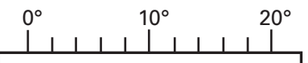
SKY CALENDAR MAY 2025

An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Planetarium business office:
(517) 355-4676
http://abramsplanetarium.org/

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.



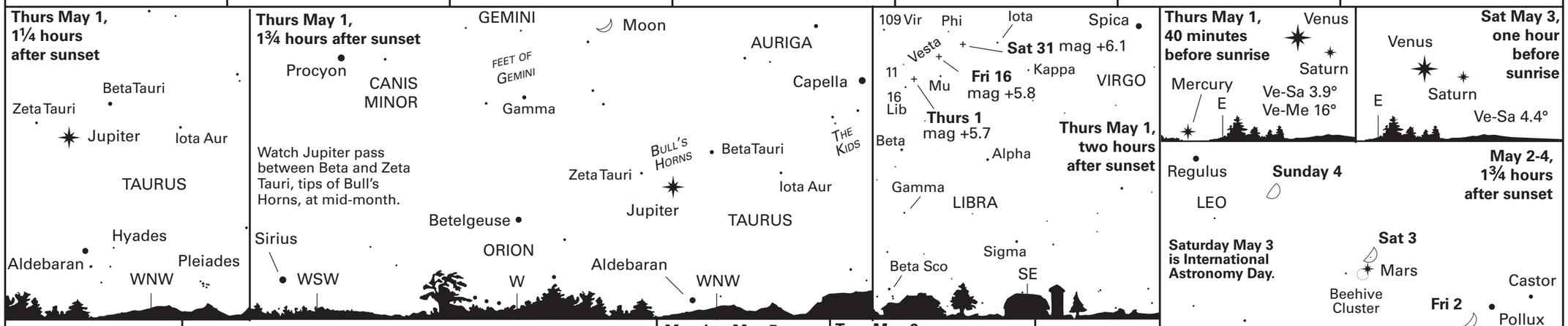
Binoculars are prime for sky watching. **Evenings** in May 2025, view **Moon-Pollux** on May 2; Moon-Mars-Beehive cluster on May 3. Follow **Mars-Beehive** for several evenings around May 4 as the red planet shifts east by 0.5° per day, closing month 9° west of Regulus. Watch **Moon-Regulus** on May 5; **Moon-Spica** on May 9. Follow **Jupiter**, brightest evening "star" at mag. –2 in west at dusk, setting 3-4 minutes earlier nightly, while slowly passing between tips of the horns of Taurus. Asteroid **Vesta**, discovered in 1807, is at opposition on May 1 and readily seen through binoculars. On night of May 13-14, watch a waning gibbous **Moon drift past Antares**.

Mornings, Venus (mag. –4.7) rises near start of twilight all month (lat. 40° N). As sunrise approaches, **binoculars show Venus as a crescent**, 29% lit and 36" across on May 1, to 49% lit but a challenging 24" on May 31. **Saturn** appears 3.9° to Venus' lower right on May 1. Binoculars help spot Saturn when it rises in twilight. **On May 6, Saturn (mag. +1.2) rises with Venus,** 5.1° to the brighter planet's right. **May 6, 2025 is special for Saturn**, the once-in-29.4-years autumnal equinox for its northern hemisphere, when the **equatorial rings are edge-on to the Sun**, and their southern face begins to receive sunlight, but at a very low angle of incidence. Saturn appeared ringless before May 6, with the shaded side tipped toward us, but now that same side will very gradually brighten. During May 6-31, as seen from Earth, Saturn's dimly lit rings appear 2.2° to 3.1° from edge-on.

Thin crescent Moons are wonderful through binoculars! Try for the ***old* Moon just before sunrise on May 26,** and an **easier, naked-eye young Moon with earthshine at dusk on May 27.** Spotting **opposing crescent Moons on consecutive days** is a **very rare accomplishment.** For details, see *abramsplanetarium.org/msta*

Three of us at Abrams Planetarium employ our binoculars for another hobby -- **bird-watching!** -- and we encourage you to **"get out and about, and keep an eye out for those endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful."** At least one of us will be attending a nearby event-- *biggestweekinamericanbirding.com*

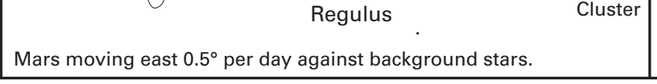
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY



Sunday, May 4
First Quarter Moon
9:52 a.m. EDT
6:52 a.m. PDT

Sunday, May 4
Mars within 0.7° north of center of Beehive star cluster.

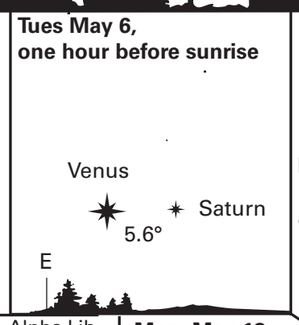
May 4-6, 1¼ hours after sunset

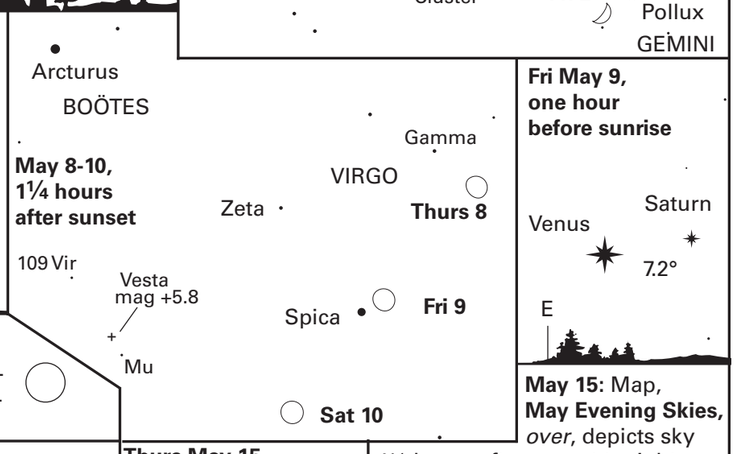


Mars moving east 0.5° per day against background stars.

Monday, May 5
Minor planet Vesta closest to Earth. Distance 1.181 a.u., or 109.8 million miles.
Tues May 6, dawn: Peak of Eta Aquariid meteors. Radiant low in ESE at start of twilight for mid-northern latitudes. Don't expect many!

Tues May 6, one hour before sunrise

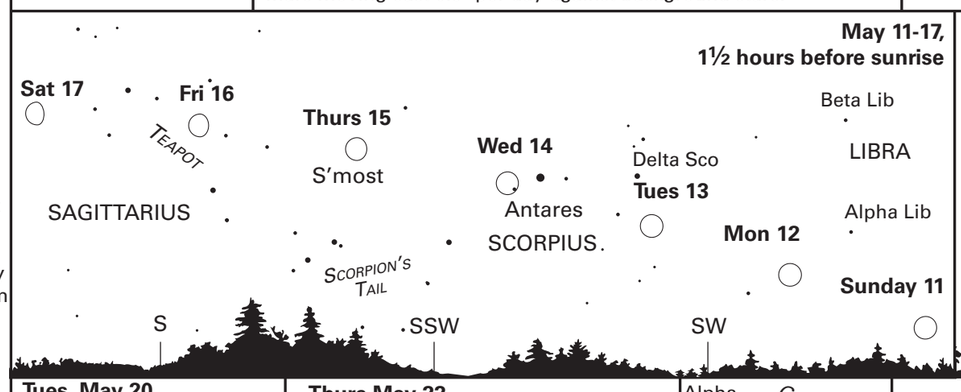




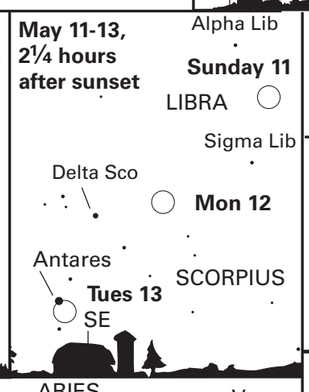
May 15: Map, **May Evening Skies,** *over*, depicts sky 1¼ hours after sunset tonight from latitude 40° north.

Jupiter between tips of horns, 5.8° from Beta Tauri and 2.1° from Zeta. Mars in Cancer, 48° east of Jupiter and 5° east of Beehive.

May 11-17, 1½ hours before sunrise

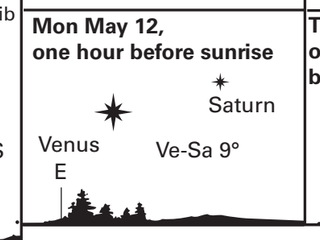


May 11-13, 2¼ hours after sunset

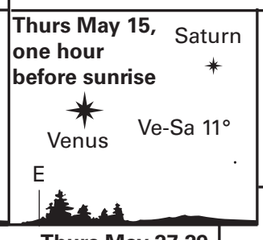


Mon, May 12
Full Moon
12:56 p.m. EDT
9:56 a.m. PDT

Mon May 12, one hour before sunrise



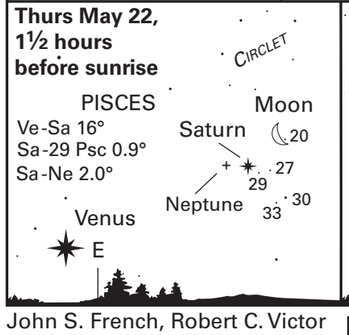
Thurs May 15, one hour before sunrise



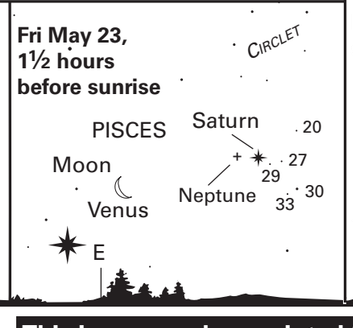
Tues, May 20
Last Quarter Moon
7:59 a.m. EDT
4:59 a.m. PDT

Thurs May 22
Moon at ascending node 4 a.m. EDT; appears ~1° below ecliptic because of parallax.

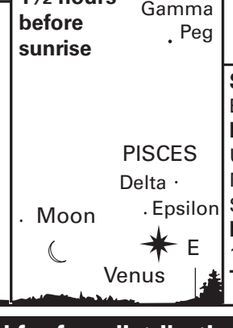
Thurs May 22, 1½ hours before sunrise

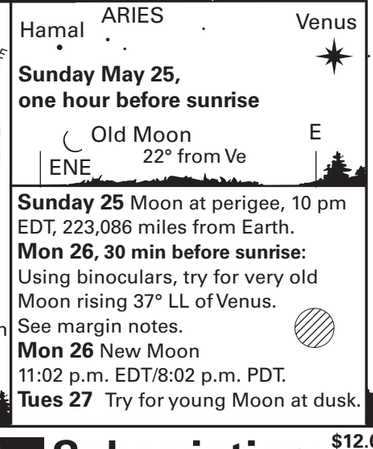


Fri May 23, 1½ hours before sunrise



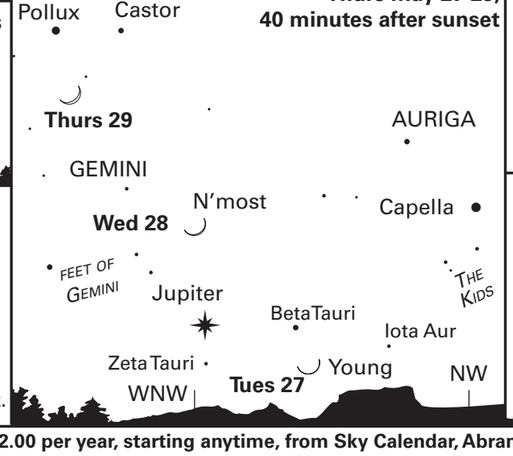
Sat May 24, 1½ hours before sunrise



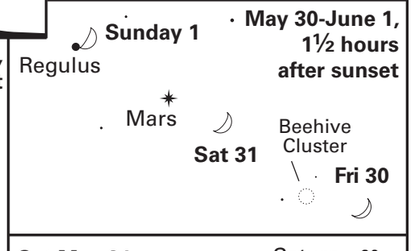


Sunday 25 Moon at perigee, 10 pm EDT, 223,086 miles from Earth.
Mon 26, 30 min before sunrise: Using binoculars, try for very old Moon rising 37° LL of Venus. See margin notes.
Mon 26 New Moon
11:02 p.m. EDT/8:02 p.m. PDT.
Tues 27 Try for young Moon at dusk.

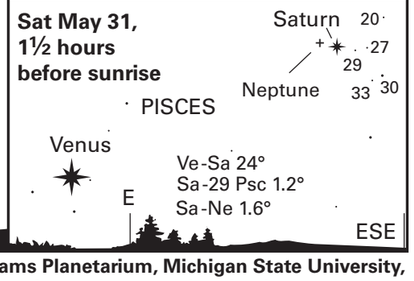
Thurs May 27-29, 40 minutes after sunset



Sunday 1



Sat May 31, 1½ hours before sunrise



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