Astronomy Bulletin - The 1990 Summer Sky

P. Steven Leiker
University of Northern Iowa

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj

Part of the Science and Mathematics Education Commons

Let us know how access to this document benefits you

Copyright © Copyright 1990 by the Iowa Academy of Science

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://scholarworks.uni.edu/istj/vol27/iss1/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Academy of Science at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa Science Teachers Journal by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.
THE 1990 SUMMER SKY
June through October 1990

Figure 1: This is the view of the sky shortly after sunset, at about 8:50 p.m., on June 23. In the diagram, the horizon is depicted by the edge of the crosshatching. Six constellations are drawn in: Aur=Auriga, Gem=Gemini, Lyn=Lynx, Cnc=Cancer, Cmi=Canis Minor and Leo. The Moon on this date is a thin crescent and may be difficult to see. It is about 2 percent illuminated. The bright object that is about 2° below the Moon is Jupiter, the largest planet of the solar system.

Figure 2: This is the view of the sky seen by a person facing south at 10:30 p.m. on July 4. Three constellations are drawn in: Sgr=Sagittarius, Sco=Scorpius and Lib=Libra. The phase of the Moon is gibbous and is 92 percent illuminated. The Moon is about 1.5° above Tau Scorpii. Saturn is visible to the left of Sagittarius. Uranus is visible through a pair of binoculars or telescope approximately 2° above and to the left of the top star (Lambda Sagittarii) of the “teapot” in Sagittarius.
Figure 3: This view of the sky can be seen by a person facing east on July 16 at about 3:30 a.m. The five constellations shown are Aur=Auriga, Tau=Taurus, Per=Perseus, Ari=Aries and Psc=Pisces. The Moon at this time is 40 percent illuminated and Mars is 7° to the lower right.
Figure 4: This view may be seen by a person facing southeast on July 28 near midnight. The four constellations shown are Peg=Pegasus, Psc=Pisces, Aqr=Aquila and Cap=Capricornus. On this night, meteors of the aquarid meteor shower can be seen. The meteors will appear to originate (or radiate) from the constellation Aquarius. This meteor shower usually produces up to approximately 20 visible meteors per hour.

Figure 5: This view will be seen by people facing south on August 4 at about 11 p.m. The constellations shown are Cap=Capricornus, Sag=Sagittarius and Sco=Scorpius. The Moon is full. Saturn is located 5° up and to the right of the Moon. Uranus is visible through a pair of binoculars or telescope approximately 2° above and to the left of the top star (Lambda Sagittarii) of the “teapot” in Sagittarius.

Figure 6: This is the sky seen by observers facing northeast on August 12 at about 2 a.m. The constellations shown are Aur=Auriga, Tau=Taurus, Per=Perseus and Ari=Aries. The Moon is illuminated 66 percent. On this night, it is possible to see one of the best meteor showers of the year, the perseid meteors. They will appear to originate from the constellation Perseus. This annual shower produces up to approximately 50 visible meteors per hour.
August 4, 1990
11:00 pm
Figure 5

August 12, 1990
2:00 am
Figure 6
Figure 7: This is the sky visible to people facing south on August 31 at about 9:30 p.m. The three constellations shown are Cap=Capricornus, Sag=Sagittarius and Sco=Scorpius. The Moon is illuminated 83 percent. Saturn is located 3° from the Moon. Uranus is visible through a pair of binoculars or telescope approximately 2° above the top star (Lambda Sagittarii) of the “teapot” in Sagittarius.

Figure 8: This is the sky seen by a person facing east on September 15 at about 5 a.m. The five constellations shown are Ori=Orion, Cnc=Cancer, CMi=Canis Minor, CMa=Canis Major and Gem=Gemini. The Moon is illuminated only 14 percent and is located in the constellation Cancer. Jupiter can be found approximately 3.5° above the Moon.

Figure 9: This is the sky visible to observers facing east on September 24 at about 6:30 a.m., shortly before sunrise. Four constellations are shown: Cnc=Cancer, CMi=Canis Minor, Hya=Hydra and Leo. Jupiter can be seen in Cancer. It may be possible to spot Mercury low in the east (to the right of Leo).
Figure 8
September 15, 1990
5:00 am

Figure 9
September 24, 1990
6:30 am
Figure 10: This is the view of the sky seen by people facing southwest at about 10 p.m. on September 27. The four constellations shown are Cap=Capricornus, Sgr=Sagittarius, Aql=Aquila and Oph=Ophiuchus. The Moon on this date is illuminated 60 percent. Saturn is 4° above the Moon. Uranus is visible through a pair of binoculars or telescope approximately 2° above the top star (Lambda Sagittarii) of the “teapot” in Sagittarius.

Figure 11: This is the view of the sky seen by observers facing east on October 9 near midnight. The four constellations shown are Gem=Gemini, Ori=Orion, Tau=Taurus and Aur=Auriga. The Moon is illuminated 72 percent. Mars is visible 8° above and to the right of the Moon.

Figure 12: This is the view of the sky visible to a person facing east on October 21 at about 1 a.m. The five constellations shown are CMi=Canis Minor, Gem=Gemini, Tau=Taurus, Ori=Orion and Lep=Lepus. Mars is in Taurus. On this night, the Orionid meteor shower may be see. The meteors will appear to originate from the constellation Orion. This annual shower produces up to approximately 25 visible meteors per hour.

P. Steven Leiker
Department of Earth Science
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0506