There's radical moon on the rise in April



During the second half of April, the moon will be going to extremes: first the farthest new moon of the year, followed by the year's closest full moon, and then u year's closest full moon, and then u weak meteor shower. The orbit of

moon, and then a weak meteor shower.

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The orbit of the planets, is not circular. The moon so this is elliptical towal, so there is a point where the moon is close to the earth, and another point where it is far away. The average distance from the earth to the moon is 394,401 kilometers (about 233,300 miles). On April 11 the new moon will be 406,468 kilometers (252,010 miles) away from the earth, the farthest it will be all year. (Next month's new moon will cause a rare annulus ellipse of the sun that will be yeishle from our area? Details will be really pear in the May Shywatch.

Watch as the moon wares during the nest week. No, the moon will not be politically the distribution of April 14; it will be the 363th anniversary orthe brite crescent will be getting fatter.

An anniversary worth noting the crest week. No, the moon will once you on April 14; it will be the 363th anniversary orthe brite cresters will be greating fatter.

An anniversary worth noting the crest week. No, the moon will once you on April 14; it will be the 363th anniversary of the brite crester the respective of the state of

the time an object crossed the local meridian.

The bright orange-red star to the left of the moon on the evening of the 15th will be Bettleruse ("Bettle-juice"), the "armpit" of Orion (oh RYAN) the hunter. On the following evening the moon will be above and to the right of Bettle-guse.

The moon will be within the constellation of Gemini on the evening of the 17th. The twins,

Pollux and Castor, each marked by a bright star, will be above the moon. On the following evening the moon on the following evening the moon will be located below and to the left of Pollux. The bright star below and to the left of the moon will be Procyon (PRO see on).

First quarter moon will officially occur at 10:34 p.m. on April 18. The moon will be a completed the first-quarter of its orbit around the earth.

Regulus (REG you lus), the "heart" of Leo the lion, will be the bright star above and to the left of the moon on the 20th. Notice how far the moon will have moved in just one night; on the following evening the moon will be located below and to the left of Regulus.

The annual Lyrid meteor shower will reach its peak during the predawn hours of April 22. The Lyrid shower is named for the constellation of Lyra, from which the meteors appear to radiate. This is not one of the year's better displays, expect to see an average of only 15 meteors each hour. Lyra will be rising in the north-cest around 8:00 p.m. and will be nearly overhead at 5:50 a.m. Look for the bright blue-white star Vega (VEE ga), the brightest star in Lyra. It is also the 5th brightest star in the sky and fairly close to us; only 27 light-years away.

The moon will be located directly below the star Spica (SPY ka), in Virgo, on the evening of the 24th. Notice Jupiter, the bright object below and to the left of the moon. On the following evening the moon will be seated just to the right of Jupiter. Now, look toward the west and locate brilliant Venus, just three degrees below and to the left of the Pleiades. Believe it or not, Venus will come to within seven degrees of Jupiter by Sept. 23.

Full moon

Full moon
Full moon will officially occur
at 3:45 p.m. on April 25. The
moon will be opposite the sun, as
seen from the earth, and will be
fully lighted. The April full moon
was often called the "Grass
Moon" or the "Egg Moon" by

some Native American Indians. This full moon will just happen to occur when the moon is at periogee, its closest to the earth. The moon will be located \$35,928 ki.lometers (221,295 miles) making this the closest full moon of the year. Please don't expect to see an unusual number of "lunatics" running around and growing hair on their palms; while some "experts" claim that human behavior is influenced by the moon, just as many others say there is no influence at all. It stands to reason: The moon is always in orbit somewher around the earth. If it influenced human behavior, that influence would be constant, and not dependent on how much of the moon was being illuminated at any given moment.

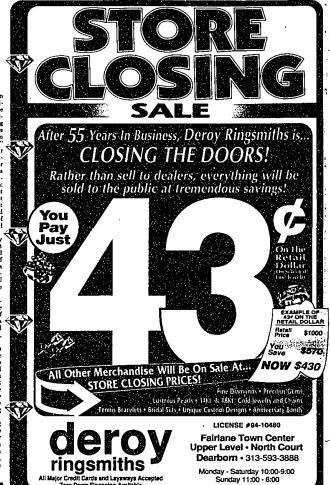
For those of you who are early risers, look toward the southwest before sunrise on the 26th and you'll find the moon to the left of Jupiter, just below the star Alpha Librae, also known as Zeubenelgenubi (200 ben et gen YOU bee). Try saying that fast three times in a row!

Faster than you can say Zeubenelgenubi (200 ben et gen YOU bee). Try saying that fast three times in a row!

Faster than you can say Zeubenelgenubi (200 ben et an You benelgenubi, the moon will be moving into the constellation of Scorpius, for the second time this month. The moon will be floorated above and to the left of Antares, near its location back on April 1.

Jupiter will be at opposition on the morning of April 30. The planet will be opposite the sun, as seen from the earth. Like the full moon, Jupiter will rise as the sun sets, be visible all night, and set when the sun rises. Since the earth and Jupiter will rise as the sun sets, the visible all night, and set when the sun rises. Since the earth and Jupiter will rise as the sun sets, the visible all night, and set when the sun rises. Since the earth and Jupiter will rise as the sun sets of the same side of the sun, that planet will be favorably placed for observing during the next several months.

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