

Our Night Sky for August 12, 2024

As you may remember, tonight is the peak of the Perseids Meteor shower. The forecast is for a few clouds and I hope it is just a few because we finally have some planets in our sky again. After 11 pm the moon has set and Saturn is visible in our south east sky. Saturn should be fairly easy to spot about 15 degrees above the south eastern sky, but if conditions are ideal a bit further east is Neptune and probably beyond most hand held binocular but a bit further south is Pluto. I have mentioned the core of our galaxy, this is the best time of year to see that. If the sky is very dark and you'll be able to see the shape of the great ball of stars that is the core of our galaxy. At almost due south is Sagittarius, the Tea Pot. This is the only time of year that it is above our horizon so unless you have a clear treeless view of the horizon you may not see it but someone hiking in the higher mountain meadows with a good view of the southern horizon might be able to get a look. This area of the sky is densely populated with many fine astronomical sights since we are looking inward thousands of light years of stars toward the core of our Night Sky.