



# What's in the Sky

## August 2023

### **August 1: Full Sturgeon Moon**

The first of two full moons this month and they are both Supermoons. Supermoons appear larger because they are at their closest in orbit to the earth. This stage is called perigee. Also, when a moon is rising on the horizon it is affected by the atmosphere in that visual area giving it the illusion of being larger. This moon will be affected by both. This first supermoon should rise around 8:56 pm.

### **August 8: First Quarter Moon**

The best time to observe the moon is when it is in one of its phases...like this one.

### **August 11-13: Perseid Meteor Shower**

The Perseid Meteor Shower comes from leftover debris from the tail of Comet Swift-Tuttle. This meteor shower is expected to produce 60 -100 meteors per hour and could include several fireballs. Last year a bright moon interfered with viewing the shower. This year we should have no problem with the moon. We can start watching around 11:00 pm. However, after midnight into the early morning hours is best.

### **August 16: New Moon**

The New Moon phase is a great time to observe Dark Sky Objects.

### **August 24: Last Quarter Moon**

In case you missed observing the moon the first quarter, here's another chance. A pair of binoculars will do.

### **August 27: Saturn in Opposition**

This means Saturn will be at its closest to earth on this day. The night of opposition and the days leading up to it would be a good time to observe Saturn. The rings of Saturn will brighten as it approaches opposition. You might even be able to see Titan, one of Saturn's many moons.

### **August 30: Full Blue Moon**

This second supermoon is called the Blue Moon and should rise around 8:06 pm.

### **Planets**

Saturn begins the month rising at 9:48 pm and ends the month rising at 7:40 pm. Jupiter begins the month rising at 12:53 am and ends the month rising at 11:00 pm. Jupiter will have a conjunction with the Moon on August 8. They should be close enough to each other to be captured together in the view of a good pair of binoculars. Mercury, Venus and Mars are not in good position for nighttime observing. They are setting with the sun and can be seen in the pre-dawn hours.