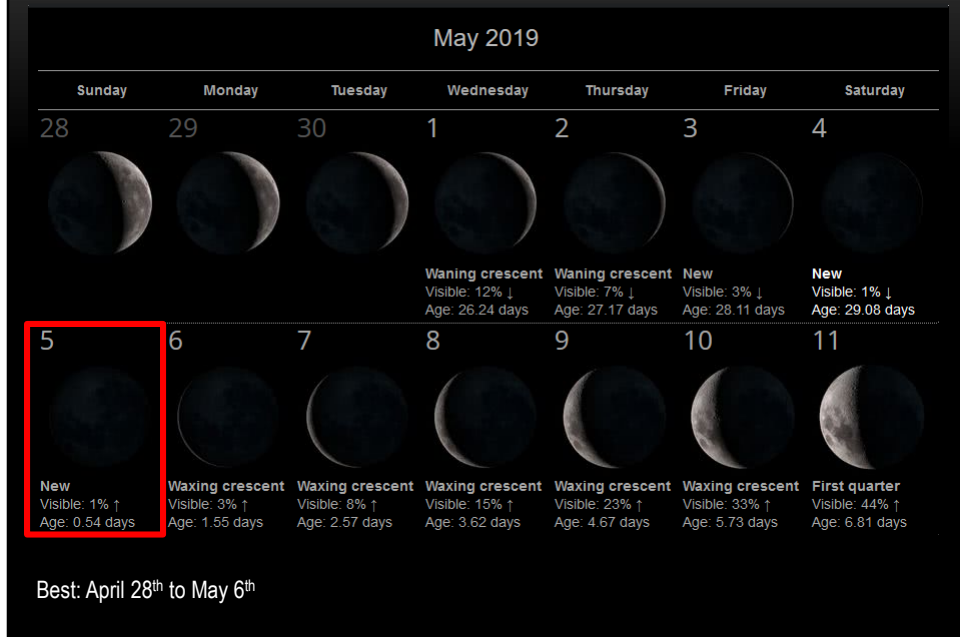


BAS - MONTHLY SKY GUIDE

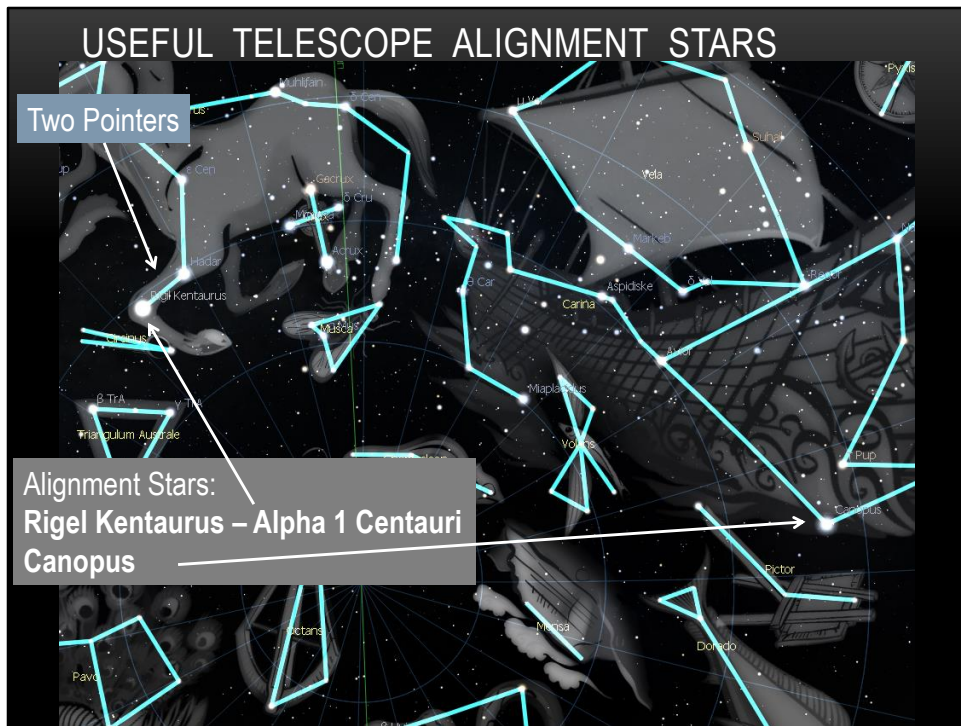
May 2019

The outer arms of our Milky Way Galaxy now stretch from the eastern to western horizon but low in the southern sky. To the north the sky is nothing but deep space and countless galaxies.

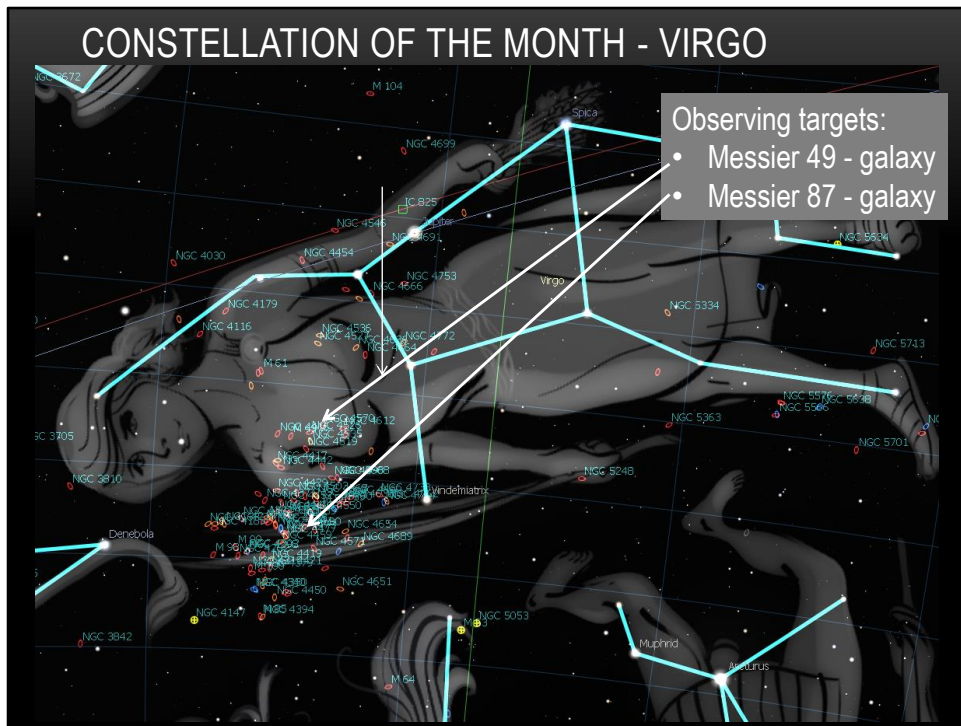
DARK SKY – BEST OBSERVING DATES - MAY



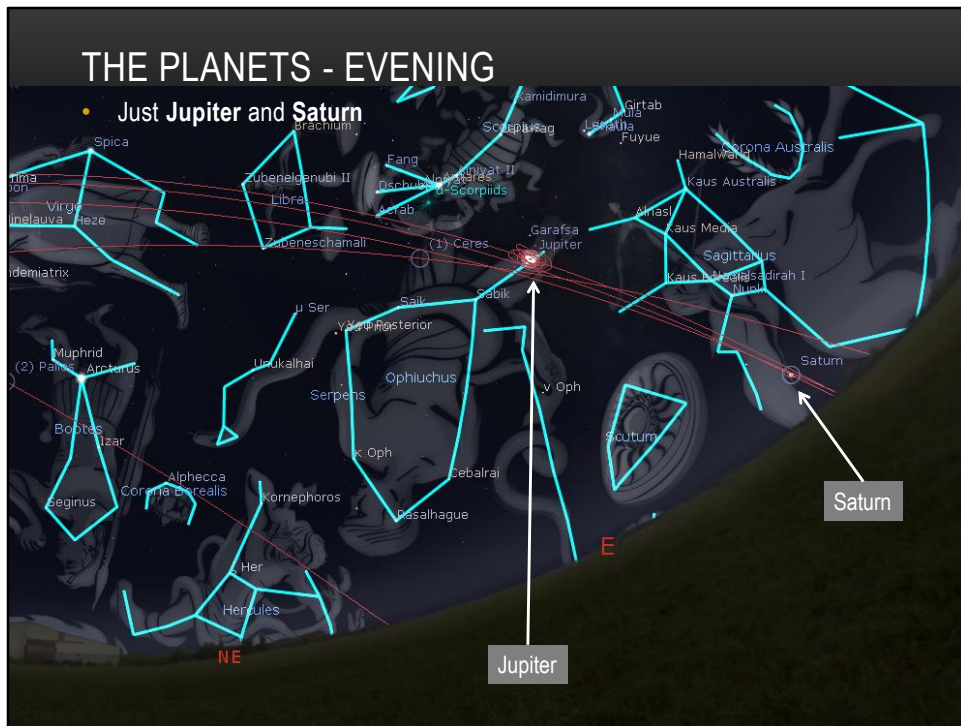
New Moon is Sunday May 5th. A full evening of observing from sunset through to about midnight can be achieved for about a week prior to the New Moon. So plan your observing dates from about April 28th onwards. The slim waxing crescent of the early New Moon sets around the end of astronomical twilight on May 6th so the setting Moon starts to eat into early evening observing time after that date. So make good use of the period around April 28th to May 6th.



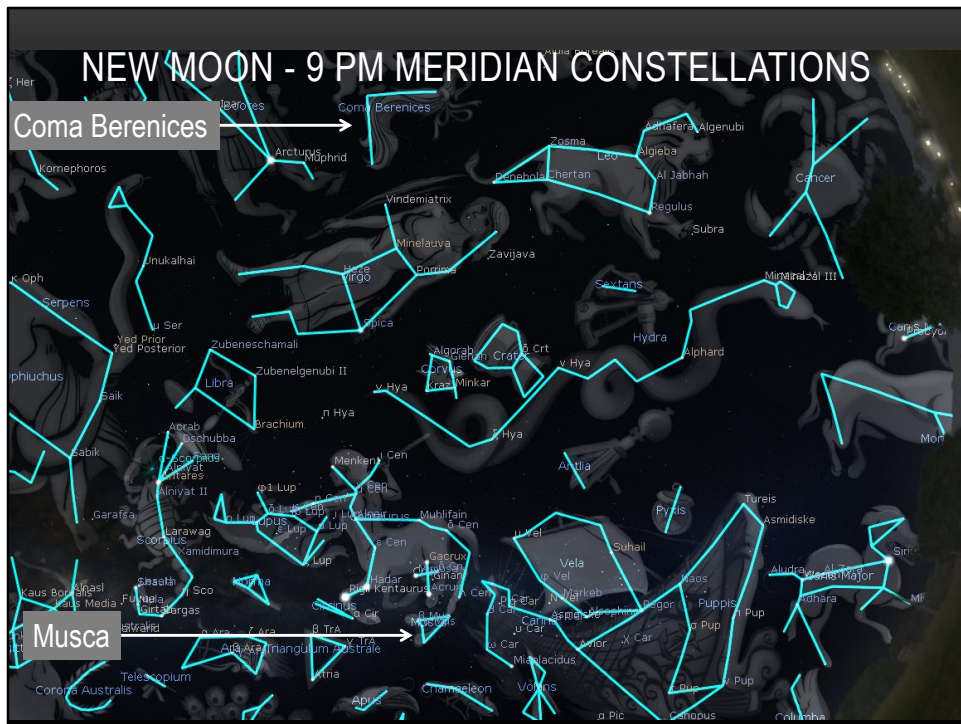
Two prominent and widely spaced stars in the southern sky that make good alignment stars are Rigel Kentaurus, also known as Alpha 1 Centauri in the constellation of Centaurus, and Canopus in the far western edge of the constellation Carina. Alpha 1 Centauri is easy to distinguish in the eyepiece as it is a distinct double star. Canopus is also easy as it is the second brightest star in the sky and located in a part of the sky with no bright competitors nearby to cause confusion.



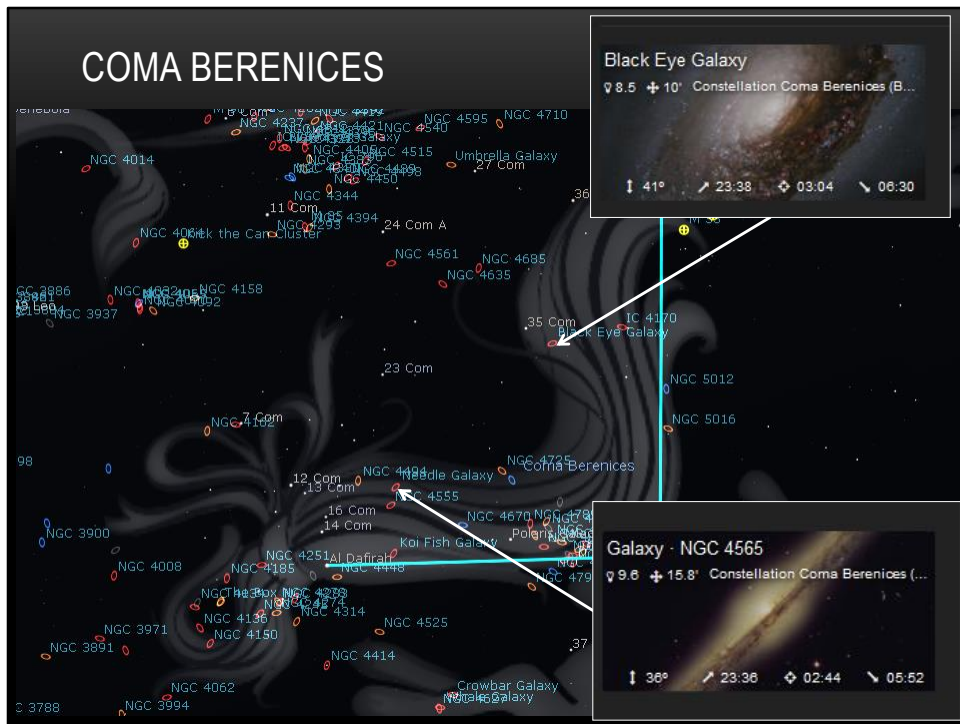
The constellation Virgo, “The Maiden”, is another ancient Greek constellation defined in AD 100 by Ptolemy. Greek myths say she longed so much for a more just and righteous world and despaired so much at the moral decay on Earth that she cast herself into the heavens to escape the chaos. Virgo is best known to astronomers as home to one of the great concentrations of distant galaxies – it is home to the Virgo Galaxy Cluster comprising about 1,300 galaxies. The largest galaxy is the elliptical monster Messier 87 located about 60 million light years away. The galaxy Messier 49 is another very bright member of the cluster.



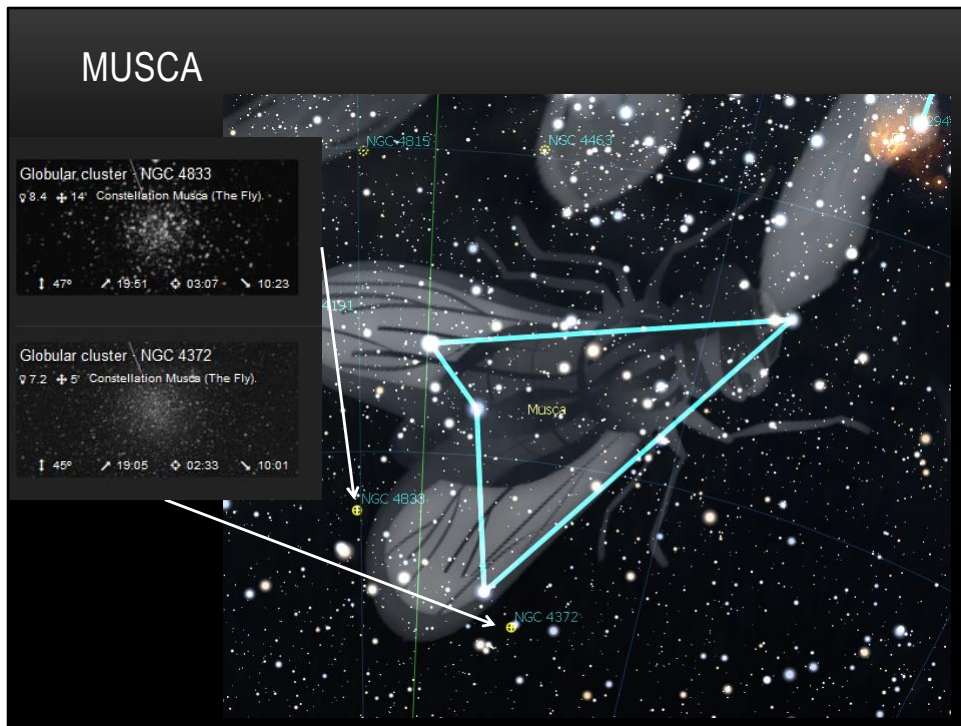
The gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn are now returning to the evening sky. Around 9:00pm Jupiter will be rising in the eastern sky and Saturn will be just emerging over the horizon. Both planets continue their march to opposition and become easier evening targets with each passing week.



A couple of constellations high in the sky along the meridian at about 9 PM during the New Moon period are Coma Berenices and Musca. Coma Berenices or “the golden hair of Queen Berenices II of Egypt” is another ancient constellation with links back to the Greek astronomer Ptolemy around 100 AD. It is home to The Coma Cluster of galaxies numbering over 1,000 galaxies located around 300 million light years away. Musca, “The Fly”, is one of the smallest constellations located near the south celestial pole below Crux. There are not a lot of great observing targets in Musca other than a couple of distant globular clusters.



Coma Berenices is known for its hundreds of galaxies and a few globular clusters. Two big bright and interesting galaxies are Messier 64, also known as the Black Eye Galaxy, and NGC 4565 also known as the Needle Galaxy. Messier 64 is very bright even though it is less than half the diameter of our Milky Way Galaxy and located 17 million light years away. The central dust bands give the galaxy its common name – The Black Eye Galaxy. NGC 4565, the Needle Galaxy, is an edge-on spiral galaxy discovered by William Herschel in 1785. Even though it is 39 million light years distant it makes a beautiful slender glowing streak in a telescope.



It does not take very long to observe the entire listed deep-sky objects in Musca. The two main objects are the globular clusters NGC 4833 and NGC 4372 respectively located 22,000 and 19,000 light years away.

BUILD YOUR OWN OBSERVING LIST

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M 38

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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

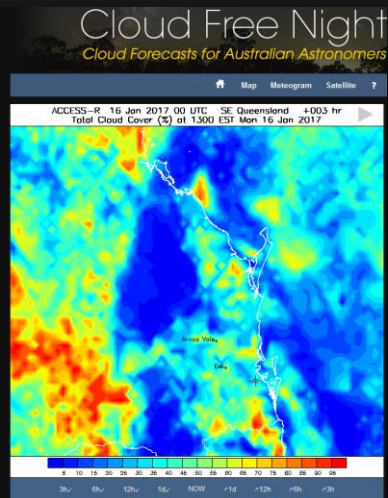
Search

<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.

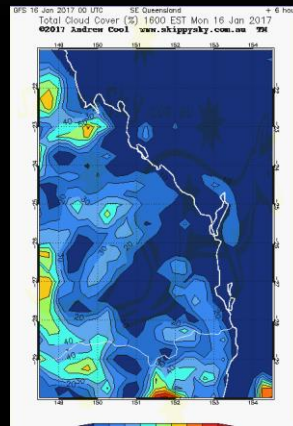
Just a few clicks on [www.dso-browser.com](https://dso-browser.com) can generate a fantastic observing list of object types you are interested in.

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

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