



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

Chart from www.fourmilab.ch

Lunar Phases: Last Qtr: Apr 2nd at 03:14; New: Apr 8th at 18:20; First Qtr: Apr 15th at 19:13 and Full: Apr 23rd at 23:49.

Apisides: Perigee (closest) Apr 7th at 17:50, 358850 Km, (33' 15"); Apogee (furthest) Apr 20th at 02:10, 405623 Km (29' 40").

Mercury (♿): is at inferior conjunction, (between earth and the Sun) on the 11th thence becomes a morning star, but will not be observed due to being on a shallow ecliptic and very low down on the horizon as dawn breaks.

Venus (♀): is at 17° wester elongation at month's start but like Mercury will not be seen this month. (Incidentally it is mag -3.9)

Mars (♂): continues into the morning sky, mag 1.1, reaching 40° western elongation on the 29th, when it will be very close to Neptune, but at only 4° above the eastern horizon, it may be difficult to see, let alone Neptune, see later. The Moon is nearby on the 6th, but will be on the horizon, at daybreak. So again, not visible.

Jupiter (♃): is 35° east of the Sun on the 1st and by month's end will be only 13° from the Sun, mag -2.0, setting at 20:50. On this date Jupiter will be just 3.5° above the horizon at onset of dusk. On the 20th there will be a close appulse with Uranus, mag. 5.8.

Saturn (♄): reaches 54° west of the Sun by month's end, rising 1 ½ hours before the Sun, and only 4° above the ESE horizon, mag. 1.1, on a shallow ecliptic. Moon is nearby on the 4th but will be low on the ESE horizon, so Saturn will be barely visible during the month

Uranus (♅): is closing in toward the Sun and is close to Jupiter, starting the month jut 7° east of the planet. See Jupiter's entry for the close approach.

Neptune (♆): is a morning star reaching 40° elongation by month's end, mag. 7.8 but will not be worth trying to observe this month, being barely 2° above the shallow eastern horizon as dawn breaks, at month's end.

Meteors: The Lyrid meteor shower is this month's offering, peaking on the 22nd, in the morning sky, but is unfavourable, the Moon being Full, near this date.

Sunrise set times: All times in UTC (BST started on the 26th ult.)

Date	Rise	Transit	Set	Date	Rise	Transit	Set
01 Apr 2024	05:43:10	12:11:42	18:41:16	16 Apr 2024	05:10:50	12:07:41	19:05:35
06 Apr 2024	05:32:11	12:10:15	18:49:23	21 Apr 2024	05:00:37	12:06:36	19:13:40
11 Apr 2024	05:21:23	12:08:54	18:57:29	26 Apr 2024	04:50:47	12:05:43	19:21:42
01 May 2024	04:41:26	12:05:02	19:29:40				

Moonrise set time All times in UTC

Date	Rise	Transit	Set	Date	Rise	Transit	Set
01 Apr 2024	02:11:22	05:31:15	08:50:39	16 Apr 2024	10:47:45	19:15:54	03:02:47
06 Apr 2024	04:54:47	10:13:31	15:48:37	21 Apr 2024	16:42:53	22:42:29	04:17:54
11 Apr 2024	06:18:21	14:38:45	23:19:13	26 Apr 2024	22:53:10	01:37:42	05:30:37
01 May 2024	02:19:20	06:18:52	10:28:14				

B Persei, (Algol) (Mag 2.1 to 3.4) – just 2 minima this month: All times in UTC.

4th at 21:45 and 27th at 20:20 , both in the NW sky .

RZ Cassiopeiae (Mag. 6.2 to 7.7) – the 5 minima visible this month are:

3rd at 01:05; 9th at 00:31; 14th at 23:55; 20th at 23:23 and 26th at 22:45.

Lambda Tauri (Mag 3.4 to 3.9) – There are no minima visible this month, all during daylight hours.

T Corona Borealis (TCrB) This star flares up to about mag. 2.1 every 80 years or so and the next event is due this year between now and September by all accounts. It is situated just to the SE of Corona Borealis, between Bootes and Hercules, in the Eastern sky at the time of the above chart. It is the dark dot below the 'n' of Corona Borealis, but this does not represent the normal magnitude. Keep looking for a 'new' star, it's normally mag. 10.8 or so.

For observation of the ISS during the month, log-in to <http://www.heavens-above.com>.

The last Durlston event in March was cancelled due to a poor forecast. The next is scheduled for Friday, April 14th at 8:15pm when Mercury, Venus, star clusters, Orion Nebula and Spring constellations, will be observed. As ever the event is weather dependent.

Solar news

There was considerable solar activity on the evening of March 23rd, 24th and 25th when the Kp index rose to 8 (strong storm) on the 24th at 16:00. The 6 o'clock news on the 24th mentioned the possibility of auroras. Did anyone see any activity? Kp = 9 is the maximum possible with the possibility of full global coverage of aurora. It will be noted that the above dates are near the equinox, a classic time of year for aurora, due to the maximum coupling of the earth's magnetic field to that of the Sun, provided the solar activity is strong. The Sun is quiet at the time of writing.

Timings for Jupiter's **Great Red Spot (GRS)** Jupiter is too near the Sun for the spot to be seen this month.

Passes of the ISS for April.

The ISS is not visible for most of the month, then only morning passes, which start on the 21st.

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start			Highest point			End			Pass type
		Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	
21 Apr	-1.1	05:16:27	10°	SSE	05:17:44	12°	SE	05:19:01	10°	ESE	visible
23 Apr	-2.0	05:12:50	10°	SSW	05:15:34	24°	SE	05:18:19	10°	E	visible
24 Apr	-1.5	04:24:34	11°	S	04:26:27	16°	SE	04:28:35	10°	E	visible
25 Apr	-1.1	03:37:05	10°	SE	03:37:20	10°	SE	03:37:58	10°	SE	visible
25 Apr	-3.0	05:10:09	10°	SW	05:13:21	44°	SSE	05:16:34	10°	E	visible
26 Apr	-2.6	04:22:20	19°	SSW	04:24:03	31°	SSE	04:27:03	10°	E	visible
27 Apr	-2.1	03:34:39	21°	SE	03:34:45	21°	SE	03:37:22	10°	E	visible
27 Apr	-3.7	05:07:44	10°	WSW	05:11:04	75°	SSE	05:14:25	10°	ENE	visible
28 Apr	-1.1	02:46:54	12°	ESE	02:46:54	12°	ESE	02:47:20	10°	ESE	visible
28 Apr	-3.5	04:19:43	22°	SW	04:21:36	56°	SSE	04:24:53	10°	ENE	visible
29 Apr	-3.7	05:05:20	10°	W	05:08:41	81°	N	05:12:02	10°	E	visible
30 Apr	-1.8	02:43:57	21°	ESE	02:43:57	21°	ESE	02:45:34	10°	E	visible
30 Apr	-3.8	04:16:45	18°	WSW	04:19:04	87°	S	04:22:26	10°	ENE	visible
01 May	-3.8	03:28:46	50°	SW	03:29:26	69°	SSE	03:32:46	10°	ENE	visible
02 May	-2.8	02:40:42	37°	ESE	02:40:42	37°	ESE	02:43:03	10°	E	visible
02 May	-3.7	04:13:30	13°	W	04:16:25	76°	N	04:19:46	10°	E	visible