

Meeting Date	May 18, 2025	
Night Begins	10:53 PM. EDT	<i>Note: Astronomical Twilight Ends</i>
Solar Noon / Midnight	1:28 EDT	<i>Note: on Meeting Date</i>
Moon Quarters	First 05/04, Full 05/12, Last 05/20, New 05/26	
Darkest Evenings	04/18 – 05/02 05/18 – 05/31	<i>Note: 2 days before Last thru 2 days before First</i>
Viewing Resources	Evening Sky Maps	http://skymaps.com/
	Astronomy Forecasts	https://clearoutside.com/forecast/42.82/-83.14
		http://oaklandastronomy.net/ambient_RH.html
	Peter Birren's Deep-Sky Fieldbooks	http://www.birrendesign.com/astro.html

Featured Constellations: Serpens & Lyra

A selection from Peter Birren's excellent deep-sky fieldbook, "Objects in the Heavens", pages 118-119, 94-95

CONSTELLATION	COMMON NAME	SEASON,	ON MERIDIAN	ABBREVIATION
ITEM IDENTIFIER	TYPE	DETAILS	☆☆ SEPARATION / SIZE	RA DEC MAG
Serpens	<i>Caput (head), Cauda (tail)</i>	Summer	Aug 2	SER
<i>"A long, rambling constellation, mixed with Ophiuchus, it contains some fine telescopic objects."</i>				
☆☆ 13	δ	Pale yellow/ashen	4"	15:35.7 10°28' 4.2/5
☆☆ <i>Alya</i>	θ	Both deep yellow	22.3"	18:57.2 04°14' 4.5/5
☆ DR [®]		Carbon ☆; irregular variable		18:48.3 05°29' 8.4-11
☆ R [®]		Carbon ☆; variable 357 days		15:51.6 15°05' 7.4-14
○○ M5 <small>5904</small>	GC	! Well resolved; 100K-500K ☆	28'	15:19.6 02°01' 5.6
		One of oldest / largest GC @ 13BYO / 165LY diam.; 25kLY		
○○ M16 <small>6611</small>	EN	! <i>Eagle Nebula</i> ; dk neb. inside 35'x28'	18:19.9	-13°46' 6.4
		60☆ mag8+ surrounded by extensive nebulosity		
		<i>Pillars of Creation</i> in center of main nebula; 6500LY		
○ <small>NGC6535</small>	GC	Tiny; faint; 4 ☆ on W side	3'	18 04.9 -00°18' 10.4
○ <small>NGC6539</small>	GC	In heavily obscured area	21.5'	18 05.9 -07°35' 9.3
○ NGC6604	C/N	Very compressed center	5'	18:19.2 -12°13' 6.5
○ NGC6605	OC	Loose open loop; near M16	15'	18:19.5 -14°55' 6.0
○ IC 1276	GC	Vague area around obvious core	21'	18:11.8 -07°12' 10.3
○○ IC 4756	OC	80☆; large; diffuse; naked eye	39'	18:40.0 05°28' 5.0

CONSTELLATION	COMMON NAME		SEASON,	ON MERIDIAN	ABBREVIATION		
ITEM IDENTIFIER	TYPE	DETAILS	☆☆ SEPARATION / SIZE	RA	DEC	MAG	

Lyra *the Lyre, Harp, Vulture* Summer Aug 15 **LYR**

"For its size, one of the most remarkable constellations, full of beautiful fields, and adorned by one of the great leaders of the firmament. Sweeping between Lyra and Cygnus exceedingly fine."

☆ Vega	α	The Eagle; 27LY; 7 dim companions		18:37.6	38°48'	.02	
		2nd brightest in northern sky; Pole ☆ in 12,000 years					
		12.5 hour rotation; large central bulge.					
☆☆ Sheliak	β	4☆ within 86"; cream/blue		18:50.8	33°23'	3.4-10	
☆☆ 11/Delta	δ	4☆; part of Steph 1	2'	18:54.4	37°00'	5.5/10	
☆☆ Double/Double	ε	A-B at 3.5' sep then each at 2-3"		18:45.0	39°42'		
		Great sighting test. A-B mag 5.0/6.1; C-D mag 5.2/5.5					
☆☆ 6/Zeta	ζ	Topaz/green	44"	18:45.5	37°38'	4.3/6	
☆☆ 20/Eta	η	Binocular Double	28"	19:14.4	39°11'	4.4/8	
☆☆ OΣ525		☆☆☆; Albireo-like	45"	18:55.6	34°00'	6/7.7	
☆ T [®]		! Awesome red carbon ☆; irreg.		18:33.0	37°01'	7-9.3	
☆ HK [®]		Carbon ☆; irregular		18:43.5	36°59'	8-9.6	
○○M56 ₆₇₇₉	GC	Highly resolved; rich area; 33kLY	8'	19:17.4	30°13'	8.3	
○○M57 ₆₇₂₀	PN	! Ring Nebula; 2300LY	1.4'x1'	18:54.3	33°03'	8.8	
		Only annular nebula accessible by common telescopes					
		Large as Pluto's orbit; center ☆ variable mag 14-16					
○○NGC6743	OC	Wide ☆☆☆h1361 surrounded by 35☆	6'	19:02.2	29°18'	8.2	
○ NGC6791	OC	300 faint ☆; difficult to find	16'	19:21.6	37°48'	9.5	
		Platais' Oddball; 8BYO; 10,000 total ☆					
		Oldest, largest, most metal-rich in Milky Way					
○○Steph 1	OC	δLYR OC; 12 ☆; ~4° N of M57	20'	18:54.2	36°57'	3.8	