

Some Targets for the LAAS Public Star Party on Saturday, May 18, 2013

Sunset at 7:51 p.m. PDT

At 8:00 p.m. PDT the Sidereal Time (Right Ascension at the Meridian) is 11 hours 54.76 minutes

SHOWCASE OBJECTS

The Moon

8 days old (1st Quarter was at 9:34 p.m. PDT on May 17); in Leo (southeast of Regulus)

Prominent craters near the terminator: large dark-floored Plato in the North;

Eratosthenes somewhat north of the middle; Tycho (with a prominent central peak) in the South

Saturn Its giant moon, Titan, is about 10 Saturn diameters due East of the planet at 8:00 p.m. PDT.

Jupiter, Venus & Mercury are all low in the western sky at sunset, but not for long.

Mercury will set at 8:35 p.m., Venus at 8:55 p.m. and Jupiter at 9:38 p.m.

MULTIPLE STARS

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

Prominent white doubles:

Castor (in Gemini; SAO # 060198; 07:34.6 +31:53)

Porrina (in Virgo; SAO # 138917; 12:41.7 -01:27; a pair of 3.5 mag. stars now only 2 arcseconds apart)

Mizar (in Ursa Major; SAO # 028737; 13:23.9 +54:56)

Σ 1962 (in Libra; SAO # 140671; 15:38.7 -08:24)

Sigma CrB (in Corona Borealis; SAO # 065165; 16:14.7 +33:52)

Prominent doubles of various colors:

Iota Cnc (gold & blue; the "UCLA" or "Boy Scout" star; in Cancer; SAO # 080416; 08:46.7 +28:46)

Algieba (Gamma Leonis; gold & gold; in Leo; SAO # 081298; 10:20.0 +19:50)

Cor Caroli (Alpha CVn (yellow & blue-grey; in Canes Venatici, SAO # 063257; 12:56.0 +38:19)

Izar (Epsilon Boo; yellow & blue, magnitude differential challenge; in Boötes; SAO # 083500; 14:45.0 +27:04)

24 Com (pale orange & blue; in Coma Berenices; SAO # 100160; 12:35.1 +18:23)

Delta Ser (yellow & blue; in Serpens Caput; SAO # 101623; 15:34.8 +10:32)

PROMINENT OPEN CLUSTERS

For binoculars or rich field telescopes:

M44 (the Beehive, in Cancer)

Melotte 111 (the Coma Cluster, in Coma Berenices; centered near 16 Com, SAO # 082314, 12:27 +26:50)

Can fit within the fields of view of medium to long focal length eyepieces:

M35 (in Gemini), M36 & M38 (in Auriga). These 3 clusters are in the far West and will set before 10:00 p.m.

M48 (in Hydra).

PROMINENT GLOBULAR CLUSTERS

M68 (in Hydra), M3 (in Canes Venatici), M53 (in Coma Berenices)

M5 (in Serpens Caput), M13 (in Hercules; still low in the Eastern sky at sunset)

GALAXIES THAT MIGHT BE VISIBLE IN URBAN SKIES

M81 & M82 (in Ursa Major); M51 & M63 (in Canes Venatici); NGC 2903 (in Leo); NGC 3115 (in Sextans).

RED CARBON STARS

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

V Hya (in Hydra; SAO # 179278; 10:51.7 -21:16.2; distinctly but pale red)

SS Vir (in Virgo; 12:25.3 +00:48; at apex of isosceles triangle with NGC4517 & SAO # 138721)

Gamma CVn (in Canes Venatici; SAO # 044317; 12:45.1 +45:26.4;

this star which astronomer Angelo Secchi named "La Superba" is bright orange rather than red)