

OCCULTATIONS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 1951

Date	Star No.	Mag.	Time (EST)	Limb
JULY				
20	3268	5.6	10:53.6 PM	B
24	105	4.6	1:58.4 AM	B
AUGUST				
18	3353	3.8	3:54.1 AM	B
23	539	4.4	12:38.2 AM	B

--- J.H. Motes and J.E. Lankford

JUNIOR STAR DUST
Published by the Junior Members
of the National Capital Astronomers
Washington, D.C.

July-August 1951 Vol. 3, No. 5

NOTES ON THE SUMMER SKIES

The summer skies present a wide variety of clusters and nebulae for your telescope. Almost all of these objects lie near or in the Milky Way, particularly in the region from Scutum to Sagittarius and Scorpious.

Here one third of all the known globular clusters are located. Near Antares are three fine examples. M4 to the northwest of Antares, M80 between antares and Beta and M19 between Antares and Theta Ophiuchus. Between the stars Gamma and Epsilon Scorpious is M62, a cluster well worth finding. To end this short list of summer clusters we must add M5 in Serpens. This object, very bright and very large, has only one equal in the sky; M13.

To continue our survey of nebulae and clusters we take up the open cluster. Starting at the northern end of the Milky Way, in the head of Cygnus. There we find M39, a fine large cluster. The only other large object of this type is M71 in Sagitta.

As for diffuse and planetary nebulae there are examples of these in our summer skies. The best of the diffuse nebulae are found in the Scutum Sagittarius region. M8, the Trifid, M20 the lagoon and M17 the Horse Shoe are all very fine. The two planetaries that are large enough to be seen in a small telescope are the Ring Nebula in Lyrae, small but bright; and the Dumbell in Vulpeculae, a large and bright object.

For the observer of these faint objects a good star atlas is indispensable. The writer suggests Norton's Star Atlas or Atlas of the Heavens as the best for such work. Remember such work requires eyes which are adjusted to the dark. Five minutes in a dark room before observing and a red filter over the light will help the observer a great deal.

--- J. H. Motes

METEORS FOR JULY AND AUGUST 1951

Shower	Approx. RA	Radiant DECL.	Date Maximum	No/Hr.	Duration (DAYS)
Delta Aquarids	340°	-17°	July 28	20	12
Perseids	47	57	August 12	50	25

--- The Observers Handbook
RASC

COMET NOTES FOR JULY AND AUGUST 1951

Bulletin No. 1315 of the Bureau Central Des Telegrammes Astronomiques, of the IAU reports the following comet ephemerides:-

Periodic comet Kresak (1951-f)

July	R.A.	DECL.	Mag.
3	14h 19m	17 33	11.6
13	14 54	12 3	

Comet Minkowski (1950-b)

Dr. Jorge Bobone, of the Cordoba Observatory reports the following ephemeris for comet 1950-b with magnitudes worked out by the "4th power law".

Date	R.A.	DECL.	MAG.
July 3	9 15	-11 43	11.0
13	9 17	11 35	11.3
23	9 19	11 40	11.3
August 2	9 22	11 57	11.7
12	9 24	-12 24	11.7
22	9 27	13 0	11.9

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THE PLANETS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

MERCURY is poorly placed for observation during the month of July but becomes an evening star during August. Greatest eastern elongation is on the 3rd of August but the planet is still in an unfavourable position.

VENUS is an evening star seen low in the west at sunset during July. In August it may still be seen very low in the west. Greatest brilliancy is on the 29th of July when it may be seen at magnitude -4.2.

MARS is too close to the sun for observation during July. In August it is in Gemini and Cancer, rising about two hours before the sun.

JUPITER rises shortly after the sun sets, and dominates the south-eastern sky for the rest of the nights of July and August. On August 4th it begins retrograde motion among the stars.

SATURN is in Virgo, west of Spica, well down in the south-west at sunset and setting a few hours later, during the months of July and August.

--- J. Weinstein

PHASES OF THE MOON FOR JULY AND AUGUST 1951

Phase	July			August		
	D	H	M	D	H	M
New Moon	4	7	48	2	22	39
First Quarter	12	4	56	10	12	22
Full Moon	18	19	17	17	2	59
Last Quarter	25	18	59	24	10	20

NB. All times are in Greenwich Civil Time (UT)
To get EST subtract 5 hours and be sure to
change date if necessary.

- - - The American Ephemeris and
Nautical Almanac for 1951

REPORT ON THE A.A.V.S.O. CONVENTION

The recent A.A.V.S.O. convention got off to a roaring start on the evening of Friday, May 11, when Dr. John Hall lectured on the "Effects of Scintillation of Stars" at Georgetown University's Copley Lounge. Dr. Hall's lecture included his recordings of the noise produced when the scintillating light of a star fell upon a photo-electric cell. After the lecture, Father Francis Heyden was our host and guide at the Georgetown Observatory.

Bright and early the next morning, during the procedure called "Business session and papers", John Lankford read his paper discussing various theories on the variation of Novae. Lunch was served in the Maguire dining room of the University, and photographs were taken shortly afterward.

That evening the convention was treated to a buffet supper on the Georgetown Observatory lawn, and later, we enjoyed a tour through the Naval Observatory. The tour included the 12", 26", and 40" telescopes.

Sunday morning, we enjoyed an interesting tour around the National Bureau of Standards' Sterling Field Laboratory, where we saw the huge German Radar sets that were converted to receive and record Solar "Noise". At one o'clock that afternoon, we were the guests of Dr. John P. Hagen of the Radio Astronomy section of the Naval Research Lab., who escorted us to the new fifty foot parabolic reflector that is now being used for radio observation of the sun and stars.

The 40th Annual Spring meeting of the A.A.V.S.O. was a great success thanks to the combined efforts of our host Reverend Francis Heyden, and John Lankford's guest Mrs. Margaret Mayall, the recorder of the A.A.V.S.O.

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