

Northern Berkshire Astronomical Society

Founded 2023 | North Adams Public Library | North Adams, MA

This Month

Galaxies!

The Moon

-  - May 1 & May 30
-  - May 8
-  - May 15
-  - May 23 "Flower Moon"

Planets

Mercury, just before sunrise

Venus: behind the Sun

Mars: rises ~4 AM

Jupiter: behind the Sun

Saturn: rises ~3 AM

Uranus: behind the Sun

Neptune: rises ~3:30 AM

Deep Sky Objects

Easy (binoculars): M 13, M 5, M 57, M 51, M 3

Moderate (small telescopes): M 104, M 102, Markarian's Chain, C 32, NGC 4656

Challenges: M 83, M 91, C 26



Eclipse Event

The weather (mostly) cooperated! Hundreds of people successfully participated in a once-in-a-lifetime event at the NAPL to observe the eclipse helped by NBAS members using different techniques to safely observe the Sun, including a solar telescope purchased for the event.





This Month's Image

Messier 100 was one of the first spiral galaxies to be discovered, and is just one of many bright large galaxies in the Virgo Cluster.

Interacting

Check out our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nberkastro>

and join us at our next meetings: May 1 and Jun 5th at 6 PM at the North Adams Public Library.

Next Month

The Milky Way returns with several globular clusters; a possible nova outburst, and more!

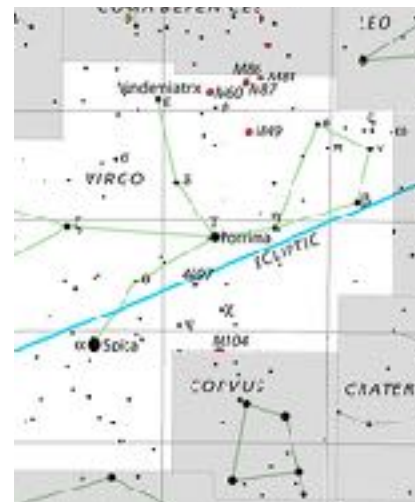
Galaxy Season

Springtime means galaxies! With the Milky Way mostly below the horizon, the evening skies are pointing out of the plane of the Galaxy, and towards the Virgo supercluster. There are several that are bright enough to see with small telescopes:

Virgo Galaxies

There are far too many galaxies in Virgo to discuss. Scanning the sky East of Denebola (β Leonis), even small telescopes will uncover many, like those in the Markarian Chain (which includes M 84 and M 86).

Further S, above Corvus and W of Spica, you can find the "Sombrero" Galaxy, M 104 with its prominent dust band.



Near the Big Dipper

Likewise, there are several bright galaxies in the skies near the handle of the Big Dipper!

M 106, M 51, M 109 are all popular.

Elusive Pinwheel

Very low in the sky, is the beautiful Southern Pinwheel galaxy, Messier 83, sitting on the Hydra/Centaurus border.

