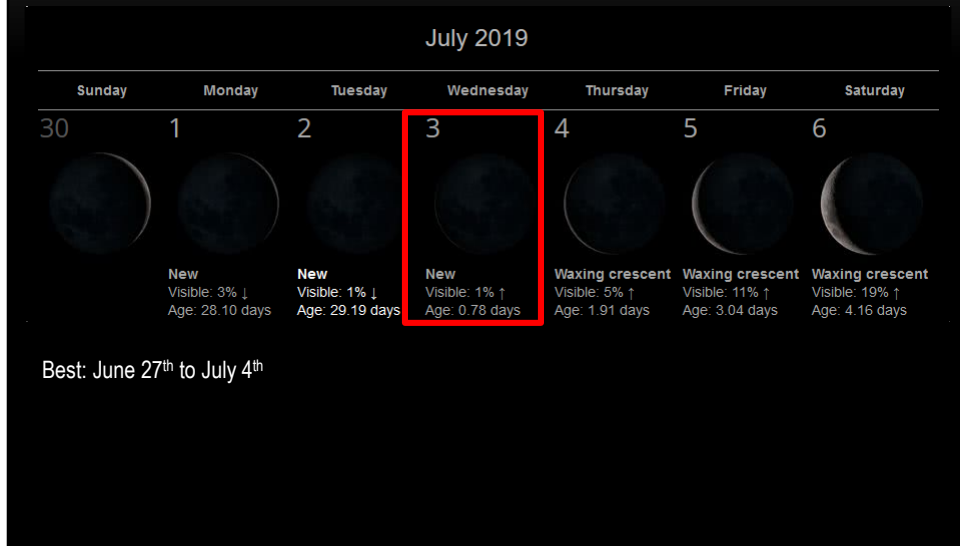


BAS - MONTHLY SKY GUIDE

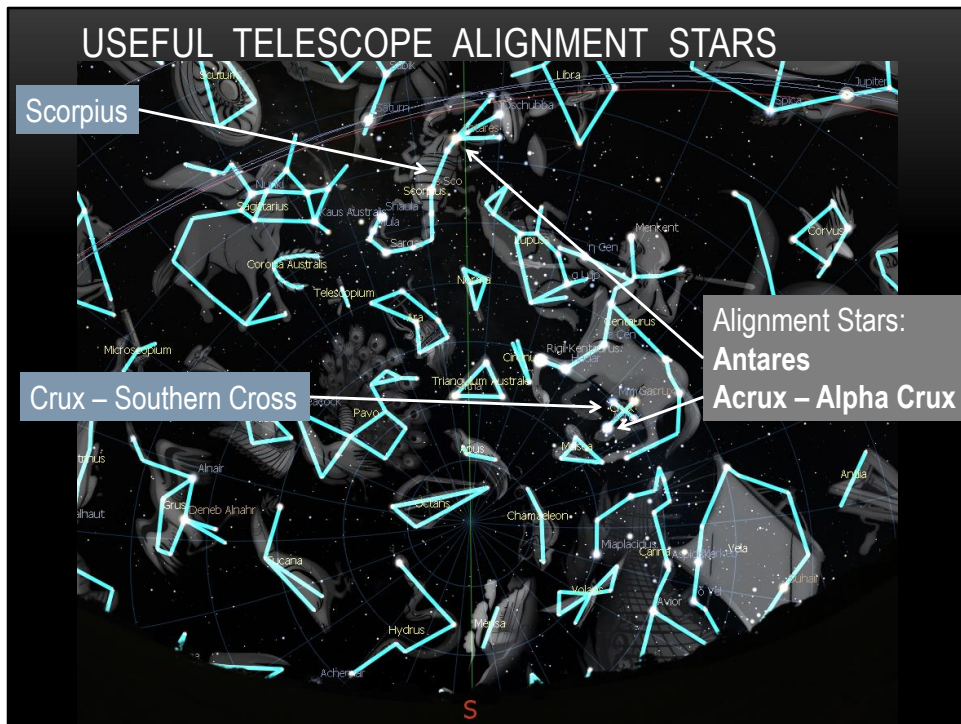
July 2019

Long cool winter nights of July mean it is Sagittarius time. July is the best time to look deep into the core of our own Milky Way Galaxy.

DARK SKY – BEST OBSERVING DATES - JULY



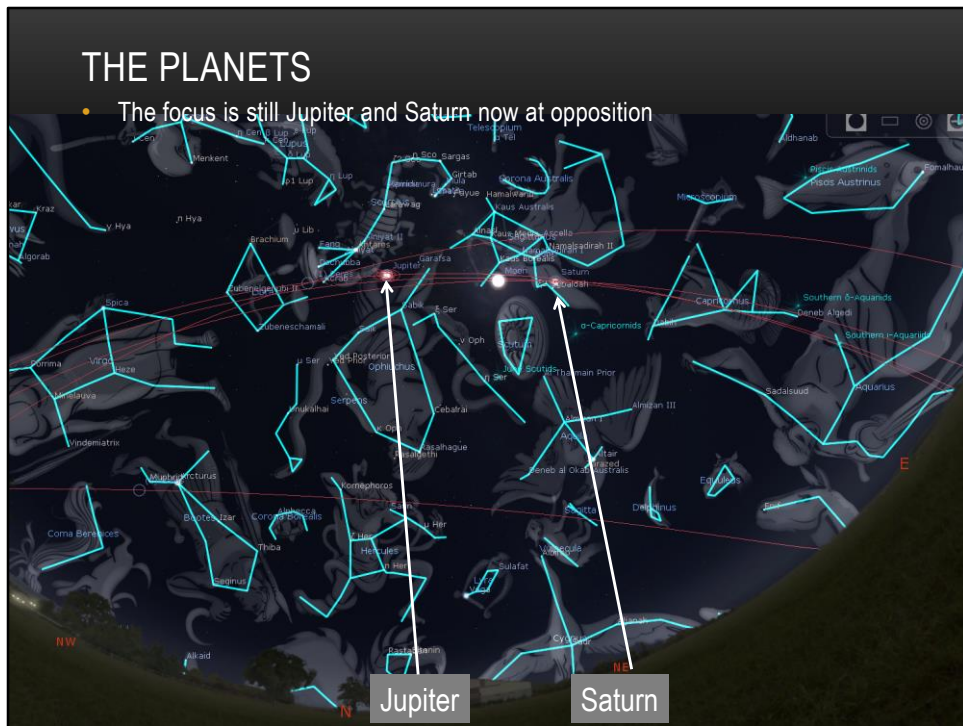
New Moon is Wednesday July 3rd. A full evening of observing from sunset through to about midnight can be achieved for about a week prior to the New Moon. So plan your observing dates from about June 27th onwards. The slim waxing crescent of the early New Moon sets around the end of astronomical twilight on July 4th so the setting Moon starts to eat into early evening observing time after that date. So make good use of the period around June 27th to July 4th.



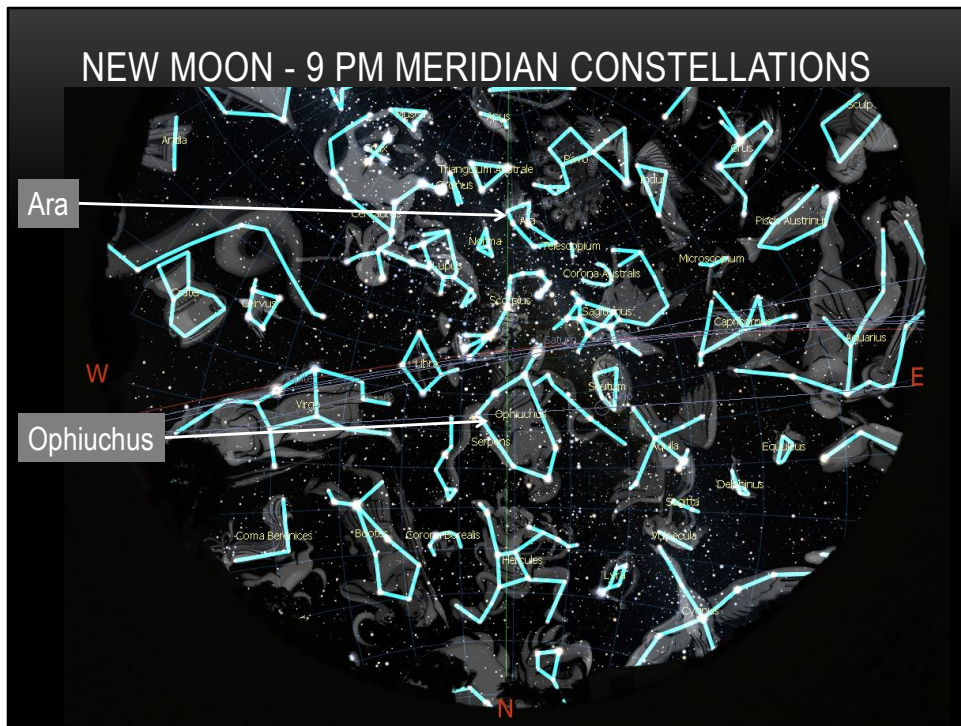
Two prominent and widely spaced stars that make good alignment stars are Antares and Alpha Crux. We've pointed out Antares before as a good alignment star. Antares has a distinctive bright orange colour that is impossible to mistake for any other star in this part of the sky. Acrux or Alpha Crux is another good alignment star as it is the brightest star in the easily found constellation of Crux, the Southern Cross. The star is also a wide double star so it makes it even easier to ensure you have the correct star in the eyepiece.

[illegible]

constellation Scorpius, “The Scorpion”, sits near the central bulge region of the Milky Way Galaxy. This means it is a good place to find globular clusters attracted to the gravitational mass of the centre of our galaxy. In this one constellation there are ten globular clusters that can be seen through amateur telescopes plus another six or more that are much more challenging. Globular Cluster Messier 4, located about 7,300 light years away is an impressive fuzzy ball of stars very close to the bright orange star Antares. This makes it easy to find. Another great telescope view is open cluster Messier 7 located near the curled sting of the Scorpion. This cluster is visible to the naked eye and contains dozens of bright stars. It is located about 1,600 light years from the Sun and is commonly known as Ptolemy’s Cluster, after the famous ancient Greek astronomer.



Saturn is now at opposition and at its best for observing throughout the night. Even though Jupiter is now a month past opposition and its closest approach to Earth, it is still a magnificent sight.

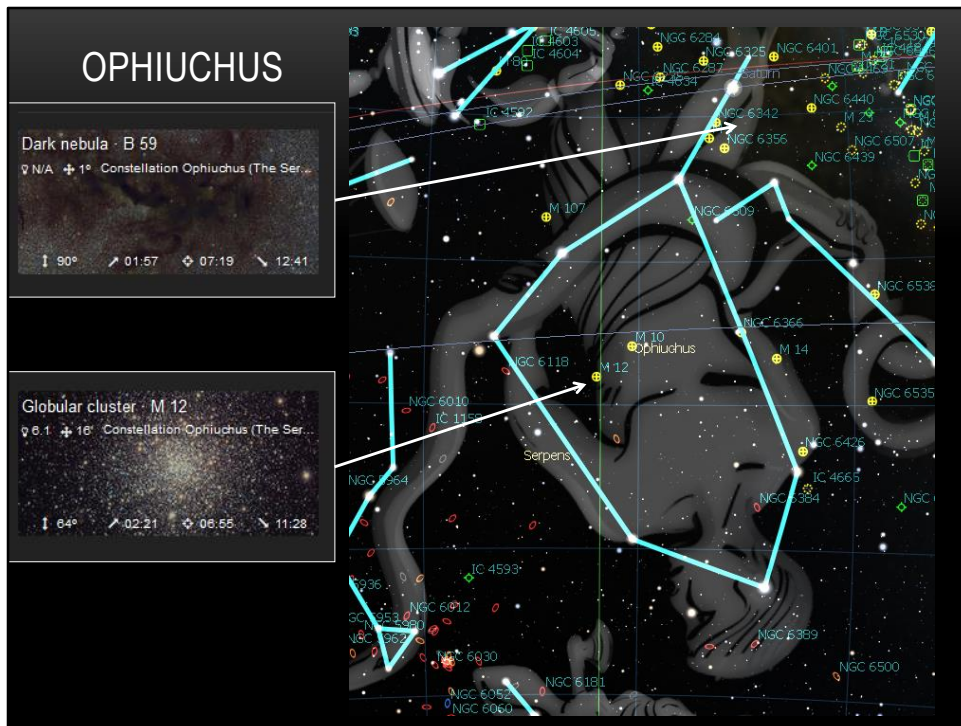


A couple of constellations in the sky along the meridian at about 9 PM during the New Moon period are the constellations Ara and Ophiuchus. Ara is a small constellation in the southern sky located near the curly tail of Scorpius. It is not always easy to identify but it does have a bent rectangle shape - which is supposed to represent an altar where the ancient Greek gods swore allegiance to Zeus before going in to battle with the Titans.

Ophiuchus is another ancient constellation defined by Ptolemy around 100 AD. Ophiuchus translates to “he who holds the serpent”. The adjoining constellation Serpens is the snake that Ophiuchus is carrying.

ARA

needs a dark sky in order to see many of its objects. Start with globular cluster NGC 6397. Even though it is one of the closest globular clusters to our Sun it is 220 light years away and often just looks like a small hazy disc through a telescope. NGC 6221 is another challenge. It is a small spiral galaxy located 36 million light years from us.



Ophiuchus is best known for globular clusters, about 22 of them, plus some dark and colourful nebulae and some distant galaxies. The most impressive globular cluster is Messier 12 located about 16,000 light years away from our Sun. While best seen in deep sky astro-photos the dark nebula Barnard 59, or the Pipe Nebula, is an impressive black dust cloud stretching from Scorpius to Ophiuchus. You will need a dark sky and wide-field eyepiece to capture the swath of background stars that make the inky black Pipe Nebula stand out.

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THIRD QUARTER
23:20 11:20

New Moon: in 9 days (Saturday 28)
Full Moon: in 23 days (Saturday 11)

Sun, Moon & Planets Information

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Find Objects

Object Type

Select none

- ☐ Asterism
- ☒ Bright nebula
- ☒ Dark nebula
- ☒ Diffuse nebula
- ☒ Galaxy
- ☒ Galaxy cluster
- ☒ Globular cluster
- ☒ Open cluster
- ☒ Planetary nebula
- ☐ Quasar
- ☐ Supernova remnant

Minimum Elevation

Apparent Magnitude

Apparent Size

Surface Brightness

Catalogues

Coordinates

Constellation

Dorado (The Swordfish)

Local time

Reset filters Search

My Observing List (0)

306 results

Print CSV

Large Magellanic Cloud
7 8.9 + 10.8° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Tarantula Nebula
7 8.3 + 20° Const...

Bright nebula
7 8.5 + 13° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Bright nebula : NGC 1966 / NGC 1962
7 8.5 + 13° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Click Find Objects

Select object types

Select constellation

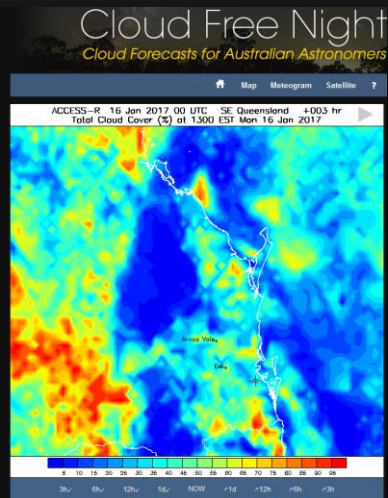
Search

<https://dso-browser.com/>

Make sure you take a look at the great observing planning tool DSO-Browser before the New Moon period. This is a fantastic tool to help you build a list of objects you can try and find each month.

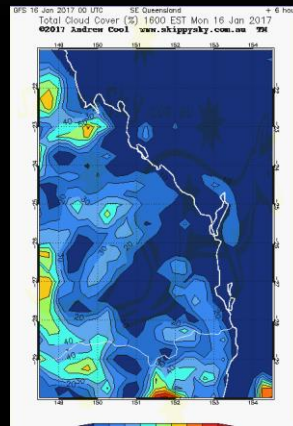
Just a few clicks on [www.dso-browser.com](https://dso-browser.com) can generate a fantastic observing list of object types you are interested in.

AVOIDING CLOUDS
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More info: <http://philhart.com/content/cloud-forecasts-australian-astronomers>

www.skippysky.com



And the find the best cloud-free evenings for observing make sure you check CloudFreeNight and Skippysky as you plan your next observing evening.