

Our Night Sky for May 26th,2025

If you are looking for planets, this summer will be a lot like the summer of 2024. We are mostly on the opposite side of the solar system for most of the planets. The one exception right now is Mars which is fairly well situated about halfway up the western sky, for now. Our planet has caught up to and passed Mars. As we whiz along, Mars becomes much smaller in our sky. So, try and catch Mars while you can.

Let's again turn our attention to the big dipper, always in our night sky because it forms a circle around the north star. A few months ago I suggested a close look at the center star in the handle which if you look closely is two stars and if you zero in on it with a telescope or binoculars you should see at least one more star and in fact there are about six. I say about because as we learn more about our universe it seems that twins or doubles are quite common. There are many types, just simple doubles, two stars orbiting close enough that they can influence each other. Or Contact binaries, this would be at least a pair of stars touching or close enough to exchange material as time passes, they sometimes blow off excessive material and flair up sometimes on a regular routine.

Lots to learn from these objects because the amount and the measure of material can offer a great deal of information about how different types of stars work. There is a lifetime of learning available In Our Night Sky.