



Aspect of the sky from 50 45 N : 2° 00' W at 21:00 UTC

Map from www.fourmilab.ch

Nautical twilight ended during last month at latitude 50° N. By mid month, the sky will be dark from 22:00 to 02:30.

Lunar Phases Full: Aug. 7^h at 18:10; Last Qtr. Aug 15th at 01:15; New: Aug. 21st at 18:30; 1st. Qtr: Aug. 29th at 08:13

Apsides: Apogee (furthest) Aug 2nd at 17:54, 405025 km (29' 30") and Aug 30th at 11:24. 404309 km (29' 33"): Perigee (closest), Aug. 18th, at 13:18, 366121 km, (32' 38").

Mercury (♿): is in conjunction with the Sun at month's end and will not be visible this month even at the beginning-too low down.

Venus (♀): is at 14 degrees high on the 1st at 03:00 and pulls back into the morning twilight. during the month. May be visible at month's start. Moon close on the 19th.

Mars (♂): is too close to the Sun during the month, setting within 10 minutes of each other mid month so won't be observable.

17 Jupiter (♃): is too far west in the bright twilit sky so no observations of the GRS can be made just now. Moon close 25th /26th.

Saturn (♄): rises at 15:45 by mid month and culminates at 20:00. It sets at 23:58. mag.0.6 Moon is near on the 3rd and 30th/31st.

Uranus (♅): rises at 21:20 by mid month, and culminates at 04:20. mag. 5.8. on the southern border Aquarius. Moon near on 15th.

Neptune (♆): rises at 20:00 and culminates at 01:34, mid month, mag. 7.8, in Aquarius, low in the southern sky. Moon near on 10th.

Meteors The Perseids are this month's offering, peaking on Saturday, the 12th/13th, - there is a projected Durlston event for this evening. The moon is 5 days past Full, so best seen as the dusk falls. Note: end of astronomical twilight is at 21:46 dark!

Sunrise - set times			Transit	Times in UTC			Transit
Aug. 01	Rise: 04:34:33	12:14:19	Set: 19:53:08	Aug. 16	Rise: 04:57:09	12:12:10	Set: 19:25:46
Aug. 06	Rise: 04:41:56	12:13:52	Set: 19:44:47	Aug. 21	Rise: 05:04:52	12:11:00	Set: 19:15:44
Aug. 11	Rise: 04:49:29	12:13:09	Set: 19:35:47	Aug. 26	Rise: 05:12:36	12:09:46	Set: 19:05:50
							Aug. 31 Rise: 05:20:20
							Transit: 12:08:15
							Set: 18:55:07

Moonrise - set times			Transit	Times in UTC			Transit
Aug. 01	Rise: 14:46:54	19:36:43	Set: --:--:--	Aug. 16	Rise: --:--:--	07:05:31	Set: 14:54:07
Aug. 06	Rise: 18:59:11	23:36:16	Set: 03:18:21	Aug. 21	Rise: 04:29:08	11:57:24	Set: 19:13:28
Aug. 11	Rise: 21:24:49	02:48:33	Set: 08:48:25	Aug. 26	Rise: 10:26:32	16:00:19	Set: 21:25:01
							Aug. 31 Rise: 15:25:21
							Transit: 19:51:33
							Set: --:--:--

(--:--:-- means the event happens early next day)

B Persei, (Algol) (mag 2.1 to 3.4) - the 3 possible minimum visible this month are 14th at 04:10; 17th at 00:58 and 19th at 21:47 (The duration of the event is 9.6 hours and the period between events is 2.866 days.)

RZ Cassiopeiae (mag 6.2 - 7.7) - minima visible this month are 6th at 22:06; 12th at 21:31; 18th at 20:56; 20th at 01:37; 24th at 20:22 and 26th at 01:03. (Duration of minima events is 4.8 hours and the period between them is 1.19525 days. RZ Cass. is an Algol type eclipsing binary, and is circumpolar at our latitude, so theoretically is visible whenever its dark!).

Lambda Tauri: (mag 3.37 - 3.91) - there are no minima visible this month, all occur during daylight hours. The duration of an event is 14.2 hours on a 3.953 days period.

For observations of the **ISS** during the month, log-in to <http://www.heavens-above.com> Timings for evening passes follow on page 3. - up to 14th August.

Durlston events begin again on Friday, August 12th with the Perseid meteor shower. the usual talk will be given by either Bob Mizon or Alan Jefferies to precede the activities around the telescopes. Saturn will be at its highest at 20:00, about mag. 0.6,

Solar news: No solar activity of note has occurred last month, so no sunspot activity to speak of. I'll keep watching for you.

Timings for the **Great Red Spot (GRS)** investigation of these yields no useful sightings this month.

Meteor activity: Keep your eye on the composite page including the Norman Lockyer Observatory scan at www.merriott-astro.co.uk/scan3d.htm for several folk receiving pings. Also try <http://www.topaz-streamguys.tv/~spaceweather/> (note the tilde character!) for live sound streaming from a Texas facility similar to the French one near Dijon. There is always some activity even when no showers are about. The Perseids are reasonable good this year but there is a slightly waxing gibbous moon to interfere which will set around 23:00 In any case, keep your eyes on the Norman Lockyer site. Better still, get some kit and try your own detecting! See me, as teacher used to say!!

NLCs or Noctiluscent Clouds

The season for these has started, keep your eyes peeled for these. Try the spaceweather.com site for starters!

Artificial satellites. These can be followed on a nightly basis, especially during the later summer months as the earth's shadow is still quite low and the evenings start to draw in, (a trade off between shadow height and darker evenings). Use heavens-above.com to predict passages of these and other satellites, which may be of interest. There are several which scintillate, or give bright flashes, including the NOAA series, especially NOAA 11. From the list that heavens gives you, click the central time (in blue) to give a full sky map with the satellite track across it. Ajisai - a unique Japanese geodetic satellite is particularly interesting, though you'll need a good pair of binoculars to see it! I find 10 x 50 adequate. It flashes around 4 times a second and is just a 'Strictly...' glitter ball in space!

The ISS is visible from month's start as a late evening object, and then for 8 days after that. See page 3.

Good observing Robert Hatch 2017 August 2nd.

ISSUE 2.0 - slight changes to RZ-Cass's minimum times (-20 mins!)

Passes for the ISS during August

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End			Pass type
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	
30 Jul	-1.4	01:10:01	10°	W	01:10:37	14°	W	01:10:37	14°	W	visible
30 Jul	-3.7	22:41:06	10°	W	22:44:22	73°	N	22:47:15	13°	E	visible
31 Jul	-2.9	00:17:37	10°	WNW	00:19:52	38°	W	00:19:52	38°	W	visible
31 Jul	-3.6	21:48:42	10°	W	21:51:58	74°	N	21:55:13	10°	E	visible
31 Jul	-4.0	23:25:14	10°	WNW	23:28:30	80°	SSW	23:29:07	55°	ESE	visible
01 Aug	-3.8	22:32:51	10°	WNW	22:36:07	83°	N	22:38:24	18°	E	visible
02 Aug	-2.1	00:09:25	10°	W	00:11:02	23°	WSW	00:11:02	23°	WSW	visible
02 Aug	-3.7	21:40:26	10°	W	21:43:42	74°	N	21:46:58	10°	E	visible
02 Aug	-3.7	23:16:58	10°	W	23:20:08	52°	SSW	23:20:20	51°	S	visible
03 Aug	-3.9	22:24:32	10°	WNW	22:27:47	73°	SSW	22:29:39	23°	ESE	visible
04 Aug	-1.4	00:01:24	10°	W	00:02:16	15°	WSW	00:02:16	15°	WSW	visible
04 Aug	-3.8	21:32:06	10°	WNW	21:35:22	88°	NNE	21:38:38	10°	ESE	visible
04 Aug	-2.8	23:08:43	10°	W	23:11:35	31°	SSW	23:11:35	31°	SSW	visible
05 Aug	-3.3	22:16:10	10°	W	22:19:19	46°	SSW	22:20:57	24°	SE	visible
06 Aug	-3.7	21:23:41	10°	WNW	21:26:56	66°	SSW	21:30:10	10°	ESE	visible
06 Aug	-1.9	23:00:43	10°	W	23:02:56	17°	SW	23:02:56	17°	SW	visible
07 Aug	-2.4	22:07:54	10°	W	22:10:42	27°	SSW	22:12:21	18°	SSE	visible
08 Aug	-3.0	21:15:18	10°	W	21:18:22	40°	SSW	21:21:27	10°	SE	visible
09 Aug	-1.5	21:59:58	10°	WSW	22:01:56	15°	SW	22:03:53	10°	S	visible