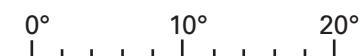


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An aid to enjoying the changing sky

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



Evenings: Venus, nearly of mag. -4, is bright enough to be seen in twilight quite soon after sunset. It follows the Sun over WNW horizon by only 3/4 hour on May 1, increasing to 1.4 hours at month's end. **Mercury** is nearby, in a very favorable apparition until fading late in month. Mercury opens May at mag. -1.1, fading to 0.0 by May 13, to mag. +1.0 by May 21, to +1.5 by May 24, and sharply thereafter. **Mars**, though dim at mag. +1.6 to +1.7, is higher and easily seen in a dark sky. Using binoculars, track Mars' motion of 0.6° per day as it passes by 3rd-mag. stars in Gemini on Apr. 28-May 2, May 9 and 23, and forms noteworthy configurations with brighter Pollux (+1.2) and Castor (+1.6) on May 15, 31, and June 7.

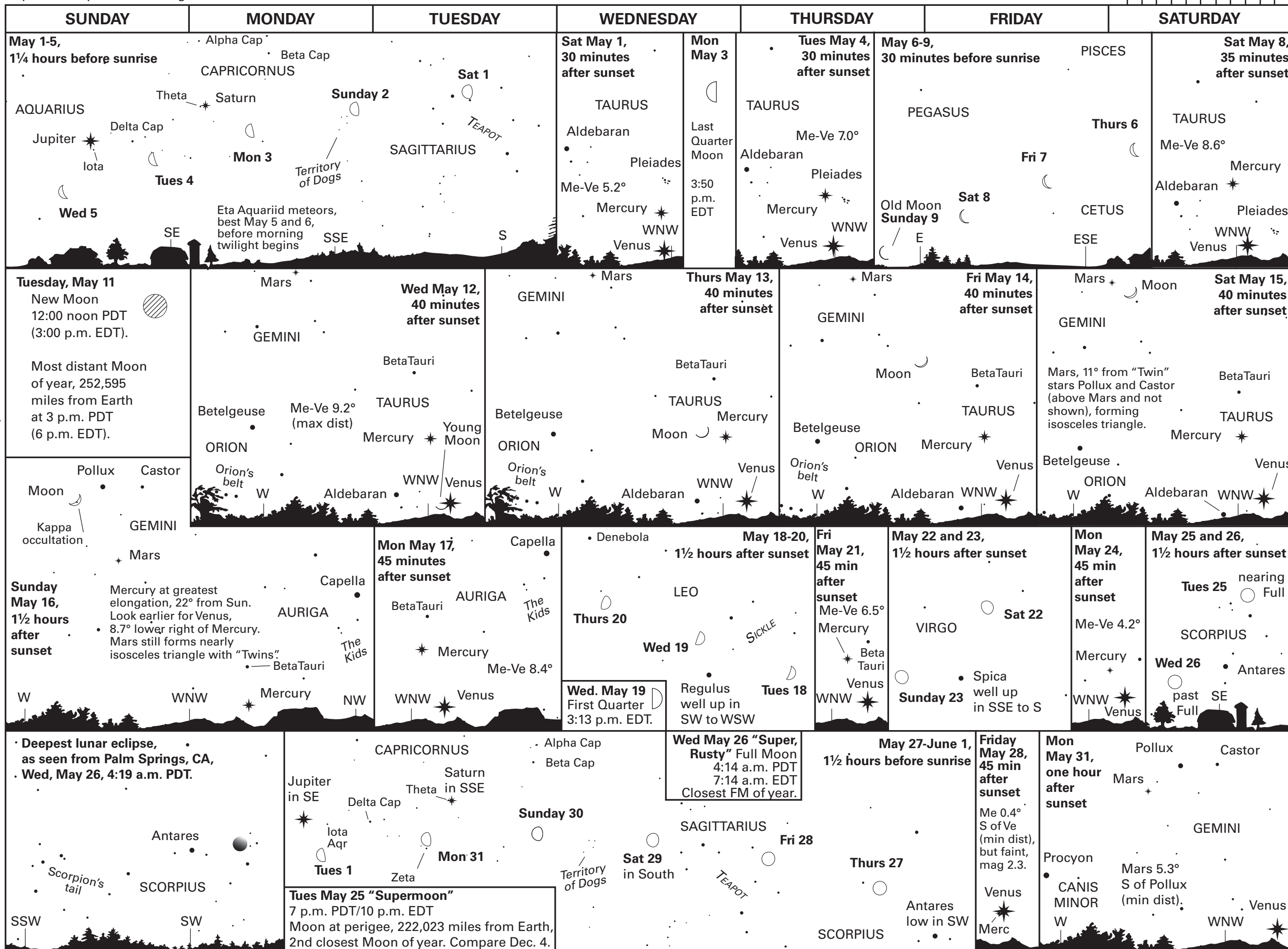
Mornings: Jupiter, shining at mag. -2.2 to -2.4, rises ahead of the Sun by nearly three hours on May 1, and by more than four hours on May 31. An hour before sunup, it's the prominent "morning star" in SE, while **Saturn**, three mags fainter at +0.7 to +0.6, is 15°-18° to Jupiter's upper right.

Catch a **waxing crescent Moon** near each evening planet in turn, on **May 12** (don't miss it-- look early!), May 13, and 15. Catch a **waning Moon** near planets at dawn on May 3-5, 31, and June 1.

A **brief total lunar eclipse** is visible from roughly the western half of U.S. on **morning of Wednesday, May 26**, from 4:11.5 a.m. until 4:26 a.m. PDT. Folks in northeastern U.S. miss out completely as Moon sets even before it begins to enter Earth's shadow. Details with links to more eclipse info are given on our **Extra Content Page**, abramsplanetarium.org/msta/

You'll also find mention of conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn with background stars to help you track their impending retrograde motions, and notes on May's rare events involving Jupiter's moons, and on the 3-D aspect of Saturn's rings.

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