

Sky Highlights for April

April 5	New moon
April 12	First quarter moon
April 15	Mercury in superior conjunction
April 19	Full Moon. Known as the Egg Moon or Grass Moon.
April 22	Peak of Lyrid meteor shower
April 23	Moon at apogee
April 28	Last quarter moon

Mercury and Venus— Both too near the Sun for viewing.

Mars— Moves below Castor in Pollux in Gemini. Magnitude 0.8 on the 1st, fading to 1.2 by the 30th.

Jupiter— Rises about 3AM CST in Sagittarius. At magnitude -2.2, it's the bright star in the south in the morning.

Saturn—Magnitude +1.4, 3° east of Regulus in Leo, and visible all night. The shadow of the planet against the rings will grow throughout April and May.

Did you know...

...that this is the best time of year to observe area of Ursa Major, including the big Dipper? Lots of neat objects up there!

Sky Highlights for May

May 3	Saturn stops retrograde
May 5	New moon Eta Aquarid meteor shower
May 9	Jupiter begins retrograde
May 11	First quarter moon
May 14	Mercury at greatest elongation in the evening sky
May 19	Full Moon. Called the Milk or Planting Moon.
May 28	Last quarter moon

Mercury— The best chance this year to see Mercury. During the first week of the month, Mercury will be close to the Pleiades for 45-60 minutes after sunset. But, it disappears by the 28th of the month.

Venus— Too near the Sun for viewing.

Mars— Moves into Cancer early this month. On May 22 & 23, it will be in M44, the Beehive cluster. Magnitude +1.4.

Jupiter— At magnitude -2.2 in Sagittarius. By the end of the month, Jupiter rises before midnight.

Saturn— Magnitude +0.6 in Leo.

Did you know...

...that Saturn's rings will be edge-on in 2009 for the first time in 14 years? Catch them while you can!