

2008 ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR

6 CONSTELLATION LOCATION				TOTAL CONSTELLATIONS 88	1st	2nd	3rd	
MONTH	MARS	JUPITER	SATURN	LARGEST CONSTELLATIONS	HYDRA	VIRGO	URSA MAJOR	
JAN.	Taurus R	Sagittarius	Leo R	SMALLEST CONSTELLATIONS	CRUX	EQUULEUS	SAGITTA	
FEB.	Taurus	Sagittarius	Leo R	FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANETARIA For help with questions				
MAR.	Gemini	Sagittarius	Leo R	SCHOOL	DIRECTOR	Area Code	Exchange Number	
APR.	Gemini	Sagittarius	Leo R	EDISON	MIKE SPONABLE	(703)	924 8057	
MAY	Cancer	Sagittarius	Leo	WOODSON	STEVE BROWN	(703)	503 4648	
JUN.	Leo	Sagittarius R	Leo	W. SPRINGFIELD	DAVE HINCHER	(703)	913 3889	
JUL.	Leo	Sagittarius R	Leo	HERNDON	MARY BLESSING	(703)	810 2335	
AUG.	Virgo	Sagittarius R	Leo	JEFFERSON	LEE ANN HENNIG	(703)	750 8380	
SEP.	Virgo	Sagittarius R	Leo	OAKTON	REBECCA PIFER	(703)	319 2735	
OCT.	Libra	Sagittarius	Leo	FALLS CHURCH	DAVID FOWLER	(703)	207 4110	
NOV.	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Leo	HAYFIELD	BOB McMILLEN	(703)	924 7537	
DEC.	Ophiucus	Sagittarius	Leo	CARL SANDBURG	WALTER SANFORD	(703)	799 6169	
R= RETROGRADE								
7 FIVE BRIGHTEST STARS SEEN IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE								
STAR NAME	STAR MAGNITUDE	DISTANCE TO STAR	STAR COLOR	STAR TYPE	LUMINOSITY TIMES SUN	TEMP. °F	REMARKS:	
SIRIUS	-1.46	008.6 LIGHT YRS.	BLUE WHITE	MAIN SEQUENCE	26	10,000	BINARY / NEAREST WHITE DWARF	
ARCTURUS	-0.04	036.7 LIGHT YRS.	ORANGE	GIANT	110	4,400	VARIABLE STAR	
VEGA	+0.03	025.3 LIGHT YRS.	BLUE WHITE	MAIN SEQUENCE	55	10,000	IN SUMMER TRIANGLE	
CAPELLA	+0.08	042.2 LIGHT YRS.	YELLOW	GIANT	150	5,000	BINARY	
RIGEL	+0.12	773.0 LIGHT YRS.	BLUE	SUPERGIANT	60000	13,000	BRIGHTEST IN ORION	
8 SOLAR SYSTEM INFORMATION								
CELESTIAL OBJECT	LIGHT TIME TO EARTH	ROTATION PERIOD	MILLIONS OF MILES TO SUN	REVOLUTION PERIOD	OFFICIAL # OF MOONS	DIAMETER IN MILES	NUMBER OF RINGS	Your Earth weight VOL. X times factor
SUN	0h 8m 19s	025d 06h 52m				864,600		1,300,000 28.00
MOON	0h 0m 1.2s	027d 07h 43m		27d 7h 43m		2,158		0.02 0.17
MERCURY	0h 5m 5.8s	058d 15h 36m	35.9	87.97 days	0	3,031	0	0.056 0.38
VENUS	0h 2m 18.0s	243d 00h 14m(R)	67.2	224.7 days	0	7,521	0	0.857 0.91
EARTH		000d 23h 56m 04s	92.9	365.256 days	1	7,928	0	1 1.00
MARS	0h 04m 22s	000d 24h 37m 48s	141.6	687days(1.8yrs)	2	4,219	0	0.15 0.38
JUPITER	0h 34m 57s	000d 09h 55m 30s	483.6	11.862 yrs.	63	88,729	4	1300 2.53
SATURN	1h 11m 01s	000d 10h 39m 22s	886.7	29.46 yrs.	60	74,975	>10,000	764 1.07
URANUS	2h 31m 13s	000d 17h 14m(R)	1783.1	84.01 yrs.	27	31,763	11	63 0.91
NEPTUNE	4h 01m 40s	000d 16h 07m	2797.1	164.79 yrs.	13	30,775	4	58 1.14
*PLUTO	5h 19m 42s	006d 09h 18m(R)	3666.3	248.6 yrs.	3	1,427	0	0.006 0.08
9 2008 SKY ALMANAC ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS								
Date	Note: all times local time							
Jan. 02	Earth closest to Sun (perihelion) 7:00 P.M.. Distance: 91,446,621 miles							
Jan. 22	Mercury at greatest eastern elongation (18°)							
Feb. 06	Annular Solar eclipse, local maximum 10:55 p.m., visible Southeastern Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica							
Feb. 20	Total lunar eclipse, local maximum 10:26 p.m., visible from North and South America through the night.							
Mar. 03	Mercury at greatest eastern elongation (27°)							
Mar. 09	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS AT 2:00 A.M.							
May. 02	Mercury is up in the sky not too far away from the Pleiades tonight right after sunset							
May. 06	Mercury is up in the sky near both the moon and the star Aldebaran (Taurus).							
Jun. 09	Venus is at superior conjunction, not visible from Earth							
Jul. 01	Mercury at greatest western elongation (21°)							
Jul. 04	Earth farthest distance from the sun (aphelion) 4:00 A.M. Distance: 94,557,006 miles							
Jul. 09	Jupiter at opposition, it rises in the east at sunset and visible all night.							
Jul. 11	Watch Saturn and Mars in the western sky in the hour after sunset							
Aug. 01	Total Solar eclipse favors extreme northern Canada to northern Greenland across Russia to central China.							
Aug. 16	Partial lunar eclipse favoring Africa, Europe, and central Asia.							
Sep. 11	Mercury at greatest eastern elongation (26°)							
Sep. 11	Mars and Venus very close and low in the western sky after sunset.							
Oct. 22	Mercury at greatest western elongation (18°)							
Oct. 25	Saturn near early morning Moon an hour before sunrise							
Oct. 27	Moon near Mercury this morning in the eastern sky an hour before dawn							
Nov. 04	EASTERN STANDARD TIME STARTS AT 2:00 AM							
Nov. 17	The Leonid meteor shower peaks early morning, the moon will interfere							
Nov. 30	Venus and Jupiter close tonight, look southwest an hour after sunset							
Dec. 05	Mars in conjunction with the sun (not visible)							
Dec. 29	Rising Mercury closes out the year with an evening with a close pass by Jupiter, the moon and Venus are close by							
*As of Aug. 2006 the IAU voted to re-classify Pluto as a Dwarf Planet. (International Astronomical Union)								

