

The Sky This Month

10 June – 08 July 2024



What's On

Monday, 17 June 2024

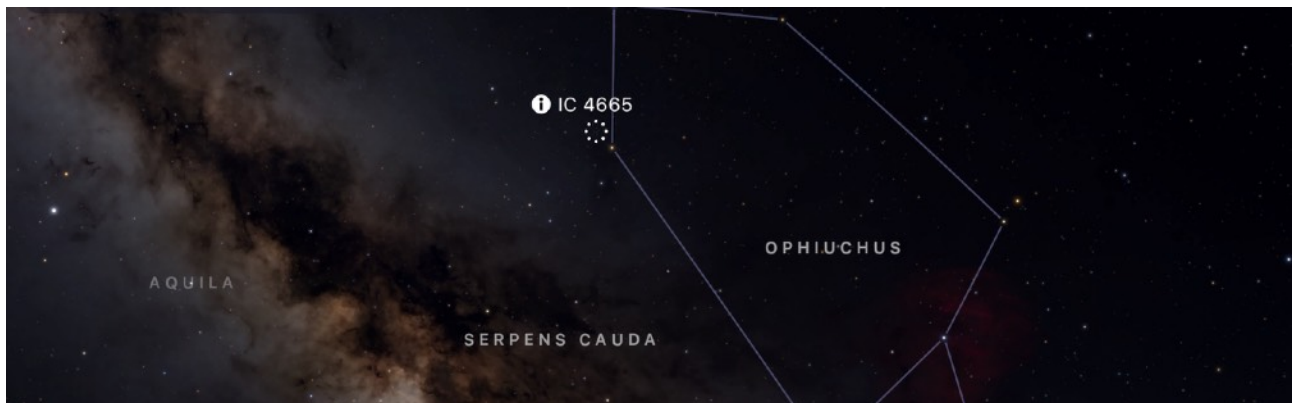
1. Moon and Spica

Keep watch after sunset on 17 June to see a close encounter between Spica and the waxing gibbous moon. At 00:04, the pair will be visible 14° above the south-western horizon, passing within only 1.69° of each other in the constellation Virgo.

Tuesday, 18 June 2024

2. Open star cluster IC 4665

The open star cluster, IC 4665 (magnitude 4.2) in Ophiuchus will be well placed in the evening sky in the coming weeks. On 18 June, it will reach the highest point in the sky at around midnight local time.



Thursday, 27 June 2024

3. June Bootid meteor shower

The June Bootid meteor shower will be active from 22 June to 2 July, producing its peak rate of meteors around 27 June.

Wednesday, 03 July 2024

4. Moon and Jupiter

Wake up early before sunrise on 3 July to see a close encounter between Jupiter and the waning crescent moon. At 03:55, the pair will be visible 13° above the north-eastern horizon, passing within only 4.14° of each other in the constellation Taurus.

Constellations of the month:

5. Boötes

The name comes from Latin and Greek which translates to 'herdsman' or 'plowman'. One of the 48 constellations described by the 2nd-century astronomer Ptolemy, Boötes is now one of the 88 modern constellations.

6. Arcturus

This yellow orange star is 37 light years away from us, making it one of the closest of the bright stars. It was near here in 1987 that the astronomer David Levy co-discovered the comet Shoemaker-Levy which broke-up in July 1992 and collided with Jupiter in July 1994.

7. Corona Borealis

Corona Borealis is a small constellation in the Northern Celestial Hemisphere. It is another of the 48 constellations listed by the 2nd-century astronomer Ptolemy. Its brightest stars form a semicircular arc. Its Latin name, inspired by its shape, means 'northern crown'.

8. R Corona Borealis

One of the more remarkable stars in the sky, R Cor Bor as it is generally known, is a nova in reverse. Normally shining at magnitude 5.9, at completely irregular intervals the star will suddenly fade, sometimes by as much as 8 magnitudes, as dark material erupts in its atmosphere. It then slowly recovers as the material dissipates.

9. T Corona Borealis (The Blaze Star)

This star is a nova that hasn't been seen with the naked eye since the 1940s – at some point this year it will appear for a fleeting moment in our night sky. In March 2023, it dimmed to magnitude 12.3. A similar dimming occurred in the year before the 1946 outburst, indicating that it will likely erupt before September 2024.