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## **SKY CALENDAR MAY 2018**

**Evening Planets: Venus Planetarium business office:** 

An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.

and Jupiter are on nearly (517) 355-4676 opposite sides of the sky http://twitter.com/AbramsSkyNotes at the start of May. At mid-http://abramsplanetarium.org/ twilight, look for Venus above the WNW horizon when Jupiter is above the ESE horizon. Watch as these two brightest planets move closer to each other until late September, shortly before Venus drops out of the evening sky in October. Venus sets two and a half hours after sunset at mid-May. Jupiter reaches opposition on May 8. Jupiter reaches opposition on May 8. Follow Jupiter retrograding past the star Zubenelgenubi (Alpha Librae) on June 3.

Saturn will reach opposition in late June, and Mars in late July. A span of just 79 days includes oppositions of all three bright outer planets. This is the shortest span including oppositions of all three planets since 1984, when the span was just 57 days. The next time Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn all have oppositions within a shorter interval than in 2018 will be in 2078, when the events will span 75 days.

**Morning Planets:** Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars all part of the dawn sky. May 1, the three planets span 64°. By May 31, the span has increased to 80° as Mars moves eastward while Jupiter and Saturn move westward against the background stars. As we move towards the best opposition of Mars since 2003, watch as Mars brightens. Mars is -0.4 mag at the start of May and mag -1.2 at the month's end. The distance to Mars shrinks from 78.2 million miles to 57.3 million miles during May. Start looking with a telescope for signs of Mars' south polar cap. Mercury makes its least favorable morning apparition of the year this John S. French month. Look low in the east at dawn during the first two weeks of May.

**MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY** Thurs May 3, Wed May 2, → Moon  $\bigcirc$ . Mars Mars April 30 - May 2, Wed 2 one hour after sunset one hour after sunset Bull's one hour before sunrise Saturn Moon Saturn Bull's Tues 1 . Beta Lib Sat May 5, Fri May 4, **TAURUS** TEAPOR LIBRA **TAURUS** one hour one hour Antares Mon 30 Betelgeuse before sunrise before sunrise Delta Sco AI-Ve 6.6° AI-Ve 6.4° ORION Venus min dist Jupiter · Alpha Lib **SAGITTARIUS SAGITTARIUS** Aldebaran Aldebaran • **SCORPIUS** Pleiade **Pleiades** Hyades Hyades . WNW WNW SSW Wed May 9, Tue May 8, Wed May 9, Mav 9 - 12, Mon May 7 Thurs May 10, Moon ( ( one hour one hour before sunrise one hour after sunset one hour before sunrise Saturn one hour • Beta Alpha Lib Wed 9 Last Quarter after Moon sunset sunset 🔺 Venus **★** Jupiter Sunday May 6, Jupiter 10:09 p.m. Jupiter Thurs 10 one hour EDT Alpha Lib ·at opposition before sunrise **TAURUS ESE** ESE Fri 11 **SAGITTARIUS** Aldebaran WNW **ESE** Sat 12 Wed May 16, Thurs May 17. **Tues May 15** one hour after sunset one hour New Moon 7:48 a.m. EDT Fri Sat Venus Castor Moon after sunset Pollux May May Castor Pollux Mon May 14, Moon  $\supset$ 18, 19, Start of Venus one hour before sunrise Beta Beta two two Ramadan Sunday May 13, Tau hours hours Tau Young **GEMINI** 35 min before sunrise Betelgeuse after after **GEMINI** Betelgeuse Mars Saturn sunset sunset WNW Moon Old Moon Procyon TEAPOR Thurs May 24 May 22 - 24. CANIS Venus ENE Venus Mercury one hour one hour after sunset LEO MINOR before WNW Denebola May 20 - 22, • Denebola sunrise **SAGITTARIUS** one hour after sunset ★ Mars Saturn May 25 - 27, **VIRGO** Tues 22 Wed 23 Thurs 24 one hour after sunset **LEO** 0 Tues 22 Fri 25 🔾 0 SAGITTARIUS Gamma May 27 - 29, Mon 21 one hour after sunset . VIRGO looking Sat 26 Spica South Beta Lib Regulus Sunday 20 Sunday 27 Jupiter Thurs May 31, May 28 - 30, Alpha Librae one hour after sunset 90 min before sunrise Sunday 27 (Zubenelgenubi) Wed 30 Pollux Castor Mon 28 **LIBRA** Jupiter Tues 29 Mon May 21 Tues May 29 Sat May 26, Antares First Quarter Moon Full Moon 90 min after sunset 11:49 p.m. EDT 10:20 a.m. EDT Mon 28 Tues 29 Venus Procyon **SCORPIUS** Venus Jupiter \* WN.W W WNW'

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