

## The Summer Night Sky – June, July and August 2017

### All data sourced from CyberSky 5

With the coming of Summer, opportunity for viewing a reasonably dark sky become limited, but in Summer 2017, there are a number of events that are still possible to view, especially with meteor showers.

### June 2017

#### The Moon

##### Lunar Phases

First quarter	Thu 01/06/2017 13:42
Full moon	Fri 09/06/2017 14:09
Last quarter	Sat 17/06/2017 12:32
New moon	Sat 24/06/2017 03:30

#### The Planets

##### Planet events on 15<sup>th</sup> June

	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Moon	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus
Rise	0438	0410	0252	0035	0528	1440	2113	0217
Transit	1308	1235	1002	0529	1403	2021	0110	0915
Set	2138	2103	1714	1032	2237	0206	0502	1614

#### In Summary

Mercury is in close conjunction with the Sun and not visible this month. Venus is visible low in the east before sunrise – but is lost in twilight. Mars is lost in the evening twilight. Jupiter is an evening object visible after 11.30pm. Saturn is visible for most of the hours of true darkness at this time of year [2330 to 0230]. Uranus is a morning object close to Venus

#### The Stars at 10pm BST

North – The two Bears are high up with Lyra and Cygnus in the North-east and Auriga and Perseus low in the north-west

East – Bootes and Draco are high up with Hercules, Lyra and Cygnus nicely placed. Ophiuchus is low in the south-east

South – Corona Borealis is high up with Virgo nicely placed and Leo. Scorpio is just starting to rise.

West – Gemini and Cancer are setting

#### Meteors Showers

There are no major meteor showers in June

#### Comets

Comet 45P/Honda-Mrkos-Pajdusakova may be visible in the sky – but it is fading from its recent southern hemisphere apparition

Comet C/2015 V2 Johnson may also be visible though again it will be fading from its peak

#### Other Sky Events in June

Noctilucent clouds – these are very high [70km+] ice clouds and are best seen during the Summer months. They appear as 'fishing nets in the sky' often with iridescent colouring

## July 2017

### The Moon

#### Lunar Phases

First quarter	Sat 01/07/2017 01:51
Full moon	Sun 09/07/2017 05:06
Last quarter	Sun 16/07/2017 20:25
New moon	Sat 23/06/2017 03:30

### The Planets

#### Planet Events on 15/07/2017

	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Moon	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus
Rise:	0457	0704	0213	2342	0513	1253	1906	0020
Transit:	1313	1448	1015	0549	1329	1830	2259	0720
Set:	2128	2239	1817	1156	2145	0010	0255	1420

#### In Summary

Mercury is too close to the Sun this month. Venus is a morning object visible low in the east before dawn. Mars is in conjunction with the Sun this month. Jupiter is visible low in east after sunset. Saturn is visible low in the south during the hours of darkness [2330 to 0300]. Uranus is morning object

#### The Stars at 11pm BST

North – The two Bears will be around along with Cepheus and Cygnus in the north east and Perseus near the northern horizon

East – Draco is high up with Cygnus lying nicely placed for viewing – this will be a good time to view the late Summer Milky Way. Pegasus is near the horizon

South – Hercules is overhead with Ophiuchus nicely placed. Scorpio is near the southern horizon

West – Coronal Borealis is high up with Virgo low down and Leo about to set neat midnight

#### Meteor Showers

There are no major meteor showers in July

#### Comets

Comet C/2105 V2 Johnson should be visible in binoculars during July – It will pass through Bootes and be close to Arcturus on June 5<sup>th</sup> and can be located near Pi-Bootis – the star to the LHS of Arcturus. During June is passes down through this constellation.

There are a few other fainter fuzzies to be found but none brighter than magnitude 10.

#### Other Sky Events in July

Noctilucent clouds – these are very high [70km+] ice clouds and a best seen during the Summer months. Again look out for electric blue clouds that appear like fishing nets in the sky.

## August 2017

### The Moon

#### Lunar Phases

Full moon	Mon 07/08/2017 19:10
Last quarter	Tue 15/08/2017 02:14
New moon	Mon 21/08/2017 19:30
First quarter	Tue 29/08/2017 09:13

	Sun	Mercury	Venus	Moon	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus
Rise:	0547	0755	0231	2329	0507	1115	1700	2215
Transit:	1312	1415	1045	0709	1249	1643	2052	0519
Set:	2035	2036	1859	1449	2030	2211	0048	1219

#### Planet Summary

Venus will be lost in the morning twilight. Mars is in conjunction with the Sun this month. Jupiter will be visible low in the west in the evening twilight. Saturn will be high in the sky once the sky gets reasonably dark [after 2230]. Uranus is visible for most of the hours of darkness [2230 to 0345]

#### The Stars at 11pm BST on 15<sup>th</sup> August

North – Perseus, Andromeda and Cassiopeia are nicely placed for viewing all night

East – Pegasus and Cygnus are well placed for viewing

South – Lyra is high up with Sagitta the Arrow just below. Hercules and Ophiuchus are well placed with Sagittarius and Scorpio on the southern horizon

West – Bootes is nicely placed with Virgo near the horizon

#### Meteors

The major focus for August is the Perseid Meteor Shower of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August.

This shower is a regular performer with around 70 shooting stars per hour. In 2017 with a last quarter Moon it will be a challenge to see this shower.

#### The 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

On August 21<sup>st</sup> there will be a TSE that crosses much of the USA. Starting from the NW and heading towards Florida, it is likely to be one of the most watched eclipses for some time as 300 million people are within a 3 hour drive of the centre-line. Totality on the centre line will last about 2m00s to 2m30s.

From the UK it will appear as a very shallow partial eclipse with only about 7% of the Sun obscured.

#### A look ahead to the Autumn Night Sky

September Saturn will be low in the SW at around 9pm. Venus is a morning object and Jupiter will be just visible at sunset.

October Saturn will be visible in the evening twilight. On the 20<sup>th</sup> October there is a good chance to see the Orionid Meteors shower as the new moon is on the 19<sup>th</sup> and will have set by 8pm on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Expect 30-50 per hour.

November This Month starts a period of months with no Planets visible in the night sky. On the 10<sup>th</sup> November the Taurids Meteor shower coincides with a last quarter Moon rising at 0030 so check out this shower before 2300. Taurids tend to be few in number but make up for it with bright fireballs [5-10/hr] On the 16-18<sup>th</sup> of November the Leonids Meteor Shower is active. With a new Moon on the 18<sup>th</sup> this is an excellent opportunity to view this shower though its activity is not great [50-100/hr] and will be increasing as we head towards the next maximum in 2032/2033