

EAGLES EYE ON THE SKY – MAY 2019

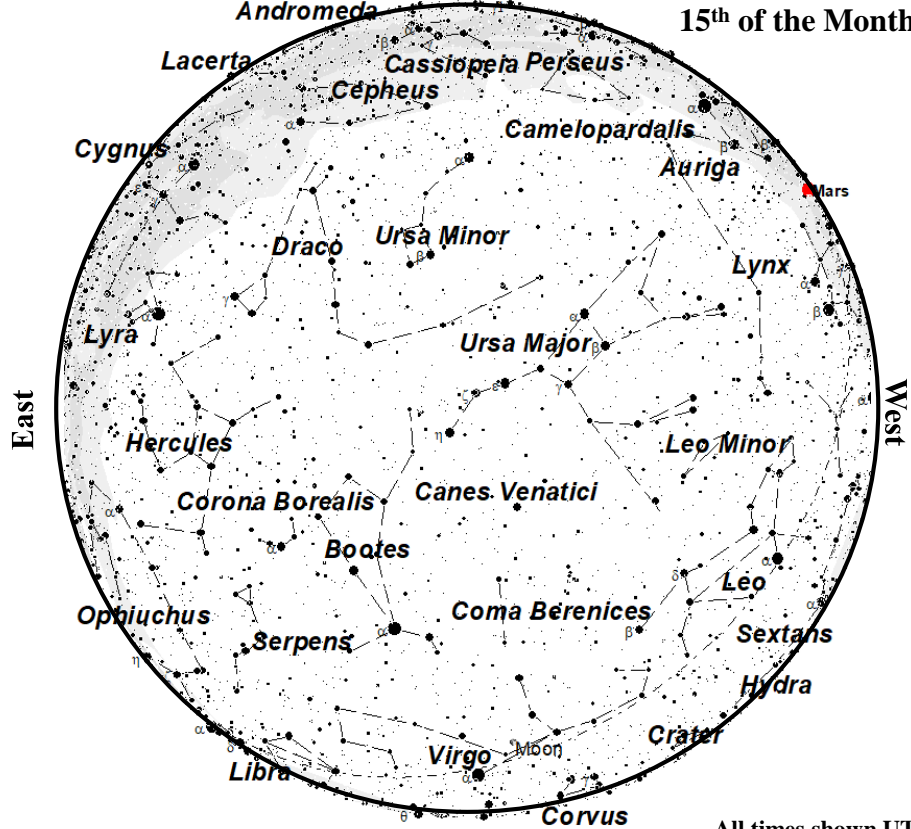
Dave Eagle's monthly sky guide.

This Months Stars

North

22:00 hrs

15th of the Month.



All times shown UT

The tail of Ursa Major and the bright double star Mizar and Alcor lies at the zenith. Below Ursa Major lies Canes Venatici and Coma Berenices each of which contain a multitude of galaxies, both bright and faint. As a result this area of sky has rich pickings for the patient observer who takes time to find their way around. Be careful not to get lost amongst all these faint fuzzies. Low in the southern sky, the small constellations of Corvus and Crater ride on the back of Hydra. Low in the northern sky Andromeda is just poking above the horizon and Perseus is now extremely low. In the western sky Gemini, Canis Minor and Auriga are all close to setting as the last of the winter constellations disappear. Rising in the eastern sky is the Summer Triangle of Vega, Deneb and Altair, in the constellations of Lyra, Cygnus and Aquila respectively. This heralds the onset of summer along with the lack of properly dark observing night skies. I for one will be busy with my solar telescope at this time.

THE MOON

Phases:

4th – New.
12th – First Quarter.
18th – Full.
26th – Last Quarter

Crescent Moon will be visible:

6th & 7th – W evening sky.
1st & 31st – E morning sky.

The Moon will be close to:

Mars on the 7th.
Juno on the 8th.
Praesepe on the 10th.
Regulus on the 12th.
Spica on the 15th & 16th.
Ceres on the 20th.
Jupiter on the 20th & 21st.
Saturn on the 23rd.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

MERCURY – Reaches superior conjunction on the 21st, when it will be on the far side of The Sun. It quickly moves out of The Sun's glare into the evening western sky where it may be spotted low down in the sky at the very end of the month.

VENUS – Still to the west of The Sun, but very low down as dawn breaks, so is very hard to spot in the eastern morning sky. Moves ever closer to the Sun so is unlikely to be seen until November.

MARS – Very low down in the western sky after dark, nestled between the horns of Taurus. It stays in the same part of the sky as it tries to outrun The Sun on its westward journey along the ecliptic. It keeps ahead this month, but next month it starts sinking faster. Its extremely small disk is a challenge to view any surface details.

JUPITER – Now moving retrograde in the southern part of Ophiuchus. At magnitude -2.5 it is very bright and despite the low altitude will make great viewing in a small scope in the early hours. Watch the movement of the four bright Galilean satellites as they jostle in position around the gas giant.

SATURN – Visible as a bright +0.44 object low down in the south-eastern sky in the early hours. The rings are well presented to Earth and very wide open, so despite the altitude should be a fine sight in even a small telescope.

URANUS & NEPTUNE – Both of these remote ice giant are now too close to the Sun to be seen this month.

PLUTO – Visible not far from Saturn in Sagittarius. At magnitude +14.3, it will be a real challenge to identify amongst all those faint stars Milky Way stars.

ETA AQUARID METEORS – This meteor shower is active between the 19th of April and the 28th of May. Maximum of 40 per hour on the 6th & 7th.

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