

May has 2 full moons

Next week Venus will seem to change orbit

By Raymond E. Bullock
special writer

NEW moon is at 6:11 p.m. now. The moon is located between the earth and the sun and is not visible because the lighted side of the moon is facing the sun.

Look for the crescent moon in the west-northwest on the evening of the 16th. The moon is only a few degrees above the horizon, 45 minutes after sunset. Above and to the left of the moon is Mercury. This week will be the best for seeing Mercury.

On the 17th Mercury is directly below the crescent moon. Venus is above and to the left of the moon.

MERCURY is at its greatest elongation (apparent distance) from the sun on the evening of the 18th. It is 22 degrees east (left) of the sun and at its best for observing in the evening sky.

Venus is about 11 degrees above and to the left of Mercury. The moon



skywatch
Raymond E. Bullock

is above and to the left of Venus.

The moon forms a triangle with the stars Castor and Pollux, the "heads of the Gemini twins," on the evening of May 19. Pollux is above the moon. Castor is to the north (right) of Pollux. On the following night, the moon has moved above and to the left of Pollux.

Look at Venus with binoculars on the evening of the 20th. It's now only 15 percent illuminated. How does Venus' phase compare with the moon's tonight?

Venus is stationary on the 22nd. It has been drifting eastward through the constellations as it orbits the sun,

but it has now reached the point where its orbit will swing it westward, back between the earth and the sun. Within a few weeks, Venus will be too close to the sun to be seen.

THE MOON is approaching the bright star Regulus (REG u lus), the "heart" of Leo the lion, on the evening of the 22nd. On the next night the moon is at first-quarter phase and has passed Regulus.

On the evening of the 26th, the moon is approaching Spica. On the 27th the moon is two degrees below Spica.

Antares is to the east (left) of the moon on the evening of the 30th. During the rest of the night, check on the progress of the moon as it slowly nears Antares. On the morning of the 31st, the moon is less than 1/2 degree below Antares, in the southwest.

The second full moon of the month occurs at 6:53 a.m. on the 31st. Having two full moons in the same calendar month is unusual and, when it occurs, people often refer to the second full moon as the "blue moon."

An excellent aid for learning constellations and keeping up to date with the sky is the monthly "Sky Calendar." A one-year subscription is \$6 and is available from Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University, East Lansing 48824.

The writer is former coordinator of the planetarium and observatory at Cranbrook Institute of Science and now is with a private engineering company.

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Navy League sets Pacific rim panel

History and ROTC students, professionals in business, labor and commerce and others interested in international trade may attend an Asia-Pacific sea power symposium Wednesday, in the Westin Hotel in downtown Detroit.

National experts will discuss economic and security issues facing the United States and Michigan in relations with the Pacific Rim nations of Japan, Korea, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Malaysia and others.

This session is sponsored by the metro Detroit Council of the Navy League of the United States.

It will follow immediately the Armed Forces Day luncheon of The Economic Club of Detroit, which will be addressed by Adm. J. Crowe Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. THE LUNCHEON starts at noon.

The symposium is scheduled 1:45-4:15 p.m.

Tickets for the symposium are \$5 and may be obtained from the Navy League at 19250 Berg Road, Detroit

48219 (535-2113).

Latecomers may buy tickets at the Columbus Ballroom at the Westin Hotel at meeting time May 18. Those wishing to attend the Economic Club luncheon meeting should call the club at 963-8547.

SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS will include Professor A. James Gregor, University of California at Berkeley political scientist and expert on the Pacific Basin; David Littmann, Bloomfield Hills, first vice president

and senior economist of Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit; and Rear Adm. Edward Baker Jr., USN, director of the East Asia/Pacific Region in the Defense Department.

Moderating the symposium will be Michael Kenny, Beverly Hills attorney, former radio newscaster and a Naval Reserve captain.

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