

What's Up?

May 1-31, 2026

Made with the 2026 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2026
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

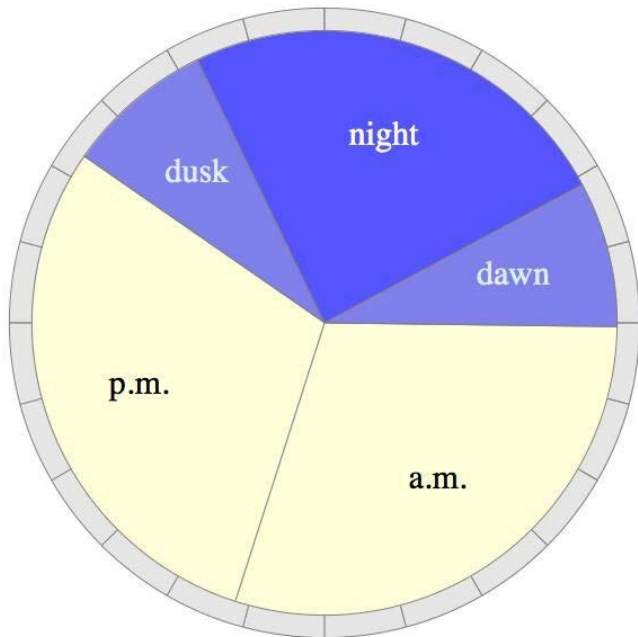
photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

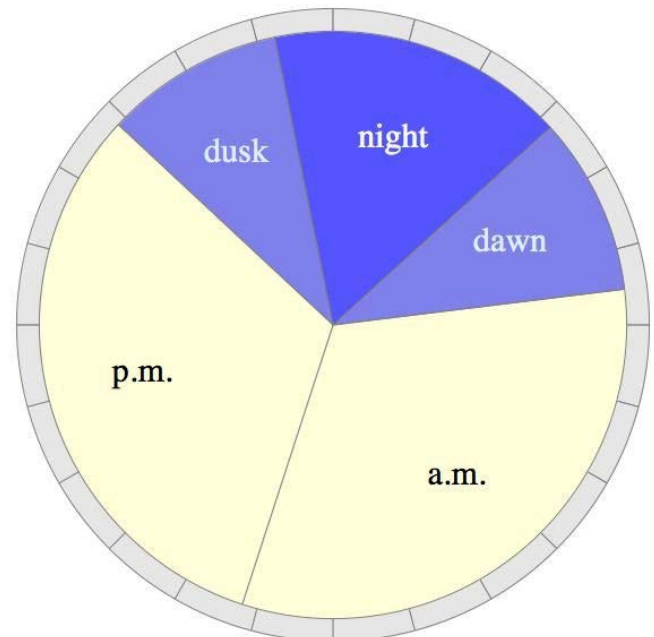
[Today's Solar Activity](#)

Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	“Noon”	Sunlight	Max Altitude
May 1	8:19 p.m.	10:15 p.m.	5.8 h	4:08 a.m.	6:04 a.m.	1:11 p.m.	14.3 h	60.6°
May 31	8:51 p.m.	11:13 p.m.	4.0 h	3:12 a.m.	5:32 a.m.	1:12 p.m.	15.3 h	67.3°

Halifax May 01



Halifax May 31



[YouTube: RASC Halifax](#)

MAY 2026

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

				 FULL MOON	 WANING GIBBOUS	 WANING GIBBOUS
 WANING GIBBOUS	 WANING GIBBOUS	 WANING GIBBOUS	 WANING GIBBOUS	 WANING GIBBOUS	 THIRD QUARTER	 WANING CRESCENT
 WANING CRESCENT	 WANING CRESCENT	 WANING CRESCENT	 WANING CRESCENT	 WANING CRESCENT	 NEW MOON	 WAXING CRESCENT
 WAXING CRESCENT	 WAXING CRESCENT	 WAXING CRESCENT	 WAXING CRESCENT	 WAXING CRESCENT	 FIRST QUARTER	 WAXING GIBBOUS
 WAXING GIBBOUS	 WAXING GIBBOUS	 WAXING GIBBOUS	 WAXING GIBBOUS	 WAXING GIBBOUS	 WAXING GIBBOUS	 FULL MOON

The Moon This Month

Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
May 1	<i>Full Moon</i>	Birds Laying Eggs	<u>Penatmuiku's</u>
May 3-4	Moon near Antares and M4		
May 4	Moon at apogee (405,800 km)		
May 5-6	Eta Aquarids meteor shower peak		
May 9	<i>Last Quarter</i>		
May 14	Moon between Saturn and Mars		
May 16	<i>New Moon</i>	Frogs Croaking	<u>Sqoljuiku's</u>
May 17	Moon at perigee (358,100 km)		
May 18	Moon conjunction with Venus		
May 19 & 20	Moon near Jupiter		
May 21	Moon near M44		
May 22	Moon near Regulus		
May 23	<i>First Quarter</i>		
May 30-31	Moon near Antares and M4		
May 31	<i>Full Moon</i>		



Moon, Antares and M4 Binocular view (15x70)

FOV 4.4° @ 1:45 a.m. on 4 May



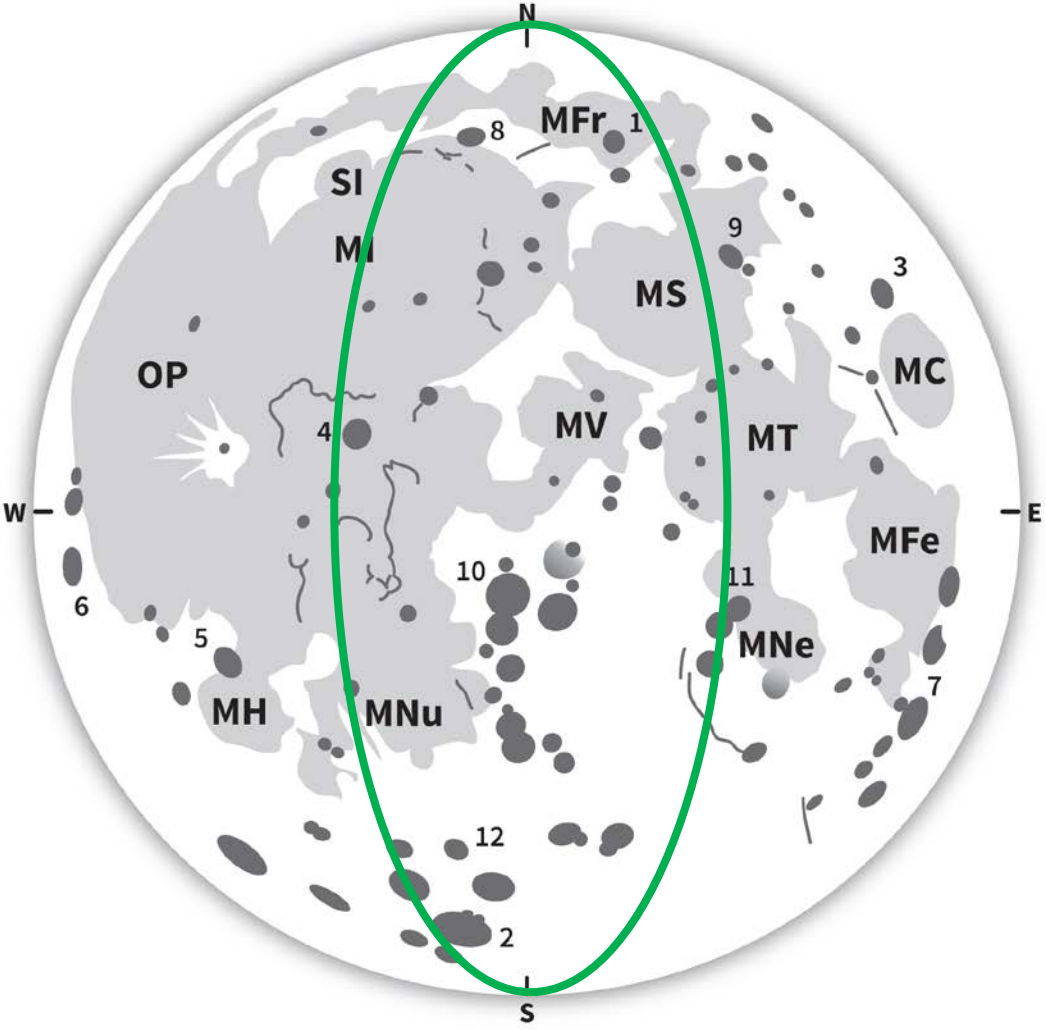
Mars, waxing crescent Moon, and Saturn
@ 5:00 a.m. on 14 May



Venus and waxing crescent Moon
Binocular view (15x70) FOV 4.4°
@ 9:30 p.m. on 18 May



Waxing crescent Moon and M44
Binocular view (7x50) FOV 7.1°
@ 9:30 p.m. on 21 May



MARE

- MC: Mare Crisium
- MFe: Mare Fecunditatis
- MFr: Mare Frigoris
- MH: Mare Humorum
- SI: Sinus Iridum
- MI: Mare Imbrium
- MNe: Mare Nectaris
- MNu: Mare Nubium
- MS: Mare Serenitatis
- MT: Mare Tranquillitatis
- MV: Mare Vaporum
- OP: Oceanus Procellaru

best view May 21-25 after sunset

The Moon in

Explore the Universe

observe 3 of each in binoculars

CRATERS

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Aristoteles | 5. Gassendi | 10. Ptolomaeus |
| 2. Clavius | 6. Grimaldi | 11. Theophilus |
| 3. Cleomedes | 7. Petavius | 12. Tycho |
| 4. Copernicus | 8. Plato | |
| | 9. Posidonius | |

challenge

Lunar V and Lunar X

V →

X →

photos: David Hoskin

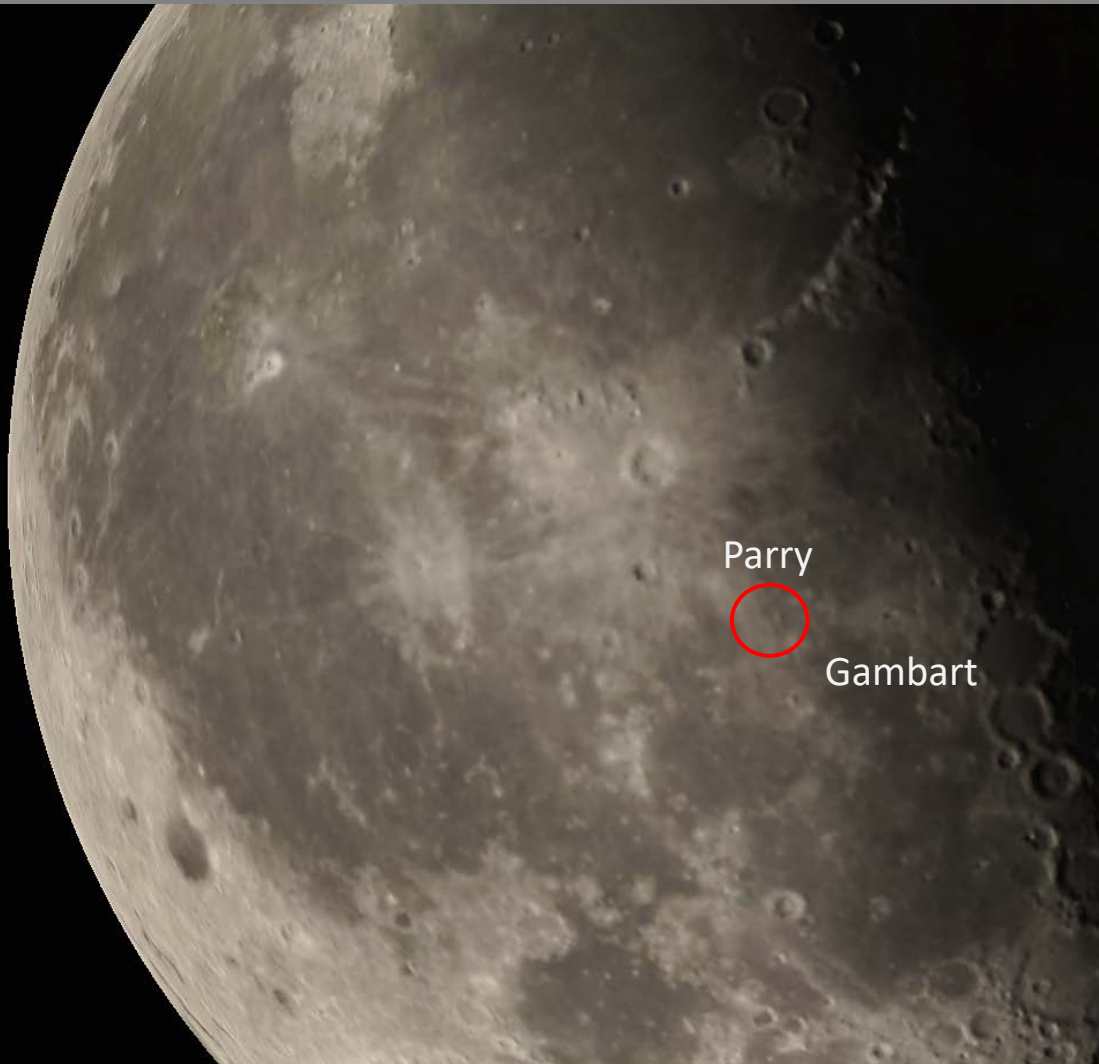
Ukert

La Caille
Bianchini
Purbach

Look at 7:44 p.m. ADT on May 23 for this clair-obscur effect

Curtiss Cross

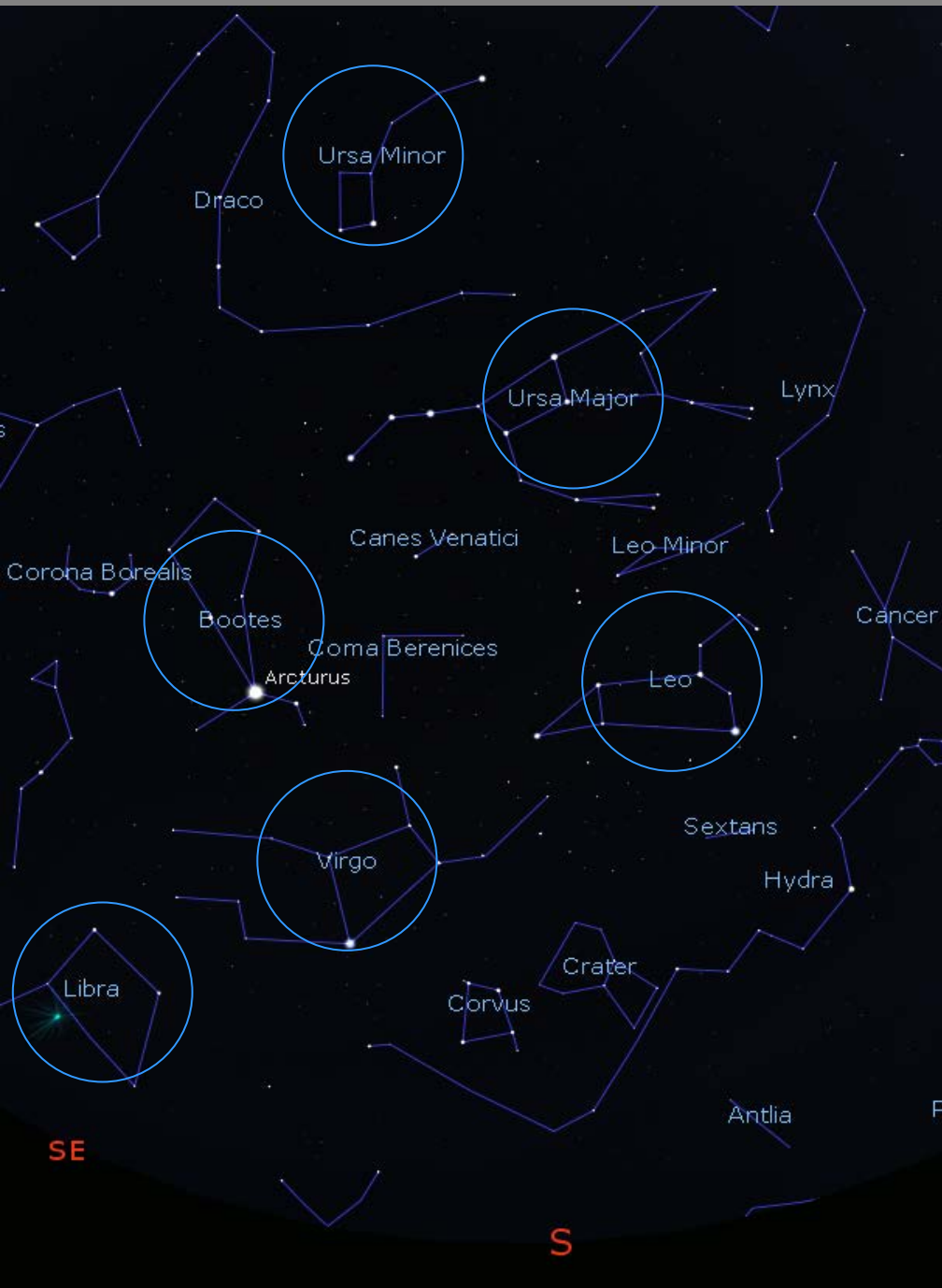
challenge



Look at about 3:30 a.m. ADT just after Last Quarter on
May 9 for this clair-obscur effect



Venus meets M35 on 20 May @ 9:45 p.m.
Binocular view (15x70) FOV 4.4°



Explore the Universe: Spring Constellations





Explore the Universe:

Spring Stars

Ranking:

#3 Arcturus

#14 Spica

#22 Regulus

#37 Dubhe

#48 Polaris

- Denebola

- Zubenelgenubi

- Zubeneschamali



Explore the Universe: Spring Deep-Sky

Messier 5 (NGC 5904)

Ancient densely populated
globular cluster in Serpens
(view in binoculars in dark sky)



photo: David Hoskin

Explore the Universe: Double and Multiple Stars

- Adhafera/Zeta Leonis (mag. 3.4) and 35 Leonis (mag. 5.9) are an optical double
- Separation of 325.9 arcseconds
- Adhafera comes from the Arabic "the braid/curl" referring to the lion's mane
- Adhafera and 35 Leonis are 174 light years from each other



The Eta Aquariid Meteor Shower

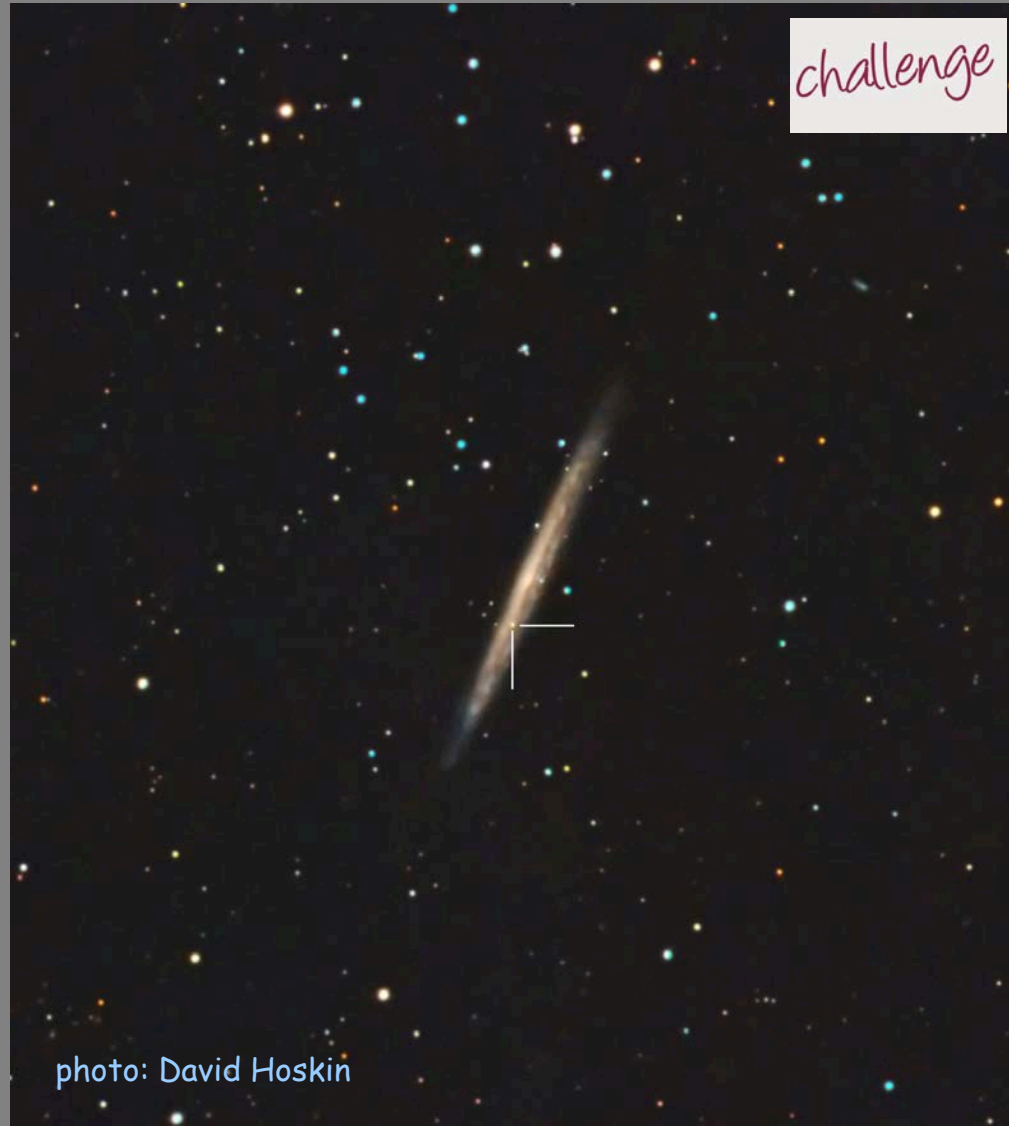
- Eta Aquariid radiant is in Aquarius; source is Halley's Comet debris
- Peak is night of May 5-6
- Expect 10-30 meteors per hour at a dark sky site
- Persistent trains are likely but few fireballs
- Best time to view is before dawn but waning gibbous Moon will be a factor



A New Supernova Challenge



SN2026kid
Mag. 15.6 type II SN
NGC 1507 in Draco
Discovered 22 Apr 2026



Questions?



photos: David Hoskin