

# A PEEK SKYWARD IN 2021

- January 10-February 5 – Mercury in evening sky
- January 21 (pm) – Uranus 1.6° south of Mars
- February 9 – UAE “Hope” arrives at Mars
- February 18 – *Mars Perseverance* rover scheduled to land on Mars (~2:30pm)
- February 23 (?) – Tianwen-1 orbits Mars
- March 4 – Asteroid Vesta opposition (in Leo)
- March 5 (pm) – Mercury 0.4° left of Jupiter in ESE
- March 10 (am) – Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn & Moon within 14°
- March 27 – Venus passes behind Sun (“superior conjunction”)
- April 2 (am) – Jupiter’s moon Io near the star 44 Capricorni
- April 5-12 – International Dark Sky Week
- April 26 - “Supermoon”
- April 28-June 4 – Mercury in evening sky
- May 12 (pm) – Venus/Moon 1° with Mercury above in WNW
- May 26 – Total Lunar Eclipse (start 4:44am, sunrises 5:28am), “Supermoon”
- May 27 (am) – Mercury/Venus, 0.4°
- June 10 – Annular solar eclipse (can’t see)
- June 22-August 23 – Mercury in morning sky
- June 23 (pm) – Mars crosses the Beehive Star Cluster, low WNW
- July 11 (pm) – Venus/Mars 1° with Moon 5° to right.
- August 2 – Saturn opposition
- August 11/12 – Perseid Meteor Shower
- August 18 (pm) – Mercury/Mars 0.7°
- August 18 – predicted max of the variable star Mira
- August 19 – Jupiter opposition
- August 22 – “Seasonal Blue Moon”
- September 14 – Neptune opposition
- October 7-10 – Illinois Dark Skies Star Party at Jim Edgar Panther Creek Park (Springfield)
- October 13-November 10 – Mercury in morning sky
- October 16 (pm) – Venus 1.4° from the star Antares, SW
- October 31 – Expected launch of James Webb Space Telescope
- November ? – first launch of the Orion spacecraft
- November 4 – Uranus opposition
- November 4 – Asteroid Ceres passes near star Aldebaran, in Taurus
- November 19 – Partial (97%) Lunar Eclipse (start 1:19am, max 3:04am, end 4:47am)
- December 4 – Total solar eclipse (can’t see)
- December 5 (pm) – Jupiter/Saturn/Venus/Moon in a line
- December 12 – Comet Leonard closest to Earth (21 million miles)
- December 17 (am) – Mars 5° from star Antares
  
- Meetings of the CU Astronomical Society – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7pm. On Zoom until end of Spring. [www.cuas.org](http://www.cuas.org). *Join us!* Contact me at [dleake@parkland.edu](mailto:dleake@parkland.edu)
- “This Week’s Prairie Skies” in Sunday’s News-Gazette. “Eye on the Sky” on WDWS weekly.