

Skylights of 2011

By Ken Wilson

January

- 3 Quadrantid Meteor Shower peaks (NM 4)
- 4 Partial Solar Eclipse [Europe, Asia, Africa] 86% max.
- 8 Venus reaches Greatest Western Elongation (47°)
- 9 Mercury reaches Greatest Western Elongation (23°)

February

- 9 Venus and asteroid 4 Vesta in conjunction (< 0.5°)
- 20 Look for evening Zodiacal Light for next two weeks

March

- 12 Juno at opposition
- 21 Look for evening Zodiacal Light for next two weeks
- 22 Mercury reaches Greatest Eastern Elongation (19°)

April

- 3 Saturn at opposition
- 22 Lyrid Meteor Shower peaks 7 p.m. (LQ 24)

May

- 6 Eta Aquarid Meteor Shower peaks at 8 a.m. (NM 3)
- 7 Astronomy Day
- Mercury reaches Greatest Western Elongation (27°)
- Mercury and Venus 1.4° apart
- 10 Mercury 2° S. of Jupiter
- 11 Venus 0.6° S of Jupiter
- 18 Mercury and Venus 1.4° apart

June

- 1 Partial Solar Eclipse [Asia, N. N. Amer., Iceland] 60% max.
- 15-16 Total Lunar Eclipse [Eastern Africa, M. East, India]
- 28 Pluto reaches opposition!

July

- 1 Partial Solar Eclipse [near Antarctica] max 1% -first new Saros in 83 years
- 20 Mercury reaches Greatest Eastern Elongation (27°)
- 29 South Delta Aquarid Meteor Shower peaks at 11 a.m. (NM 30)

August

- 5 Asteroid Vesta at opposition
- 12-13 Perseid Meteor Shower peaks at 1 a.m. (FM 13)
- 15 - Comet Elenin in evening sky

September

- 3 Mercury reaches Greatest Western Elongation (18°)
- 5 Comet Elenin (C/2010 X1) reaches perihelion
- 7 (?) Look for Comet Elenin in predawn sky
- 25 Look for morning Zodiacal Light for next two weeks
- 29 Venus and Saturn 1.3° apart

October

- 21 Orionid Meteor Shower peaks at 6 p.m. (LQ 19)
- 24 Look for morning Zodiacal Light for next two weeks
- 28 Jupiter reaches opposition

November

- 1 Mercury and Venus 2° apart
- 12 Mercury and Venus 2° apart
- 14 Mercury reaches Greatest Eastern Elongation (23°)
- 17 Leonid Meteor Shower peaks at 11 p.m. (LQ 18)
- 25 Partial Solar Eclipse [S. S. Africa, Antarctica, New Zealand] 90% max.
- 26 Venus near crescent Moon just after sunset

December

- 10 Total Lunar Eclipse [W. N. Amer.]
- 13 Geminid Meteor Shower peaks at 1 p.m. (FM 10)
- 22 Mercury reaches Greatest Western Elongation (22°)
- 26 Venus near crescent Moon at dusk

Note: All times listed are Eastern Time zone.