2010 — Astronomically Handy Sky Calendar — 2010

SKY Phenomena Calendar FOR time zone MST and NO DST (Arizona, USA)

January 2010

HIGHLITE: MARS reaches Opposition

01 Fr New Year's Day (Holiday)
03 Su Mars 7° north of Moon, 0500 hrs.
Quadrantid Meteors Pk at 1200 hrs MST (1900 UT); Unfavorable year.
06 We Saturn 8° north of Moon, 1200 hrs.
07 Th ƒ Last Quarter Moon 0339 hrs.
15 Fr ˜ New Moon 0011 hrs.
Annular solar eclipse-NOT visible in US
23 Sa , First Quarter Moon 0353 hrs.
27 We Mars closest approach, 5 Lt. minutes, Angular size = 14.1" (arc seconds)
29 Fr Mars at opposition, 1300 hrs.
• Full Moon 2318 hrs. (largest of 2010)
30 Sa Mars 7° north of Moon, 0100 hrs.

February 2010

HIGHLITE: Minor Planet (4) Vesta

02 Tu Zodiacal Light in W. next 2 wks after evening twilight
05 Fr ƒ Last Quarter Moon 0448 hrs.
06 Sa Mars 3° north of Beehive (M44) 1900hrs.
08 Mo Alpha Centaurid meteors Pk 2200hrs., favorable year
13 Sa ˜ New Moon 1951 hrs
18 Th (4) Vesta at opposition, mag. 6.2, in Leo, diameter=320 mi.,
21 Su , First Quarter Moon 1742 hrs
25 Th Mars 5° north of Moon, 2200h.
28 Su • Full Moon 0938 hrs
Jupiter in conjunction with Sun

March 2010

HIGHLITE: SATURN reaches Opposition

PARTICIPATE IN A MESSIER MARATHON 2010!
03 We Zodiacal Light in W. next 2 wks after evening twilight
07 Su ƒ Last Quarter Moon 0842 hrs.
13 Sa Primary wkend for M. Marathon
15 Mo ˜ New Moon 1401 hrs
20 Sa **Vernal Equinox**; 1032 hrs.
Secondary wkend for M. Marathon
21 Su **Saturn at opposition** 1800 hrs., **size: 19.6",** mag. +0.5; rings inclined 3.2° towards Earth
23 Tu , First Quarter Moon 0400 hrs
29 Mo Saturn 8° north of Moon, 1100 hrs
• Full Moon 1925 hrs.

April 2010

HIGHLITE: Lyrid Meteor shower

04 Su Dbl. Shadow Tr., Jupiter, 0428h. Easter Sunday
06 Tu ƒ Last Quarter Moon 0237 hrs.
08 Th Mercury– evening best for 2010
14 We ˜ New Moon 0529 hrs
21 We , First Quarter Moon 1120 hrs.
22 Th **Lyrid Meteors** Pk. 1000 hrs. **Favorable after Moon set**
24 Sa ASTRONOMY DAY—Promote IT!
25 Su Saturn 8° north of Moon
28 We • Full Moon 0518 hrs.

May 2010

HIGHLITE: Saturn's Rings fade

05 We ƒ Last Quarter Moon 2115 hrs. η–Aquarid Meteors; Pk at 2400hrs. NOT favorable
13 Th ˜ New Moon 1804 hrs
20 Th , First Quarter Moon 1643 hrs
22 Sa Saturn 8° north of Moon, 2200 hrs.
26 We Saturn's rings close to 1.7° from edge-on; planet mag. down to 1.0, size 18"
27 Th • Full Moon 1607 hrs

June 2010

HIGHLITE: Mars / Regulus conjunction

04 Fr ƒ Last Quarter Moon. 1513 hrs.
06 Su Mars 0.9°north of Regulus (Leo)
08 Tu Comet 215P/NEAT at perihelion, 3.2 AU (astronomical unit)
12 Sa ˜ New Moon, 0415 hrs.
18 Fr , First Quarter Moon 2129 hrs.
(1) Ceres at opposition; mag. 7.2
21 Mo Summer Solstice 0428 hrs.
25 Fr Pluto at opposition; mag. 13.9
26 Sa • Full Moon 0430 hrs.

July 2010

HIGHLITE: Summer Milky Way

04 Su ƒ Last Quarter Moon 0735 hrs.
07 to 12 Conjunction: Venus overtakes and passes Regulus in west– view daily
11 Su ˜ New Moon 1240 hrs.
Total Solar Eclipse: Not visible in U.S.— mostly across S. Pacific
18 Su , First Quarter Moon 0311 hrs.
25 Su • Full Moon 1836 hrs.
29 Th S. δ Aquarid Meteors Pk 0200hrs.; Unfavorable year—moonlight; on occasion, some fireball activity.

August 2010

HIGHLITE: Perseid Meteor shower

02 Mo ƒ Last Quarter Moon 2159 hrs.
09 Mo ˜ New Moon 2008 hrs.
12 Th Perseid Meteors Pk. 1700hrs; Very favorable year; No Moon
13 Fr Dbl.Shadow Tr., Jupiter,0312h
16 Mo , First Quarter Moon 1114 hrs.
20 Fr Neptune opposition, 0300h. Dbl.Shadow Tr., Jupiter,0506h
24 Tu • Full Moon 1005; Small

Celestial grouping first half of August: Venus, Mars, Saturn, star Spica –west

September 2010

HIGHLITE: Jupiter reaches Opposition

01 We , Last Quarter Moon 1022 hrs.
05 Su Zodiacal Light in E. for next 2 wks before morning twilight
08 We ˜ New Moon 0330 hrs.
14 Tu , First Quarter Moon 2250 hrs.
21 Tu Jupiter at opposition, 0500 hrs.; size of 49.8" (arc-seconds)
Uranus at opposition, 1000 hrs.
22 We Jupiter 0.9° S. of Uranus, 1200 hrs.
22 We **Equinox** (Autumnal), 2009 hrs.
23 Th • Full Moon 0217 hrs.
Venus max. brightness in west(-4.9)
30 Th , Last Quarter Moon 2052 hrs

October 2010

HIGHLITE: Comet 103P/Hartley

05 Tu Zodiacal Lt. in E. for 2 wks;morning
07 Th ˜ New Moon 1144 hrs.
08 Fr Draconid meteors Pk., 0600hrs; **very favorable in 2010**
14 Th , First Quarter Moon 1427hrs.
21 Th Orionid Meteors – Unfavorable year
22 Fr • Full Moon 1836 hrs.
23 Sa **Dbl.Shadow Tr**., Jupiter, 1841 hrs.
28 Th **Comet 103P** Perihelion; naked eye?
30 Sa ƒ Last Quarter Moon 0546 hrs.
Dbl.Shadow Tr., Jupiter, 2130 hrs.

November 2010

HIGHLITE: LEONID Meteors

05 Fr S.Taurids Meteors Pk 0900hrs
˜ New Moon 2152 hrs.
07 Su Dbl.Shadow Tr., Jupiter,0113h
12 Fr N.Taurids Meteors Pk 0900h.
13 Sa First Quarter Moon 0938 hrs
17 We Leonid MeteorsPk.1500h. Favorable after Moonset on 18th
21 Su • Full Moon 1027 hrs.
Alpha Monocerotids Meteors
28 Su ƒ Last Quarter Moon 1336 hrs

December 2010

HIGHLITE: Total Lunar Eclipse

04 Sa Venus max. brightness in east (-4.9)
05 Su ˜ New Moon 1036 hrs.
13 Mo , First Quarter Moon 0700 hrs.
14 Tu Geminid Meteors Pk. 0400 hrs.; Favorable for 2010
21 Tu • Full Moon 0113 hrs; Solstice (Winter begins) 1638 hrs.
Lunar Eclipse (2229hrs– 0404hrs)
22 We Ursid Meteors Pk.1200hrs.; not good
27 Mo ƒ Last Quarter Moon 2118 hrs.

*Times/ Dates= Mountain Standard Time, NO DST (UT-7hrs); updated at www.astronomyyear2009.com; Doug Snyder

Abbr: Tr=transit; Pk=Peak; Merc=Mercury; E.=East; W.=West; S.=South; N=North; J.=Jupiter; V.=Venus; Sat.=Saturn elong.=elongation; Pen.= Penumbral; hrs., h.= hours (24 hour system); wks. = weeks; Lt.=Light. Ver.2010V1.0