Night sky from Pittsburgh, PA 10 pm EST July 15, 2023, facing South.

SKYWATCH is back! See upcoming dates and register at CarnegieScienceCenter.org.

Presented by
SPRING SKYGAZING: TOP PICKS

June 2: Close approach of Mars and Beehive Cluster Messier 44 (M44) in Cancer, binocular viewing.

June 3: Messier 13 (M13) Hercules Globular cluster, best for binocular viewing.


July 1: Close approach of Venus and Mars at dusk.

July 7: Venus at maximum brightness.

July 19: Crescent Moon, Mercury, Venus, Regulus, and Mars, at dusk.

August 1: Super Full Moon.

August 11–12: Perseid Meteor Shower peak.

August 27: Saturn at opposition.

Aug. 30: Super Full Moon – Blue Moon.

WHAT’S UP?

Summer nights ablaze!
The brilliance of Venus will reach its height around Fri., July 7. It has been gleaming in the West and will slowly head to the horizon in August to then greet us in the morning sky. Mid-August the annual highly anticipated Perseids will have little moonlight interference for the flash of meteors, so head for a dark sky to view after midnight, Aug. 11–12. And two full moons bracket the month of August! The second full moon of the month is known as the Blue Moon.

SUMMER EVENING PLANET VISIBILITIES

Mercury: July. West at dusk.

Venus: June and July in the West. Low to the horizon late July.

Mars: June through July. Low to the western horizon.

Saturn: August.

MOON PHASES KEY

New Moon ☐  First Quarter ☐  Full Moon ☐  Third Quarter ☐

MOON PHASES

June 3:  ☐  10: ☐  17: ☐  25: ☐

July 3:  ☐  9: ☐  17: ☐  25: ☐

Aug. 1:  ☐  8: ☐  16: ☐  24: ☐  30: ☐

SPACE NEWS:

Astrobotic Technology

Astrobotic Technology, an aerospace and robotics company, looks for its opportunity skyward and moonward. Its lunar lander, Peregrine, built on the Northside, will ride aboard the Vulcan Centaur’s historic launch. The powerful new rocket will have Pittsburgh technology carrying scientific payloads for NASA and for private industries. The target touchdown site is near the Moon’s Ocean of Storms. Steeltown ingenuity is aiming us back to the Moon, 50 years after the Apollo missions.

STAR CHART FAQ

How do I use the star chart?
Hold it out in front of you with the direction you’re facing at the bottom of the chart. It works even better if you hold it above your head and look up at it.

Why are east and west switched?
They are only switched because you’re used to looking at maps of the ground. Hold it above your head, and you’ll see the directions line up just right.