

Our Night Sky for July 1st, 2024

I have been saying that we will finally see some planets in our night sky again in the fall. The first week in July allows an early glimpse of Mars and Jupiter. They have both moved ahead of the sun but just barely. If you look southeast about a third of the sky up from the horizon the bright star is actually Saturn. This is a beautiful object with binoculars. And in a half hour Jupiter will rise just ahead of the early morning glow of the sun. Saturn, Jupiter and Mars are rising near a last quarter moon and just barely ahead of the sun. It will be another month or two until we can again enjoy viewing Mars and the gas giants beyond and then only in the early morning hours. It will be well into the fall before they again populate our evening skies. But speaking of a month or so, one of the most anticipated night sky events is coming in mid August. The Perseids meteor shower is a treat every year. Although the peak of as much as 100 meteors an hour is August 12, the meteors begin increasing from mid July until the middle of August. The observatory will open for the event the weekend of August 9, 10, 11. The Radiant or the location in our sky is the constellation Perseids, a stick man of stars in our north east sky. But the meteors can come from any point above because its really coming from the part of the sky that is the leading edge of our planet plowing into tons of rocky debris millions of Kilometers across left by comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle in Our Night Sky.