



## What's Up?

### Sky Events for: July 2021

- 7/1 Last Quarter Moon
- 7/2 Dusk: West-northwest horizon. Venus will be passing just north of the Beehive Cluster (M44). Because of the sky brightness, binoculars will be needed to see the cluster, and even that will be challenging. Mars will be about 5 – 6 degrees above and to the left of the pair.
- 7/4 Dawn: Mercury is at its greatest elongation (22 degrees West of the Sun). Because of the steep angle of the ecliptic in the summer morning sky, Mercury will achieve a higher elevation on the 9th and 10th of this month. Mercury will brighten during the remainder of the month as it again begins its sunward plunge.
- 7/5 Moon at apogee (405,431 km) furthest from Sun. Compared to perigee (on the 21st ) closest to Sun will be 364,520 km.
- 7/6 – 8 Dawn: The waning Moon will pass through Taurus. 6th – above Aldebaran, 7th – the moon will make a nice triangle with Aldebaran and Mercury, and the 8th the Moon will be about 4 degrees from Zeta Tauri which is the lower (eastern) horn. Mercury will be about 1/2 degree from Zeta Tauri. Bright Mercury will be about 17 times brighter than Zeta.
- 7/10 New Moon
- 7/11 – 13 Dusk: Low in the Western Horizon. Small crescent moon to the north of Venus and Mars. (Venus and Mars are about 1 degree apart on the 11th). On the 12th – Moon above Venus and Mars. (Tonight the planets are approx. 1/2 degree apart). 13th – Venus continues to climb higher in the sky, while Mars continues its decent.
- 7/15 Dawn: unobstructed east-northeast horizon. Mercury will be 5' from Mu Geminorum. This conjunction illustrates how fast Mercury is moving. (more than 10 degrees in a single week). Binoculars or a small scope will be necessary.
- 7/17 First Quarter Moon

## Sky Events for: July 2021 (continued)

- 7/19 Evening: Waxing Moon will be ~ 1 degree from Beta Scorpii, in the Scorpion's claw. (The northern one). Beta Scorpii is a beautiful little yellow and green double. Take a look at it through a scope while you watch this one.
- 7/21 Moon at Perigee (see above). Dusk: Western Sky. Venus just over 1 degree North of Regulus.
- 7/24 Full Moon.
- 7/24 – 26 Dawn: Western Sky: 7/24 - Saturn 4 degrees N of Moon. 7/25 - Moon between Saturn and Jupiter. 7/26 - Jupiter 4 degrees N of Moon. Expect questions from the neighbors.
- 7/29 Dusk: west-northwest: Mars and Regulus, less than a degree apart. Regulus will be nearly half a magnitude brighter than Mars.
- 7/31 Last Quarter Moon.