



TONIGHT'S SKY

May
2017

1

00:00:07,760 --> 00:00:15,840

Your guide to constellations, deep-sky objects, planets, and events.

2

00:00:15,840 --> 00:00:23,800

Tonight's Sky, highlights of the May Sky.

3

00:00:33,980 --> 00:00:38,940

After sunset, try to find dim, red Mars

4

00:00:38,940 --> 00:00:44,100

low in the western sky.

5

00:00:44,100 --> 00:00:47,380

If you succeed, aim a telescope at the planet

6

00:00:47,380 --> 00:00:54,880

to catch a glimpse of its features.

7

00:00:59,840 --> 00:01:02,720

Bright Jupiter will be much easier to spot,

8

00:01:02,720 --> 00:01:09,940

high in the southern sky.

9

00:01:09,940 --> 00:01:13,740

A telescope will reveal the giant planet's cloud bands

10

00:01:13,740 --> 00:01:21,700

and some of its moons.

11

00:01:33,680 --> 00:01:35,100

Looking toward the south,

12

00:01:35,100 --> 00:01:39,480

we've turned away from the crowded center of our Milky Way Galaxy.

13

00:01:39,480 --> 00:01:44,140

Thus we see farther into the universe.

14

00:01:44,140 --> 00:01:47,580

The large constellation Virgo

15

00:01:47,580 --> 00:01:50,960

fills the southern sky in the late evening.

16

00:01:50,960 --> 00:01:54,700

One of the zodiacal constellations of ancient times,

17

00:01:54,700 --> 00:02:02,620

Virgo honors the life-giving virtues of women.

18

00:02:02,620 --> 00:02:04,640

Using a pair of binoculars,

19

00:02:04,640 --> 00:02:08,100

visit the Virgo Cluster of Galaxies.

20

00:02:08,100 --> 00:02:11,700

These tiny smudges of light are galaxies,

21

00:02:11,700 --> 00:02:14,340

far away from our own Milky Way,

22

00:02:14,340 --> 00:02:23,300

each aglow with the light of billions of stars.

23

00:02:23,300 --> 00:02:26,780

The Sombrero Galaxy, M104,

24

00:02:26,780 --> 00:02:30,060

lies in the southern part of Virgo.

25

00:02:30,060 --> 00:02:34,340

Its dark dust lane makes it look like a large hat,

26

00:02:34,340 --> 00:02:39,500

hence its name.

27

00:02:46,100 --> 00:02:51,140

Two smaller constellations lie above Virgo.

28

00:02:51,140 --> 00:02:53,920

Coma Berenices honors a queen

29

00:02:53,920 --> 00:02:56,440

who gave her long hair to the gods

30

00:02:56,440 --> 00:03:01,680

to ensure her husband's safe return from war.

31

00:03:01,680 --> 00:03:04,960

M64, a spiral galaxy,

32

00:03:04,960 --> 00:03:11,920

can be found tangled in Berenice's Hair.

33

00:03:45,680 --> 00:03:54,700

Canes Venatici represents the hunting dogs of the gods.

34

00:04:04,160 --> 00:04:09,420

The brightest star in Canes Venatici is Cor Caroli,

35

00:04:09,420 --> 00:04:20,560

the Heart of Charles, named for Charles 1 of England.

36

00:04:20,560 --> 00:04:23,840

M51, in Canes Venatici,

37

00:04:23,840 --> 00:04:27,800

is known as the Whirlpool Galaxy.

38

00:04:27,800 --> 00:04:37,960

It is one of the most beautiful face-on spirals in the sky.

39

00:04:47,780 --> 00:04:49,820

Saturn rises by midnight

40

00:04:49,820 --> 00:04:57,540

and spends the morning hours shining in the southern sky.

41

00:05:00,880 --> 00:05:09,440

Its rings are easy to see in a small telescope.

42

00:05:15,480 --> 00:05:17,780

Venus appears in the eastern sky

43

00:05:17,780 --> 00:05:25,740

about an hour before sunrise.

44

00:05:25,740 --> 00:05:35,880

Use a telescope to check out its crescent phase.

45

00:05:46,240 --> 00:05:55,140

The annual Eta Aquarid meteor shower returns this month.

46

00:05:55,140 --> 00:05:57,800

On the night of May 4th to 5th,

47

00:05:57,800 --> 00:06:01,760

expect to see up to 10 meteors per hour.

48

00:06:01,760 --> 00:06:07,560

Look for them shooting from the east after midnight.