

second in area, with 1,294 square degrees, and the third is Ursa Major, with 1,280 square degrees. Fourth is Cetus, the whale, which is not now visible, with 1,231, and the fifth is Hercules, now visible in the northeast, with 1,225. Leo ranks 12th among the 89 constellations in the whole sky, with 947 degrees; Bootes 13th, with 907; and Auriga 21st, with 657. Orion is in 25th place, with 594 and Canis Major 43rd, with only 380 square degrees.

Crater, the cup, which is resting on Hydra, is in 53rd place, with 282. Near the end of the tail, just to the right of Spica, is a quadrilateral of stars marking Corvus, the crow. Its area of 184 square degrees puts it in 71st place.

The smallest of the constellations is one that we cannot see from most parts of the United States, but is one of the best known of all in the skies visible from the Southern Hemisphere. This is Crux, the southern cross. It is in 89th place, with an area of only 68 square degrees.

Celestial Time Table for April

APRIL	EST	
1	6:00 p.m.	Moon passes Jupiter
2	6:00 p.m.	Moon passes Mars
3	4:00 p.m.	Moon nearest, distance 222,800 miles
4	2:45 p.m.	New moon
5	5:00 p.m.	Moon passes Venus
11	2:51 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
16	2:00 a.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,100 miles
19	7:34 p.m.	Full moon
27	8:00 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
	4:00 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn
29	10:00 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter

Subtract one hour for CST, two hours for MST, and three hours for PST.

* * * * *

Know the Sky to Watch Satellites

These star maps showing the positions of stars and planets can help you locate satellites when they flash briefly across the sky. Familiarity with the constellations and their relative positions makes locating artificial moons much easier whenever they are visible from your area.

• Science News Letter, 81:186 March 24, 1962

GENERAL SCIENCE

Engineering Student Percentage Drops Again

► THE PERCENTAGE of college freshmen enrolled in engineering has dropped for the third year in a row.

Statistics released by the U.S. Office of Education show that the percentage has steadily declined from 8.2% of the total fall enrollment in 1959 to 7.3% in 1960, and reaching the low point of 6.6% last fall. Total freshmen engineering enrollment last fall was about 67,600.

Another sobering statistic was the drop in the number of engineering degrees for the third successive year. The only bright light in the survey was the rise in enrollment among graduate engineers.

The importance of the statistics was underlined by a recent National Science Foundation study that showed how Russians are graduating about three times as many engineers as the United States.

• Science News Letter, 81:187 March 24, 1962

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