



May 2026 Astronomy Report



- **Moon:**
 - Phases
- **Planets:**
 - Evening: Mercury, Venus, Jupiter
 - Morning: Mars, Saturn, Neptune
 - *Uranus not visible this month*
- **Comets/Asteroids/Meteor Showers:**
 - Eta Aquariid meteor shower
- **Dark Sky Star Party:**
 - 22171 Cody Ct - BVS, May 16
- **Public Viewing:**
 - Cub Lake, May 23

Moon - Phases

May 1 - Full Moon (Libra)

May 16 - New Moon

May 9 - Last Quarter (Capricornus)

May 23 - First Quarter (Leo)

May 31 - Full Moon (Ophiuchus)



Apogee (252,177 miles) - 4th

Perigee (222,498 miles) - 17th



May 2026 Astronomy Report

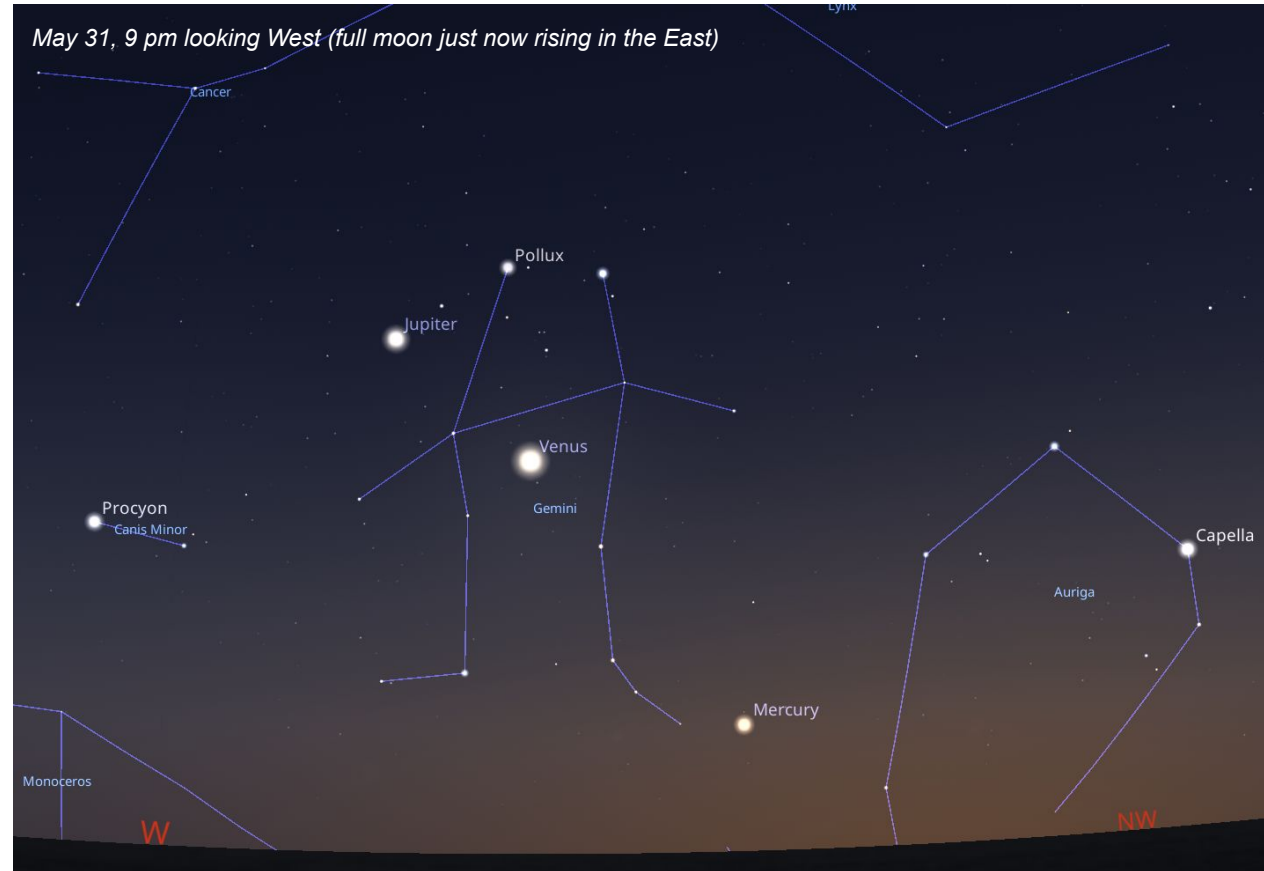


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Evening Planets: Mercury/Venus/Jupiter - (Gemini)

Venus shines brightly in the evening sky soon after sunset. It moves upward from Taurus to Gemini during May, approaching Jupiter as they will reach conjunction in June. Mercury becomes visible by the end of the month. Jupiter sets by 11pm by the end of May.

May 31, 9 pm looking West (full moon just now rising in the East)



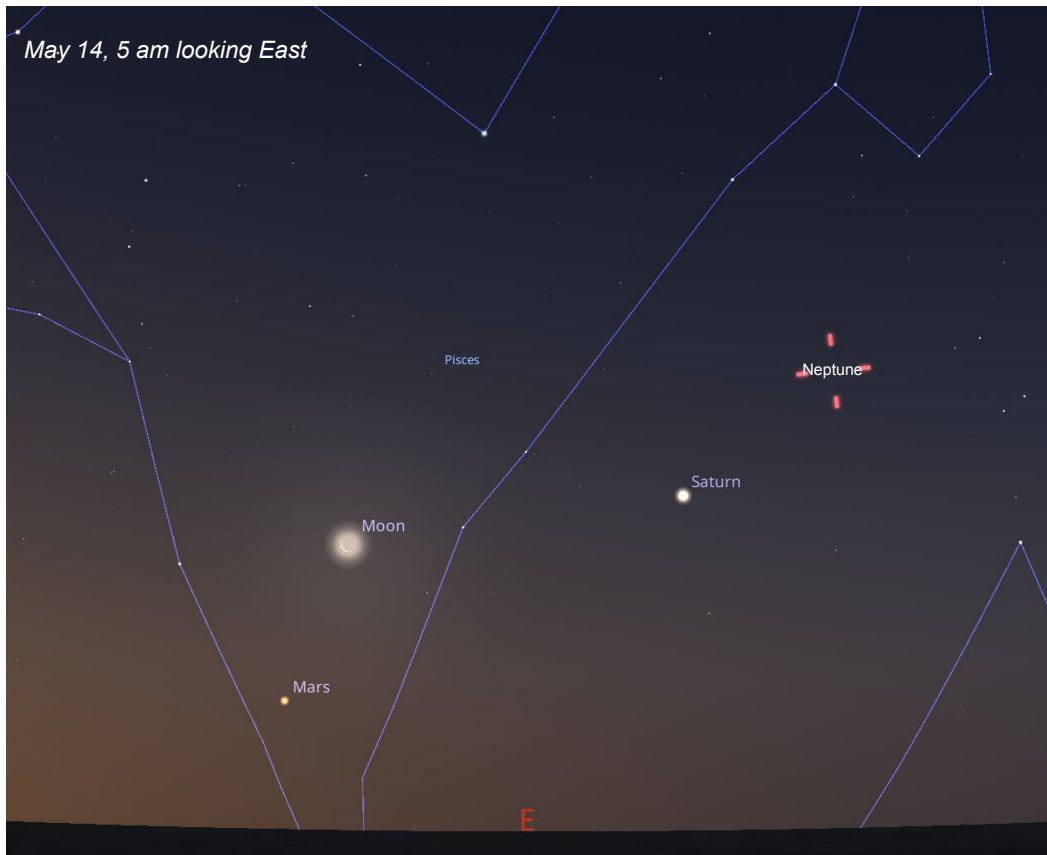
Crescent Moon & Venus

May 18, 9 pm looking West

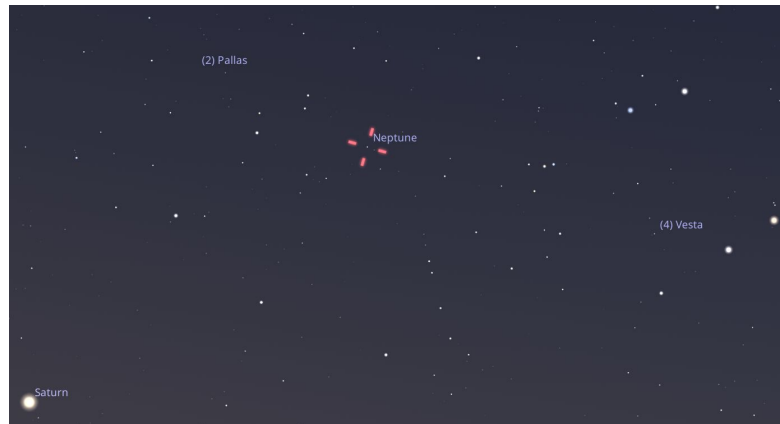


Morning Planets: Mars/Saturn/Neptune - (*Pisces*)

These three planets appear together the morning of May 14th along with a crescent Moon.



Closeup of Neptune



Saturn and Neptune move upward in morning sky in latter half of May.



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Meteor Shower - Eta Aquariid

- active April 19 - May 28; peak date morning of May 6 (waning gibbous moon interferes strongly)
- observed peak rate <12 meteors/hour an hour before dawn (due to moonlight)
- associated with Halley's Comet (along with October Orionids)

May 7, 5 am looking East





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Dark Sky Viewing

22171 Cody Ct - BVS, May 16

Ps 19:2

1 - M3



Globular cluster 34K light years
Large & bright cluster w/ 500K stars
1st Messier object discovered by Messier himself

2 - M53



Globular cluster 58K light years in Coma Berenices
One of the more outlying clusters from galactic center
Discovered by Johann Bode in 1775

3 - M68

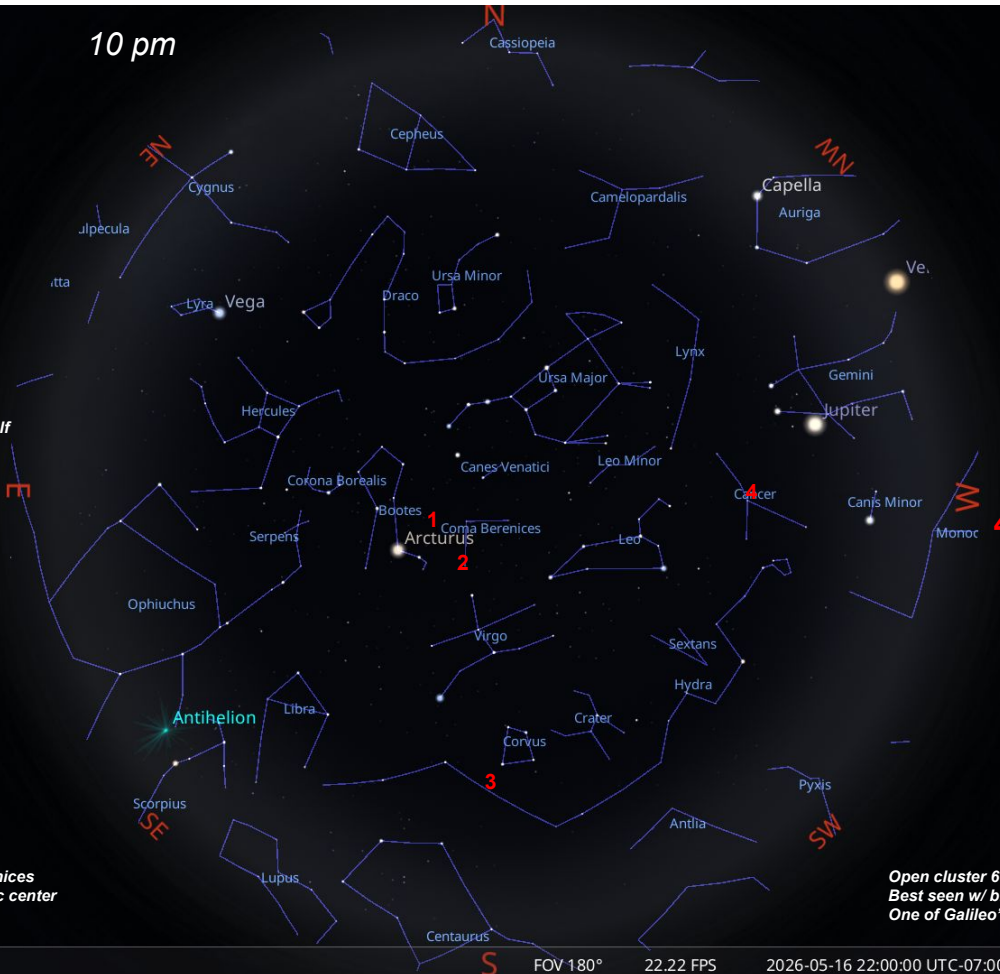


Globular cluster 34K light years in Corvus
May have been part of small galaxy
absorbed by Milky Way
Discovered by Messier in 1780

4 - M44 (Beehive Cluster)

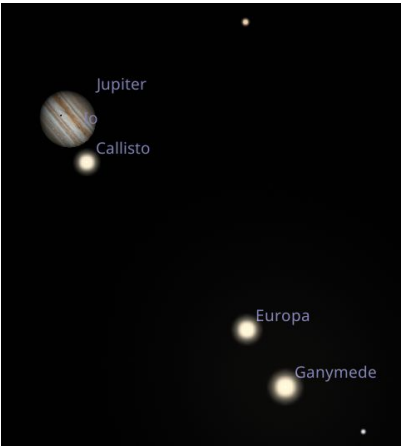
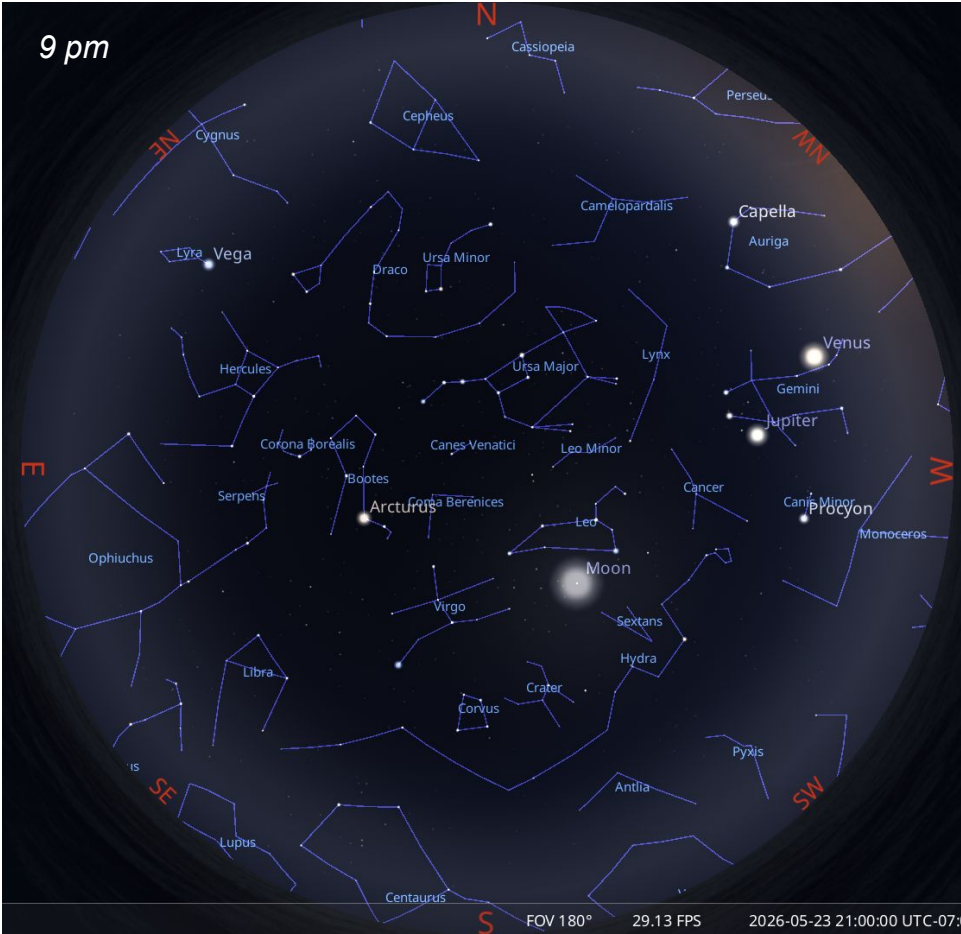


Open cluster 600 light years in Cancer
Best seen w/ binoculars or small scopes due to its large size
One of Galileo's first objects of study w/ telescope



Public Viewing

Cub Lake, May 23



May 2026 Viewing Chronology

- 1 - Full moon
- 7 - Eta Aquariid meteor shower (*dawn*)
- 9 - Last Qtr moon
- 14 - Mars/Saturn/Neptune (*dawn*)
- 16 - New moon; Dark Sky Star Party
- 18 - Venus/moon (*evening*)
- 23 - 1st Qtr moon; Public Viewing
- 31 - Full moon; Jupiter/Venus/Mercury (*evening*)

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