



STARRY TRAILS

JUNE 2015

What an exciting month we have coming up!! We will continue to see Jupiter approach Venus, great telescopic views of lovely Saturn and the start of summer! Head out 45 minutes after sunset and look direction west (where you see the beautiful sunset colors), to check out the spectacular planet pairing of Venus and Jupiter! June 30th is the closest pairing! Venus is more brilliant than Jupiter.

With the long days of summer, our Starry hike will not start until 10:00pm. So grab your Starry Trail Map, binoculars, bug spray and a light jacket. After enjoying the planet show in the west, turn to the left or direction south. The bright red, orange star is Antares, the heart of Scorpio. Look slightly above Antares and you will see a golden colored object which is the planet, Saturn! A truly spectacular sight in a telescope!

Turn to the opposite part of the sky, or direction north and you will see the Big Dipper, high in the sky. Take the two stars at the end of the cup and draw an imaginary line to the next bright star. You have reached the North Star! The North Star, or Polaris, is at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper. Queen Cassiopeia, the w-shape, is very low in the north (Illustration 2).

Hike back to the Big Dipper. Arc off of the handle to the orange-yellow star, Arcturus. Turn to the right or east. Continue to look high overhead. Slightly down and to the left, of Arcturus, you will come upon a semi-circle of stars. It looks almost like a necklace, but actually it is the Northern Crown or Corona Borealis. I think it looks like a smiley face! Hike down and to the left from Corona Borealis. There you will see a keystone shape. This is the body of Hercules, the bravest and strongest hero! Binocular time! Take your binoculars and scan around the part of Hercules facing Corona. Do you see the fuzzy object? This is the finest Globular Star Cluster (M13) in the northern skies!

Turn right once again to face direction east. Look for the bright blue, white star down and to the left of Hercules. This star is Vega, which is a part of the Summer Triangle (Illustration 3).

What a beautiful summer night! Next month..... the summer Milky Way!

Highlights

June 1 – The Moon passes north of Saturn.

June 1 – Venus aligns with Pollux and Castor.

June 2 – Full Moon. According to folklore it is the Full Strawberry Moon.

June 9 – Last Quarter Moon.

June 12 – Binoculars or a telescope show the Beehive Star Cluster less than one degree from Venus, 1.5 hours after sunset

June 16 – New Moon.

June 19 & 20 – The crescent Moon, Venus and Jupiter put on a show in the western sky 1.5 hours after sunset.

June 21 – The longest day of the year! Summer solstice occurs at 12:38pm.

June 24 – First Quarter Moon.

June 27 – The peak of the Bootid Meteor Shower.

June 28 – The Moon passes north of Saturn.

HIGHLIGHT June 30 – Spectacular pairing of Venus and Jupiter in the western sky after sunset!!!

Brightest Stars

West - Castor, Pollux, Regulus. **Overhead** – Arcturus. **South** – Spica. **East** – Vega. **Southeast** – Antares.

Binocular Highlights

The Moon, Jupiter, Hercules Globular Star Cluster M13

Telescope Highlights

The Moon, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, M51, M13, M57, M3, M81, M82, M10, M12, M92, M94

Starry Trails is a fun & easy way to explore the night sky as it appears from your very own backyard!

Journey over to ***StarryTrails.com*** & get everything you need to navigate the night sky!

Starry Trails is a free publication & your able to make copies to pass along to your friends & family so they can learn and enjoy the night sky with you!

Written by Suzie Dills – Remember to download your Illustrations and Star Map !