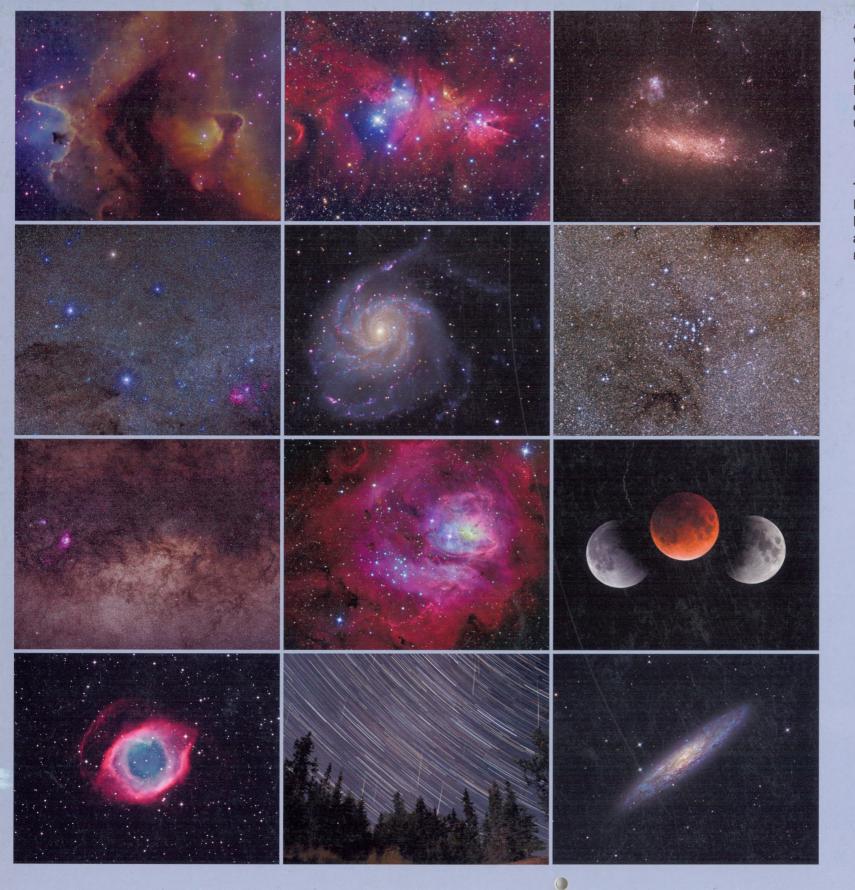
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New Moon dates are displayed in bold.

30 31



All photos in this unique Calendar were taken by members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) who are amateur astronomers. It was produced by volunteer members of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.

This Calendar includes comprehensive listings of astronomical data such as lunar and planetary conjunctions, Sun and Moon rise and set times, eclipses, meteor showers, and Moon phases.



Edited by Dave Lane and Alister Ling

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