Night Sky Viewing at Widener University

June 2018

Sunrise & Sunset Times (EDT)

	Sunrise	Sunset
Begin Month	5:35 am	8:24 pm
End Month	5:36 am	8:34 pm

Lunar Phases

Last Quarter 6th

New 13th

1st Quarter 20th

Full 28th "Strawberry Moon"

Naked Eye Planets in the Evening & Morning Sky this Month

Mercury *(in Taurus-Gemini-Cancer)*: Mercury reaches superior conjunction with the Sun on June 5th, then swings into the evening sky. By the middle of June, Mercury should become visible low above the northwestern horizon shortly after sunset. By month's end, Mercury will be setting 1½ hours after the Sun, or around 10 pm EDT.

Venus (*in Gemini-Cancer-Leo)*: Venus outshines all the other objects in the night sky except the Moon. It glows like a yellow beacon in the west-northwest during the early evening hours. Throughout June, Venus sets roughly two and a half hours after sunset, or at 11 pm EDT.

Jupiter (*in Libra*): Jupiter reached opposition with the Sun in early May, when it was closest to Earth and brightest. The giant world is still in fine position for viewing in June; it is already well up in the southeast at nightfall, lies due south around 10 pm EDT at midmonth, and sets in the early morning hours. Jupiter resembles a brilliant golden star outshone only by Venus on the opposite side of the sky in the northwest during the first half of the night (and of course the Moon).

Saturn (*in Sagittarius*): Saturn reaches opposition with the Sun on June 27th, when it rises as the Sun sets (just after 8:30 pm EDT). Saturn, currently residing within the constellation Sagittarius, appears above the southeastern horizon as darkness settles in; by about 1am Saturn stands low in the south. Even a small telescope will reveal the magnificent ring system. Saturn's bright golden or cream-color contrasts with the orange-red color of the true star Antares, which lies to its right (west).

Mars (*in Capricornus)*: Mars is now less than two months away from its spectacular opposition in late July. As June begins, Mars is rising above the southeastern horizon around midnight EDT, about 2 hours after Saturn; Mars glows with a brilliant reddish color and is several times brighter than Saturn. By month's end, Mars will rise around 10:30 pm and will rival Jupiter in brightness.

Earth: Earth reaches the Summer Solstice on June 21st at 6:07 am EDT, when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted maximally toward the Sun. This marks the beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and of winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

Sun: (*in Taurus-Gemini*): The Sun begins June in the constellation Taurus, then crosses into Gemini on the 21st.

Constellations & Bright Stars Visible Around 10 pm EDT

Leo **–** halfway up in W, descending
Bright star *Regulus*

Virgo – up in SSW
Bright star *Spica*

Hydra **–** extends below Leo & Virgo
Bright star *Alphard* ("the Solitary One"), setting

Ursa Major – high in NNW
Asterism *Big Dipper*, w/ pointer stars *Merak, Dubhe;*
handle stars *Alioth, Mizar (& Alcor), Alkaid*

Ursa Minor – halfway up in N, directly above Polaris
Asterism *Little Dipper*, contains *Polaris* (North Star)

Boötes **–** high in S
Bright star *Arcturus*, directly above Spica

Corona Borealis – high in S, to upper left of Arcturus
Bright star *Gemma* (also called *Alphekka*)

Libra **–** one-third of way up in S
Bright stars *Zubenelgenubi, Zubeneschamali*
Brilliant planet *Jupiter*

Scorpius **–** low in SSE
Bright star *Antares*

Ophiuchus **–** halfway up in SE
Bright star *Ras Alhague*

Sagittarius **–** just rising in SE
Bright planet *Saturn*

Lyra **–** getting higher in ENE
Bright star *Vega*

Aquila **–** low in E
Bright star *Altair*

Cygnus **–** getting higher in NE
Bright star *Deneb*

For more information on the night sky, visit the Widener Observatory Stargazing website at www.widener.edu/stargazing/.
A set of free sky maps can be obtained at www.skymaps.com/.