









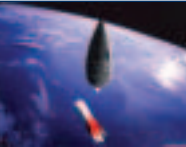











STAR PLANNER: TRACKING SPACE FOR YOUR VIEWING



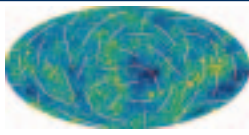
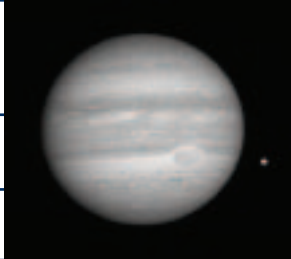
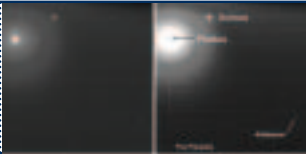
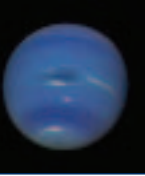
June

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|----|--|--|---|--|
| 1 | Kick the month off with a look at Jupiter. You'll find the hefty planet 6 degrees north of the Moon. | 16 |  | You could be skywatching... The Rocky Mountain Star Stare runs June 14–17. |
| 2 |  | Got your Jovian fix? Now you can hunt for Mercury, which hits its eastern elongation today. Also, celebrate America's first female astronaut at the Sally Ride Science Festival in Towson, Maryland. | 17 | Today is Father's Day, so buy your pop a telescope and take a gander at the Big Dipper. |
| 3 | | 18 | | |
| 4 | Hunting for Other Worlds: The conference In the Spirit of Bernard Lyot—The Direct Detection of Planets and Circumstellar Disks in the 21st Century begins in Berkeley, California. Ends June 8. |  | 19 | The National Radio Astronomical Observatory celebrates its 50th anniversary with the symposium Frontiers of Astrophysics. Bring your own radio telescope. Runs June 18–21. Also today, Pluto is at opposition and—as far as I'm concerned—still a full-fledged planet. |
| 5 | Stay on Target... NASA's Mercury-bound MESSENGER probe swings past Venus today for the second time as it spirals down the solar system. | 20 | | |
| 6 | | 21 | Today is the summer solstice. Ponder the longest day of the year by peering into the depths of space. | |
| 7 | | 22 | | |
| 8 |  | Delayed Departure: The launch window reopens for NASA's STS-117 shuttle mission to the International Space Station after hail-spawned external tank damage prevented a March liftoff. | 23 | Asteroid 2309, a.k.a. Mr. Spock, makes its closest approach to Earth today (2.258 astronomical units). Watch out for his Vulcan neck pinch. |
| 9 | Can-do CanSats: The Student CanSat Competition, where students design, build and launch their own payloads, is underway in Amarillo, Texas. Runs June 8–10. | 24 |  | |
| 10 | Rockhounds Unite! The Fourth Annual Planetary and Terrestrial Mining Sciences Symposium begins in Sudbury, Ontario. Canada. Ends June 14. | 25 | Lunar Catch: Aim your telescopes at the Moon, look 0.6 degrees north and bam! It's Antares. Go the whole 6 degrees and you'll find Jupiter. Also, the Conference on Extreme Solar Systems begins today in Santorini, Greece. Ends June 29. | |
| 11 |  | Space Exploration Alliance Blitz on Capitol Hill: Join members from NSS and other advocacy organizations to show your support for space with Congress. Check out: www.nss.org/legislative . Runs June 10–12. | 26 | |
| 12 | Forty years ago today, the former Soviet Union launched Venera 4, the first successful probe to sample the atmosphere of another world from within. | 27 |  | |
| 13 | Today marks the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the National Space Society. To celebrate, the Cassini swings past Saturn's moon Titan today. |  | 28 | The Cassini probe is headed for a June 29 swing past Saturn's moon Titan to snap more travelogue photos. |
| 14 | There's a new Moon out tonight, so don't be surprised if you can't see your star-spangled banner. (Did I mention it's Flag Day too?) | 29 |  | |
| 15 | | 30 | Pride of Elvis: The asteroid Rock 'n' Roll, also known as space rock 17058, swings past Earth today. | |
| | | All images NASA unless otherwise stated. | | |

July

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|----|---|--|----|---|
| 1 |  | NASA's Florida spaceport, the Kennedy Space Center, opened its launch pads for business 45 years ago today. | 16 | The Biggest, Baddest, Coolest Stars Conference begins in Johnson City, Tennessee, today. No, really. That's its name. Ends July 18. |
| 2 | | | 17 | |
| 3 | | | 18 | Have Rocket, Will Travel: The NewSpace 2007 Conference for all those private spaceship entrepreneurs begins today in Washington, D.C. Ends July 21. |
| 4 |  | Happy Birthday, America! Celebrate the birth of the nation by learning more about the birth of the universe. (Hint: A big bang may have been involved.) | 19 | Cassini, like clockwork, blows kisses to Saturn's moon Titan in a flyby.  |
| 5 | | | 20 |  Let There be Life! If you're in San Juan, Puerto Rico, you'll catch Molecules, Microbes and Extraterrestrial Life at the Bioastronomy 2007 Meeting. Runs July 16-20. |
| 6 |  | Heinlein Centennial Join NASA Administrator Mike Griffin and thousands of fans to mark the 100th anniversary of Robert Heinlein's birth in Kansas City, Missouri. Check out: http://www.heinleincentennial.com/ . Runs July 6-8. | 21 | |
| 7 | | | 22 | Japan joins the Moon club with today's planned launch of its Selene 1 orbiter atop an H-2A booster.  |
| 8 | | | 23 | |
| 9 | | Catch M Fever! The Moon is at perigee today, with Mars visible 6 degrees to its south and Mercury appearing stationary. Collect 'em all! | 24 |  Europe's Venus Express ends its primary mission around the second planet from the Sun today. But no worries, the good folks at ESA extended its mission to 2009. |
| 10 | | | 25 | |
| 11 |  | It's the Red Planet or bust this week in Pasadena, California, where researchers will gather at the Seventh International Conference on Mars. Runs July 9-13. | 26 | |
| 12 | | | 27 | The Space Rocks Cometh. The Delta Aquarid meteor shower begins.  |
| 13 | | | 28 | |
| 14 | | Asteroid 18932 Robinhood makes its closest approach (0.812 astronomical units) to Earth today. Maid Marian waves her hankie.  | 29 |  Did you know? Tonight's full Moon is known as the Full Buck Moon, when fur-coated antlers push out of the foreheads of buck deer. Other names? The Full Hay Moon and Full Thunder Moon. No, really. |
| 15 | | | 30 | |
| | | | 31 | The comet Chiron makes its closest pass by Earth today, but at 13.8 astronomical units, it's really not that close.  |

August

| | | | | |
|----|--|---|----|--|
| 1 | Start the month with a space rock sock hop. The Alpha Capricornids meteor shower hits its peak tonight. | | 16 | |
| 2 | | | 17 | Head on out to Phoenix for Spacefest 2007. |
| 3 | Mars or Bust: NASA's ill-fated Mars Polar Lander spacecraft rises from the ashes in the form of Phoenix, a Red Planet robot slated to launch today. |  | 18 | Remember that Martian moon hunter Asaph Hall? Yeah, he found Mars's moon Phobos this week in 1877. Two Martian moons in a week. Bonus! |
| 4 | Spread the Space Message: The Astronomical Society of the Pacific is hosting two symposia in Claremont, California, on teaching astronomy to the masses. Both run August 2-5. | | 19 | |
| 5 |  Back in Action: The delayed launch window opens for black and white Endeavour space shuttle's STS-118 mission, marking the orbiter's return to flight after a years-long maintenance overhaul. Also, NASA's first educator-astronaut Barbara Morgan is on the crew! | | 20 |  The Joint European and National Astronomy Meeting (JENAM-2007): Our Stable Universe begins in Yerevan, Armenia. Ends August 25. |
| 6 | | | 21 | |
| 7 | Angry Red Mars is 6 degrees south of the Moon tonight, but Jovial Jupiter appears stationary in its orbit. |  | 22 | |
| 8 | | | 23 | |
| 9 | | | 24 | Cast your own shadow at the Solar Eclipse Conference in Los Angeles today. Ends August 27. |
| 10 | If you're late to the Fifth International X-ray Astronomy School in Washington, D.C., don't lie. They can see right through you. Runs August 6-10. | | 25 | The Northern Iota Aquarids meteor shower peaks tonight. |
| 11 | So we all know Mars has two moons, Deimos and Phobos, but 130 years ago we didn't. You can thank American astronomer Asaph Hall, who found Deimos on this date in 1877. | | 26 | |
| 12 |  Martian moons not to your liking? Here comes something meteor. The Perseids meteor shower peaks tonight. | | 27 | |
| 13 | Neptune is at opposition today, so you should be able to find it if you look due south at midnight, my handy book says. |  | 28 | There's a total lunar eclipse tonight, so check it out. If you're wondering, tonight's Moon is called the Full Sturgeon Moon, so grab your pole and go fishing. |
| 14 | | | 29 | |
| 15 | Mercury appears in superior conjunction today, which means it's on the opposite side of the Sun as Earth. But, if you're in Tucson, Arizona, check out the 70th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society. | | 30 | The International Society for Optical Engineering's 2007 Astrobiology Conference ends today in San Diego. If E.T. hasn't shown up yet, he's probably missed the party. Begins August 26. |
| | | | 31 | Cassini. Titan. Flyby. |

