

R.A.S.C. - BELLEVILLE CENTRE

NEWSLETTER - MAY, 2007

VOLUME 02 - NUMBER 05

Welcome to another newsletter of R.A.S.C. - Belleville Centre and to the weird, strange, odd, bizarre, peculiar, eerie, creepy, unusual, outlandish, eccentric, extraordinary, out-of-the-ordinary, funny, perplex and curious world of astronomy.



Beginning next month, the newsletter shall be taking on a new tack/format. Your most humble of correspondents shall be initiating something that Earthlings would refer to as a "lesson" in which you will be instructed upon various topics. The lesson that is planned for next month is extensive enough that it may be required to two (2) to three (3) newsletters to accomplish and complete.

Here is a list of useful information of meteor showers:

<u>Radiant</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	
<u>May</u>			
<u>Major Activity (easy)</u>			
eta Aquarids	21 April - 12 May R.A.: 22h 22m Dec.: -01.9°	05/06 May	Z.H.A.: 60
<u>Minor Activity (not so easy)</u>			
phi Boötids	R.A.: 16h 00m Dec.: +51.0°	01 May	Z.H.A.: 06
alpha Scorpiids	R.A.: 16h 00m Dec.: -20.0°	03 May	Z.H.A.: 06
epsilon Aquilids	04 May - 27 May	17/18 May	
May Librids	01 May - 09 May	06/07 May	
eta Lyrids	03 May - 12 May	08 May - 10 May	
North May Ophiuchids	08 April - 06 June	18/19 May	
South May Ophiuchids	21 April - 04 June	13 May - 18 May	
<u>Daylight Activity (not so easy)</u>			
epsilon Arietids	25 April - 27 May	09/10 May	
May Arietids	04 May - 06 June	16/17 May	
Omicron Cetids	07 May - 09 June	14 May - 25 May	
May Piscids	04 May - 27 May	12/13 May	

June

tau Herculids*	R.A.: 15h 12m Dec: +39.0°	03 June	Z.H.R.: 15
chi Scorpiids*	R.A.: 16h 28m Dec: -13.0°	05 June	Z.H.R.: 10
Arietids***	R.A.: 02h 56m Dec: +23.0°	07 June	Z.H.R.: 50
zeta Perseids***	R.A.: 04h 08m Dec: +23.0°	07 June	Z.H.R.: 40
Librids	R.A.: 15h 09m Dec: -28.3°	08 June	Z.H.R.: 10
Sagittariids	R.A.: 20h 16m Dec: -35.0°	11 June	Z.H.R.: 30
theta Ophiuchids	R.A.: 17h 48m Dec: -28.0°	13 June	Z.H.R.: 02
June Lyrids*	R.A.: 16h 32m Dec: +35.0°	16 June	Z.H.R.: 09
Corvids*	R.A.: 12h 48m Dec: -19.1°	26 June	Z.H.R.: 13
Draconids	R.A.: 16h 55m Dec: +56.0°	28 June	Z.H.R.: 05
June Boötids.	R.A.: 14h 36m Dec: +49.0°	28 June	Z.H.R.: 06
beta Taurids***	R.A.: 05h 44m Dec: +19.0°	29 June	Z.H.R.: 25
June Aquilids*	02 June - 02 July	16/17 June	
Ophiuchids	19 May - 02 July	20/21 June	
omega Scorpiids	19 May - 11 July	03-06 June	
June Scutids	02 June - 29 July	27/28/ June	

Guide: * -Major Activity
 -Beginner Level

 ** -Minor Activity
 -Expert Level (i.e. - Quite Experienced Observer)

 *** -Daylight Activity
 -Expert Level (i.e. - Quite Experienced Observer)

Planetary Observations (courtesy of R.A.S.C. - 2007 Observer's Handbook)

Mercury - reaches superior conjunction on 03 May. Mercury remains poorly observable until late in the month when it can be better observed in the evening twilight low in the west-north-west for observers near our latitude (~ 45°N). Mercury is brighter in late May than it is in early June.

Venus - is well up in the evening twilight as its elongation from the Sun increases to 45° by 31 May. Venus sets about one (1) hour after astronomical twilight at ~45°N)

Mars - at the beginning of May, Mars is in the constellation of Aquarius. By 09 May, Mars is in the constellation of Pisces. By 24 May, Mars is in the constellation of Cetus. By 29 May, Mars is in the constellation of Aquarius. At our latitude of 45°N, Mars rises shortly after morning astronomical twilight in the east.

Jupiter - rises in mid-evening on 15 May at mid-northern latitudes. Jupiter transits near 01:00.

Saturn - is at western quadrature in the second week of May. On 15 May, Saturn becomes readily observable near the end of civil twilight at ~51° altitude in the south-west at latitude ~45°. Saturn sets in the west-south-west during the hour after local midnight.

Full Moon: Wednesday, 02 May, 2007
 10h 09m

Last Quarter: Thursday, 10 May, 2007
 18h 04m

New Moon: Wednesday, 16 May, 2007
 17h 27m

First Quarter: Wednesday 23 May, 2007
 21h 03m

Apogee: Sunday, 27 May, 2007
 22h
 405,460 kilometres

Perigee: Tuesday, 15 May, 2007
 15h
 359,390 kilometres