



What's In the Sky for July

July marks the return of the Milky Way and the Summer Triangle to the night sky. You will need a very dark sky to see the Milky Way. The Summer Triangle can easily be seen with naked eyes in a suburban sky as all 3 stars that form the triangle, Vega, Altair, and Deneb are very bright and prominent.

The major planets continue to rise in the east and become visible in the early morning sky. Saturn is rising much earlier, around 11:30 PM, followed by Jupiter around 1:30 AM and Mars at 2:15 AM. As of July 4th, Saturn will rise 1/2 an hour earlier every week. We will finally be able to see it in the evening sky late in July and early August.

July 4: Earth's Aphelion

The point at which Earth's orbit is farthest from the Sun.

July 13: July Full Moon.

Called the Buck Moon or Thunder Moon, this moon will be the third of our four supermoons this year.

July 28: July New Moon

Dark nights during the new moon are the best time to observe deep sky objects. You will need binoculars or a telescope and a dark enough sky to see the constellations where these beauties reside. No telescope? No problem. Check out a UNT Star Party at the Rafes Urban Astronomy Center on the first and third Saturday of every month. They have telescopes for the public to use. Staff and students will be available to help you. <https://astronomy.unt.edu/observatories/star-parties>



The Hercules Cluster, also known as M13 or the Keystone Cluster is in the constellation of Hercules between the stars Eta and Zeta. Another nice globular star cluster (M4) is in the constellation Scorpio between the stars Antares and Alniyat.



The Ring Nebula can be found in the constellation of Lyra, midway between the stars Sulafat and Sheliak. No, it won't look as big as this picture from the Hubble Telescope. But in a 100x or stronger telescope it is quite impressive.



The double star Albireo can be seen with binoculars in Cygnus, in the nose of the swan. But a modest 35x telescope will reveal its true beauty.