

Our Night Sky for July 21st, 2025

Do you remember where you were on July 20th, 1969?

I was at a family wedding in Moosomin, Saskatchewan. At about 2pm local time we found a small black and white TV and at 2:17 watched as Neil Armstrong and pilot Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon, 56 years ago yesterday. An event still considered the gold standard of engineering and science. When President Kennedy first announced the project in 1961, Americans had not even launched a man into orbit yet. Nine years and billions of dollars and thousands of hours of work, Buzz and Neil were the first of a dozen people to have ever walked on the moon. Fifty-six years later we are closing in on a date for a return to the moon.

This would be a good time to talk about the moon, but it set before the sun went down.

Let's look for an object that you will need a pair of binoculars for. If you look up about 60 degrees from the western horizon you will see bright star Vega left and a bit higher, but the big square of Hercules is where we will look next. To the right is the familiar horn shaped Corona Borealis we've watching for the reoccurring nova but right now find the upper right star or shoulder of Hercules. Now with binoculars pan down slowly toward the lower right side. About a third of the way down your eyepiece should fill with the Hercules Globular Cluster, a stunning sight . This cluster is approximately 100,000 older stars packed about 100 times denser than the stars in our area of Our Night Sky.