

Some Targets for the LAAS Public Star Party on Saturday, August 17, 2013

Sunset at 7:38 p.m. PDT

At 8:00 p.m. PDT, the Sidereal Time (Right Ascension at Griffith Observatory's Meridian) is 16 hrs. 53 mins.

SHOWCASE OBJECTS

The Moon

10½ days old (1st Quarter was at 3:56 a.m. PDT on August 14); in Sagittarius northeast of the "teapot."

Prominent features near the terminator: Rainbow Bay in the North; the gleaming white crater Aristarchus (the brightest crater on the moon) some distance southwest of Rainbow Bay; and, south of the equator, the large crater Gassendi on the northern "shore" of the "Sea of Moisture."

Venus in western Virgo, south of the midpoint of a line from Denebola to Spica; already low in the west at sunset.

Saturn In Virgo, northeast of Spica. Its moon Titan is about 4 Saturn diameters northwest of the planet at 8:00 p.m. PDT

MULTIPLE STARS

(SAO Numbers are included for use by computerized go-to mounts)

Prominent white doubles:

Zeta (ζ) Crb (in Corona Borealis; SAO # 064833; 15:39.4 +36:38; some see the secondary as faintly blue)

Graffias (Beta (β) Sco; in Scorpius; SAO # 159682; 16:05.4 -19:48)

Rho (ρ) Her (in Hercules; SAO # 066000; 17:23.7 +37:09)

95 Her (in Hercules; SAO # 085647; 18:01.5 +21:36)

Epsilon (ε) 1 & 2 Lyr (the "double-double"; in Lyra, SAO # 067309 & 067315; 18:44.3 +39:40)

16 Cyg (in Cygnus; SAO # 031899; 19:41.8 +50:32)

57 Aql (In Aquila; SAO # 143898; 19:54.6 -08:14)

8 Lac (in Lacerta; SAO # 072508; 22:35.9 +39:38)

Prominent doubles of various colors:

Rasalgethi (Alpha (α) Her; orange-red & blue-green; in Hercules; SAO # 102680; 17:14.6 +14:23)

Albireo (Beta (β) Cyg; orange & blue; in Cygnus; SAO # 087301; 19:30.7 +27:58)

Gamma (γ) Del (orange & grey-green; in Delphinus; SAO # 106475; 20:46.7 +16:07)

15 Aql (yellow & blue; in Aquila; SAO # 142996; 19:05.0 -04:02)

61 Cyg (2 deep-yellow nearby stars; in Cygnus; SAO # 070919; 21:06.9 +38:45; Piazzini's "flying star")

Triple Stars:

Nu (ν) Sco (in Scorpius; SAO # 159764; 16:12.0 – 19:28; this is actually a double-double in some telescopes)

16-17 Dra (in Draco; SAO # 030013; 16:36.2 + 52:55; two widely separated stars of which one is a tight double)

Struve 2816 (in Cepheus; SAO # 033626; 21:39.0 +57:29)

NEBULAE WITH ASSOCIATED STAR CLUSTERS

In Sagittarius: M8 ("Lagoon") and M17 ("Omega" or "Swan"). In Serpens Cauda: M16 ("Eagle").

OTHER PROMINENT OPEN CLUSTERS

In binoculars or rich field telescopes: "Coathanger" asterism (Cr 299 in Vulpecula; 19:26.2 +20:06)

In other telescopes: NGC 6633 & IC 4665 in Ophiuchus. M6 ("Butterfly"), M7 & NGC 6231 in Scorpius.

M21, M23 & M25 in Sagittarius. M11 (the "wild duck cluster") in Scutum, M29 & M39 in Cygnus.

PROMINENT GLOBULAR CLUSTERS

M5 in Serpens Caput. M10 & M12 In Ophiuchus. M4 in Scorpius. M13 in Hercules. M22 in Sagittarius.

RED CARBON STARS

(SAO Numbers are included for use by computerized go-to mounts)

V Crb (in Corona Borealis, SAO # 064929; 15:49.5 +39:34; a variable star that may still be too faint)

T Lyr (in Lyra; SAO # 067087; 18:32.3 +37:00; a variable star between mags. 7.5 and 9.0)

Compiled by Herbert Kraus