

BCAS OBSERVING HIGHLIGHTS for August 5 to 19, 2026, a “dark Moon period”
Black Canyon Astronomical Society (BCAS), southwest-central Colorado, USA

DATES & TIMES (MDT) FOR REGIONAL EVENTS & EYE-CATCHING HAPPENINGS IN THE SKY:

August 4-15, 5:30 AM to 5:50 AM: Spot Mercury low above east-northeastern horizon
August 5-16, 10 PM to 11:30 PM: Enjoy the “summer” Milky Way under dark, moonless skies!
August 7, 9:30 PM to 11:30 PM: Night sky viewing with telescopes, [Black Canyon of the Gunnison N. P.](#)
August 5, 6:00 PM: [Western Slope Skies](#) on KVNF radio
August 9, 3:30 AM to 5:30 AM: Crescent moon about 6° northeast of reddish Mars in east northeast
August 9-14, 10:00 PM to 5:30 AM: Perseid Meteors under dark skies (maximum on August 12-13)!
August 10 & 11, 7:45 to 10:45 PM: Night Photography Workshop, Black Canyon of the Gunnison N. P.
August 10-14, 5:30 AM to 5:55 AM: Spot the heliacal rising of Sirius in east-southeast!
August 11, 5:15 AM to 5:40 AM: Very thin crescent Moon 2° north of Mercury in east northeast
August 11-12, 9:00 PM to 5 AM: [Perseid Meteor Watch](#) at [Top of the Pines](#)
August 11-19, 2 AM to 5 AM: Enjoy our fall and early winter stars under dark, moonless skies!
August 12: Total solar eclipse (Iceland, Spain, NE Atlantic); partial eclipse for parts of NE & N U.S.
August 14, 10:00 AM: [Western Slope Skies](#) on KVNF radio
August 15, around 5:40 AM: Jupiter & Mercury < 1° apart, low above east northeastern horizon
August 15, 8:30 PM to 9:00 PM: Crescent Moon 3 degrees below bright Venus (striking in binoculars!)
August 15, 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM: [Night sky event with telescopes](#), Ridgway S. P. (Dutch Charlie VC)
August 19, 6:00 PM: [Western Slope Skies](#) on KVNF radio

SUMMARY.

This “dark Moon period” features a striking Milky Way and the peak of the annual Perseid Meteor Shower, our best “warm season” meteor shower. You’ll likely see the most Perseid Meteors, perhaps up to 100 per hour, before dawn on August 12 or 13. Meteor observing is easy; you don’t need any equipment, just a reclining chair and dark skies! Before dawn between August 10 and 14, spot the heliacal rising of Sirius, the night sky’s brightest star (an annual ritual for some people!). “Heliacal rising” refers to the year’s first visible rising of a star before sunrise. For us on the Western Slope, the heliacal rising of Sirius portends the end of summer and the cooler days to come.

Venus is still a brilliant “evening star” that is visible in the west for about an hour after sunset. Saturn now rises well before midnight, and you can see Mars and Mercury before dawn. Jupiter becomes visible in the predawn sky by August 15, when you can see it less than 1 degree to the right of Mercury. With telescopes and/or binoculars, we can spot Neptune after midnight and Uranus before morning twilight.

The Moon reaches last quarter on August 5, and from August 6 to 11 the crescent Moon wanes. The Moon is new on August 12. From August 14 to 18, watch the crescent Moon wax in the evening sky. The Moon reaches first quarter on August 19. On August 12, the new Moon totally eclipses the Sun over a path that covers parts of the Arctic Ocean, the northeastern Atlantic Ocean, and some areas in Siberia, Greenland, Iceland, and Spain, plus Mallorca. A partial solar eclipse is visible from parts of the eastern and north-central U.S., all of Alaska, most of Canada, and parts of Europe (but this eclipse is not visible from Colorado).

Join park rangers and BCAS members to view our wonderfully dark night skies through telescopes on August 7 at Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park (South Rim Visitor Center) and on August 15 at Ridgway State Park (Dutch Charlie Visitor Center). On August 10 and 11 Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park will offer a Night Photography Workshop. And there is a Perseid Meteor Watch at Top of the Pines in Ouray County on the night of August 11-12.

As of August 3, active regions with sunspots are present on the Earth-facing side of the Sun. We may experience more M-class (moderate) and possibly X-class (extreme) flares and powerful coronal mass ejections (CMEs). It's possible that CMEs and flares from the Sun could trigger auroras and airglow that are visible from the Western Slope. View the Sun safely and in "real-time" via the internet. Please do your planet spotting when the Sun is below the horizon; never risk viewing the Sun without adequate eye protection, as serious eye damage can result.

Numerous Earth satellites are visible every clear evening and morning. Predawn passes of the bright International Space Station (ISS) are predicted from August 15 to 19. And predawn passes of the almost-as-bright, Chinese Tiangong Space Station (aka CSS TIANHE-1) are predicted for August 12 to 19. Find updated times for local passes of the space stations and other bright satellites at these links (be sure to set applications for your location and time zone):

<https://www.heavens-above.com/>

<https://www.n2yo.com/passes/?s=25544>

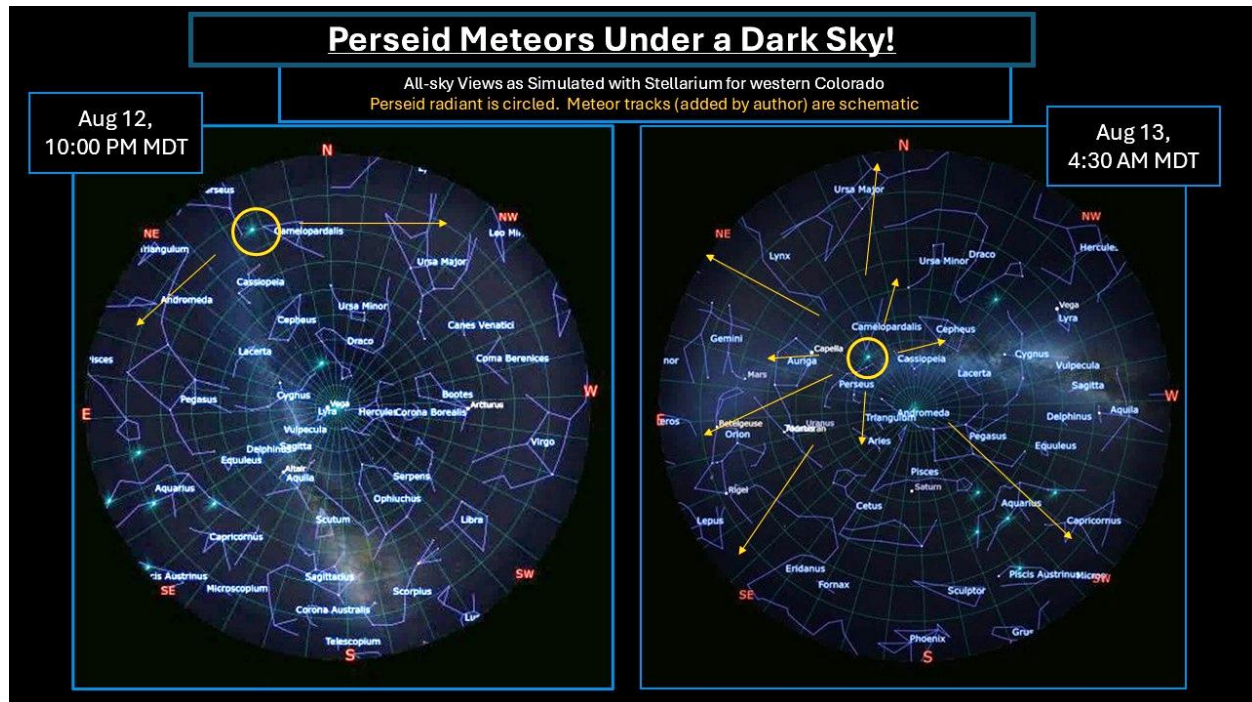
Note: The apparent brightness of sky objects is measured in "magnitude" units. Many bright stars are magnitude +1, while the faintest stars easily visible to unaided eyes under dark skies are magnitude +6. Some of the brightest stars are magnitude 0 (e.g., Vega, Arcturus), while the brightest sky objects have negative magnitudes (e.g., Sirius at -1.5, Jupiter at -2 to -3, Venus at -4 to -5, the full Moon at -12 to -13, and the Sun at -27 magnitude). Angular distances on the sky are usually cited in degrees of arc (often abbreviated as °). Helpful ways to estimate 1, 5, 10, 15, and 25 degrees of arc can be found here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/measuring-the-sky-by-hand.html> One degree can be subdivided into 60 arc minutes (abbreviated as '), and one arc minute is subdivided into 60 arc seconds (abbreviated as ").

ENJOY A DARK AUGUST SKY! Take in the wonderful sights of our August night sky during this dark Moon period! Use your favorite planetarium app or the charts on the next page to navigate. During clear evenings, the bright star clouds and dark dust clouds of the Milky Way extend from Constellations Corona Australis and Sagittarius low in the south, through Cygnus east of the zenith to Perseus near the north-northwestern horizon. Constellation Boötes with the reddish star, Arcturus, is getting low in the west, while fall Constellations Pegasus and Aquarius rise in the east. The Big Dipper gets lower in the northwest, as Cassiopeia rises higher in the northeast. By 4:30 AM MDT, the Milky Way extends from Constellation Aquila near the western horizon, to north of the zenith, into Constellation Gemini, which is rising in the east northeast. Before dawn, spot the bright stars of Orion, low to the eastern horizon.

PERSEID METEORS UNDER A DARK, MOONLESS SKY: AUGUST 12-13!

The Perseid Meteor Shower, the best annual shower during our "warm season", is likely to peak during the wee hours of August 12 and/or August 13 under a dark, moonless sky! We may see as many as 100 meteors/hour, if skies are clear. If it's cloudy on August 12 and 13, try to spot Perseid Meteors on the mornings of August 9, 10, 11, and 14, when you may see Perseids at lesser rates. Perseid Meteors are icy and rocky particles (typically the size of sand grains) from periodic comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle, which last entered the inner Solar System in 1992. This debris is distributed around the Comet's orbit of the Sun. As Earth passes through 109P's orbital plane each year, these particles become Perseid Meteors when they enter our atmosphere at about 130,000 miles per hour, causing bright incandescence. The Perseid Shower is active from July 17 to August 24. The Perseid peak is typically broad, so we often see many Perseids for several mornings both before and after the peak. Meteor observing is easy. You don't need any equipment, just clear, dark skies. From a reclining chair, look high in the sky. You may see some Perseid Meteors as early as 10 PM MDT, when the Perseid radiant (apparent origin point of meteors) is low in the north-northeastern sky. These "evening Perseids" often hug the horizon. But

there are good reasons to look for Perseid Meteors after midnight: 1) Meteors become more frequent as the Perseid radiant (apparent origin point on the sky) rises higher after midnight, 2) In the hours just before dawn, our location on Earth rotates so that we are moving toward the meteoroid stream, further increasing meteor activity, 3) Convective clouds (and associated thunderstorms) sometimes dissipate during the wee hours. You can find more about the Perseids and other meteor showers in the [2026 calendar of the International Meteor Organization](#).



A CRESCENT MOON: WANING, THEN WAXING. The Moon reaches **last quarter on August 5** (exactly at 8:21 PM MDT), and from August 6 to 11 the crescent Moon wanes. The **Moon is new on August 12** (exactly new at 11:37 AM MDT), when it eclipses the Sun (see next item). From August 14 to 18, watch the crescent Moon wax in the evening sky. **The Moon reaches first quarter on August 19** (exactly at 8:46 PM MDT).

On August 9 from about 3:30 AM to 5:30 AM MDT, look to the east northeast to spot the 14%-illuminated crescent Moon about 6 degrees northeast of reddish Mars. On August 11 between about 5:15 AM and 5:40 AM MDT, the skinny (2% illuminated) crescent Moon is just 2 degrees north of Mercury – likely a nice sight in binoculars! On the evening of August 15 between 8:30 PM and 9:00 PM MDT, look for the 14%-illuminated, waxing crescent Moon about 3 degrees below brilliant Venus – likely a spectacular sight in binoculars! Enjoy seeing earthshine delicately illuminate the nightside of the crescent Moon, especially on mornings from August 7 to 11, and on evenings from August 14 to 17 (binoculars can provide eye-catching views!). A fun website for enjoying the Moon is [NASA's daily Moon Guide](#). **Please do your crescent Moon spotting before sunrise and after sunset. NEVER chance looking at the Sun directly; serious eye damage can result.**

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE: AUGUST 12, 2026. On August 12, the new Moon totally eclipses the Sun! [The August 12 eclipse is total](#) over parts of the Arctic and northeastern Atlantic Oceans, parts of Siberia, northeast Greenland, western Iceland, northern Spain, and Mallorca. A [partial solar eclipse](#) is visible

over the Arctic and northern Atlantic Oceans, parts of western Europe and northwest Africa, all of Alaska, parts of the eastern and north-central U. S., and most of Canada. Maximum duration of the total phase of this eclipse is 2 minutes and 18 seconds, occurring just off the west coast of Iceland. Unfortunately, no part of this eclipse is visible from Colorado.

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP, BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON N. P. AUGUST 10 & 11.

7:45–10:45 pm (same one-day workshop each night) *presented by Don Riddle, Col USMC (Retired).*

Where: Black Canyon National Park's South Rim Visitor Center parking lot

Registration: Limited to 15 people per night. Registration is first-come first-served. Attendees must register in advance via email at BLCA_Info@nps.gov.

Cost: FREE

Required items for registered attendees:

- Camera with ISO up to 6400 available
(DSLR or mirrorless—sorry, no cell phone cameras)
- Wide angle lens, 50mm or less (f-stop lower than 3.2 preferred)
- Manual for camera
- Sturdy tripod
- Red-light headlamp
- Camp chair (strongly recommended)
- Complete list provided upon confirmation of registration

For more information, contact Park Ranger Erik McDonald at 970-249-1914, ext. 419.

VENUS: THAT BRILLIANT “EVENING STAR”! Venus, still a dazzling evening star, shines in the west after sunset. During this period Venus brightens from magnitude -4.33 to -4.48 , as it moves southeastward through Virgo. You can spot Venus about 10 to 15 degrees above the west-southwestern horizon shortly after sunset in bright twilight, and our “Sister Planet” remains visible for more than an hour afterward. Venus sets in the west after twilight's end at about 10:13 PM MDT on August 4 and at 9:42 PM MDT on August 19. Venus' angular separation from the Sun continues to increase until August 14. There's a southward component in Venus' (mostly) eastward motion, and these circumstances cause Venus to set earlier night-by-night, as seen from Colorado's mid-northern latitude. After August 14, Venus' angular separation from the Sun starts decreasing, and this results in Venus setting much earlier night by night. By early October Venus will disappear into glaring evening twilight. Venus will be at [inferior solar conjunction](#) on October 24, 2026. Venus will reappear in the predawn sky by the second week of November. On the evening of August 15 between 8:30 PM and 9:00 PM MDT, look for the 14%-illuminated, waxing crescent Moon about 3 degrees below brilliant Venus (this may be spectacular in binoculars!).

Through telescopes, Venus' gibbous phase wanes from a 54%-illuminated gibbous disk on August 4 to a 46%-illuminated crescent on August 19, as its distance from Earth decreases from 71 million to 60 million miles, and its apparent diameter increases from 21.8 to 25.8 arc seconds. **Please do your Venus spotting after sunset. NEVER chance looking at the Sun without taking proper precautions. Serious eye damage can result.**

SATURN RISES BEFORE MIDNIGHT. Saturn rises in the east at about 11:02 PM MDT on August 4 and 10:01 PM MDT on August 19. During this period, the Ringed Planet brightens from magnitude $+0.61$ to $+0.53$, as its distance from Earth decreases from 830 million to 811 million miles. Through telescopes, Saturn's disk appears 19 arc seconds wide, and its rings span 44 arc seconds. During early 2026, Saturn's thin rings (150,000 miles wide but only about 1000 ft thick!) appeared nearly “edge-on” from our perspective on Earth. Saturn's rings are now gradually appearing to “open” from Earth's perspective

and views of the rings are becoming more impressive. You can see Saturn's moons Tethys, Dione, Rhea, and Enceladus through small to mid-size telescopes, and Titan, Saturn's largest moon, is bright enough to see with just binoculars. You can follow the changing positions of Saturn's moons by using various planetarium apps. Through telescopes, it's best to view Saturn after it rises more than 20 degrees above the eastern horizon; that's after about 12:45 AM MDT on August 4 and after about 11:50 PM MDT by August 19.

NEPTUNE. The 8th Planet, Neptune, at magnitude of +7.75, rises in the east at 10:31 PM MDT on August 4 and 9:31 PM MDT on August 19, but we need a telescope, or at least binoculars, to see it. Telescopic views of Neptune may be best after midnight (MDT), when the 8th Planet rises more than 20 degrees above the east-southeastern horizon. Through telescopes, Neptune's blueish disk appears only 2.3 arc seconds wide. Neptune is 2.71 billion miles from Earth during this period. You can use this link to find Neptune: <https://theskylive.com/neptune-info>

WILL A BRIGHT NOVA ("NEW" STAR) ERUPT IN CONSTELLATION CORONA BOREALIS? Will there be a bright "new" star in Constellation Corona Borealis sometime soon, if only briefly? Corona Borealis is more than 60 degrees above the southwestern horizon as the sky darkens and remains visible in the western and west-northwestern sky until about 2 AM MDT. [T Coronae Borealis](#) (T CrB) is a recurrent nova that (based on past behavior) may rapidly increase in brightness 1500-fold (to second magnitude) to become the brightest star (or 2nd brightest star) in Corona Borealis between now and perhaps early next year. Then this "new" star may fade rapidly below naked-eye visibility in about a week. As of August 3 at 9 PM MDT, T CrB had not yet erupted. [Astronomer Jean Schneider predicted that an eruption is most likely on or about June 25, 2026, or on February 8, 2027.](#) An eruption did not happen on June 25, but T CrB could erupt at any time! You can find additional info at these sites...
https://blogs.nasa.gov/Watch_the_Skies/2024/02/27/view-nova-explosion-new-star-in-northern-crown/
https://www.aanda.org/articles/aa/full_html/2023/12/aa48372-23/aa48372-23.html

URANUS BEFORE DAWN. Uranus rises above the east-northeastern horizon hours before morning twilight, at about 1:14 AM MDT on August 5 and 12:20 AM MDT on August 19. The 7th Planet is moving slowly eastward through Constellation Taurus, about 6 degrees southeast of the Pleiades Star Cluster.

At magnitude +5.8, you can see Uranus easily with binoculars, and perhaps even with eyes unaided when skies are dark. But you'll need a telescope to resolve Uranus' 3.6 arc second-wide disk and to detect color easily. Most people perceive Uranus as either blue or green. How does it appear to you? Uranus is 1.83 million miles from Earth during this period. The best times to view the 7th Planet are between 3 AM MDT and the onset of bright twilight at about 5 AM MDT, when Uranus is more than 20 degrees above the eastern horizon. You can use this link to find Uranus: <https://theskylive.com/uranus-info>.

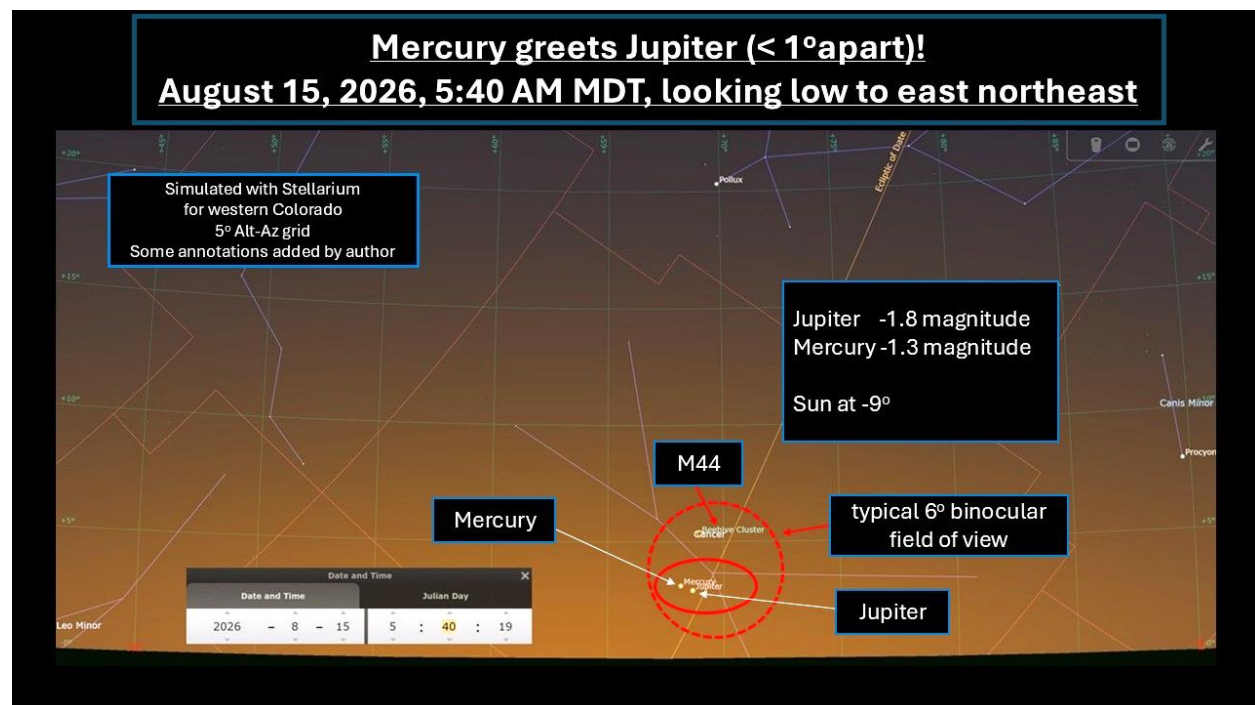
MARS BEFORE DAWN. Reddish Mars, shining at magnitude +1.3, moves eastward through Constellation Taurus from August 5 to 11 and then through constellation Gemini from August 12 to 19. On August 5 Mars rises above the east-northeastern horizon at around 2:33 AM MDT, well before the start of astronomical twilight. By August 19, Mars rises even earlier, at about 2:18 AM MDT. Mars is still on the far side of the Sun from our perspective; the Red Planet is 184 million miles distant on August 5 and 178 million miles distant on August 19. Through telescopes, Mars' reddish disk still appears small, increasing in apparent diameter from only 4.7 to 4.9 arc seconds during this period. On February 20, 2027, the Earth-Mars distance will be 63 million miles, the closest during the current Mars apparition, and Mars will appear much brighter (magnitude -1.3) and larger (14 arc seconds wide) than it appears now.

By 5:20 AM MDT, Mars is more than 30 degrees above the eastern horizon, and this may be a good time to start viewing the Red Planet through a telescope. Can you spot Mars' "north polar hood", which consists of light-colored clouds covering all or part of Mars' northern polar cap? In the coming months, these clouds may dissipate and the polar ice cap may start to shrink, as summer approaches in Mars' northern hemisphere. Various dark "albedo" features may also become visible as Earth draws closer to Mars. You can use the [Mars Profiler from Sky & Telescope](#) as a guide to features visible on Mars at any date and time.

On the morning of August 9 between 3:30 AM to 5:30 AM MDT, look to the east northeast to spot Mars about 6 degrees to the right of the 14%-illuminated, crescent Moon

Please do your Mars spotting before sunrise. NEVER chance looking at the Sun without taking proper precautions. Serious eye damage can result.

JUPITER REAPPEARS BEFORE DAWN AND GREET'S MERCURY! Jupiter has been hidden in the Sun's glare since its July 29 solar conjunction. But on August 15, Jupiter has a close conjunction with Mercury, and the planetary pair may be visible in the predawn sky, if you can find a place with an unobstructed eastern horizon. Around 5:40 AM MDT, look eastward to spot the Jupiter less than 1 degree to the right of the Mercury, with both planets appearing only 3 degrees above a "flat" horizon (refer to chart, below). At 5:40 AM MDT on August 15, the Sun is still 9 degrees below the horizon, and Jupiter (magnitude -1.79) and Mercury (-1.26) are bright, so this could be a striking view, especially in binoculars or wide-field telescopes. On August 15, Jupiter is 583 million miles from Earth, and through telescopes (or binoculars) it appears 31 arc seconds wide. The famous Beehive Star Cluster (aka M44) is about 2 degrees above this planetary duo on August 15, but it may be challenging to spot M44 through the twilight glare, even with binoculars. **Please do your Jupiter (and Mercury) spotting before sunrise. NEVER chance looking at the Sun without taking proper precautions. Serious eye damage can result.**



MERCURY BRIGHTENS AND THEN DISAPPEARS FROM THE MORNING SKY. During late July and early August, we could spot Mercury in morning twilight above the east-northeastern horizon. Mercury appeared at its greatest angular separation from the Sun on August 2. But we can still spot the Innermost Planet between August 5 and 15; in fact, Mercury gets brighter during this period! On August 5 at around 5:20 AM MDT, look for Mercury (at magnitude -0.24) about 6 degrees above an unobstructed, east-northeastern horizon. On August 5 and 6, Mercury is within Constellation Gemini, below and to the right of Gemini's bright stars, Pollux and Castor. Mercury appears brighter than both Castor (magnitude +1.9) and Pollux (magnitude +1.15), and Mercury likely twinkles less than these stars (sometimes Mercury may not twinkle at all). By August 9 at around 5:25 AM to 5:30 AM MDT, Mercury has brightened to magnitude -0.69 and moved eastward into Constellation Cancer. Then on August 15 at around 5:40 AM MDT, look for Mercury (at magnitude -1.26) just to the left of Jupiter during a striking conjunction (see item and chart above). After August 15, it gets challenging to spot the "Speedster Planet", as it quickly descends into glaring morning twilight, prior to its [superior solar conjunction](#) on August 27.

Through telescopes, Mercury's phase waxes from a 7.0 arc second wide, 50%-illuminated disk on August 5 to a 5.6 arc second wide, 85%-illuminated, gibbous phase on August 15, as its distance from Earth increases from 89 million to 112 million miles. Although Mercury and Jupiter appear close together on August 15, that's just an illusion from our perspective on Earth: Mercury is 112 miles distant, whereas Jupiter is well beyond Mercury, 583 million miles from Earth. **Please do your Mercury spotting before sunrise. NEVER chance looking at the Sun without taking proper precautions. Serious eye damage can result.**

HELICAL RISING OF SIRIUS – AN ANNUAL RITUAL (for some of us!). "Heliacal rising" refers to the year's first visible rising of a star before sunrise. Sirius, the sky's brightest star (after the Sun, that is), has been hidden in the Sun's glare since June. But as Earth moves in its orbit about the Sun, our perspectives change. By mid-August, it's possible to spot Sirius in morning twilight. How early can you spot "the Dog Star"? Given clear morning skies, Sirius should be easy to see by August 14, but can you spot Sirius above the east-southeastern horizon even earlier? Sightings of Sirius on August 11, or even a bit earlier, are possible from Colorado's latitudes. It might take several more days for Sirius to become prominent. Ancient Egyptians used the heliacal rising of Sirius to predict the Nile's annual flood. As our summer days shorten, morning twilight begins later each day. By late August, Sirius will be rising in a darker sky, portending the end of our warm season and the coming of fall and winter. **Please look for the heliacal rising of Sirius before sunrise. NEVER chance looking at the Sun directly, serious eye damage can result.**

THE SUN. As of August 3, active regions with sunspots are present on the Earth-facing side of the Sun. There have been frequent M-class (moderate) solar flares during recent weeks, and there were X-class (extreme) flares on June 3, June 30, and July 4. More solar flares are likely during this period. Ultraviolet light from solar flares can cause a phenomenon called airglow. Striking greenish airglow has been [imaged by BCAS Member, Aaron Watson](#). Coronal mass ejections (CMEs) have triggered geomagnetic storms that caused auroras during the past few months, some of which were observed and photographed from the Western Slope. The best way to monitor sunspots, solar flares, CMEs, and other solar activity safely (in "real time") is by using the internet. To safely monitor the Sun, check out the following sites...

<https://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/realtime-images.html>

<https://umbra.nascom.nasa.gov/newsite/images.html>

<https://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/data/>

<https://stereo-ssc.nascom.nasa.gov/>

<http://halphi.nso.edu/>

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.sidc.be/silso/ssngraphics>

Do not look at the Sun directly without [safe, specialized solar filters](#). Looking at the Sun can be very dangerous unless you take adequate precautions. Severe eye damage and even blindness can result.

AURORAS (aka “polar lights” or “northern lights”). We are still in an active part of the solar cycle, and there may be more geomagnetic storms that trigger auroras that could become visible from the Western Slope. Get predictions and updates for auroras, their intensity, and geographic extent from NOAA’s Space Weather Prediction Center:

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/aurora-viewline-tonight-and-tomorrow-night-experimental>

We often see auroras from the Western Slope when the [Planetary Kp Index](#) (a measure of magnetic disturbances around Earth) is above 5 or 6. You can find predicted Kp values for the next 72 hours at the following website (times are posted as Universal Time, UT; to convert to MDT, subtract 6 hours):

<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/3-day-geomagnetic-forecast>

Auroras are most frequently seen from high latitudes, e.g., from Canada, Alaska, Iceland, northernmost Europe, southern New Zealand, and Antarctica. But many people have viewed and photographed auroras from the Western Slope in the past two years, including a spectacular aurora on November 11, 2025, another aurora on the evening of January 19 and [early morning of January 20, 2026](#), and an [“aurora burst” on March 13](#) (thanks to BCAS member Aaron Watson for posting some of his great aurora images!). [Airglow](#) and [SAR arcs](#) also result from high solar activity, and these phenomena have been photographed and/or observed from Colorado.

EARTH SATELLITES. Numerous Earth satellites are visible every clear night. Satellites are visible only when they reflect sunlight during twilight or nighttime hours. We see satellites most often during late evening twilight and for an hour or so afterward, and before and during early morning twilight. The brightest satellites are the International Space Station (ISS) and Tiangong, the Chinese Space Station. Both space stations can appear brighter than any star in the sky, and at times even brighter than the Planet Jupiter. Predictions for space station passes can change quickly due to re-boosting and collision avoidance maneuvers, and it’s best to get predictions for passes within 24 hours of when you want to see the satellites.

Predawn passes of the bright International Space Station (ISS) are predicted from August 15 to 19. And predawn passes of the almost-as-bright, Chinese Tiangong Space Station (aka CSS TIANHE-1) are predicted for August 12 to 19. Check for updates at these links...

<https://www.heavens-above.com/>

<https://www.n2yo.com/passes/?s=25544>

For ISS passes, you can use NASA’s “Spot the Station” app for mobile devices ...

<https://www.nasa.gov/spot-the-station/>

Starlink satellite “trains” can be striking sights for a few days after their launch. For predictions of SpaceX’s Starlink satellites, try using this site:

<https://findstarlink.com/#5431710;3>

HAPPY OBSERVING!