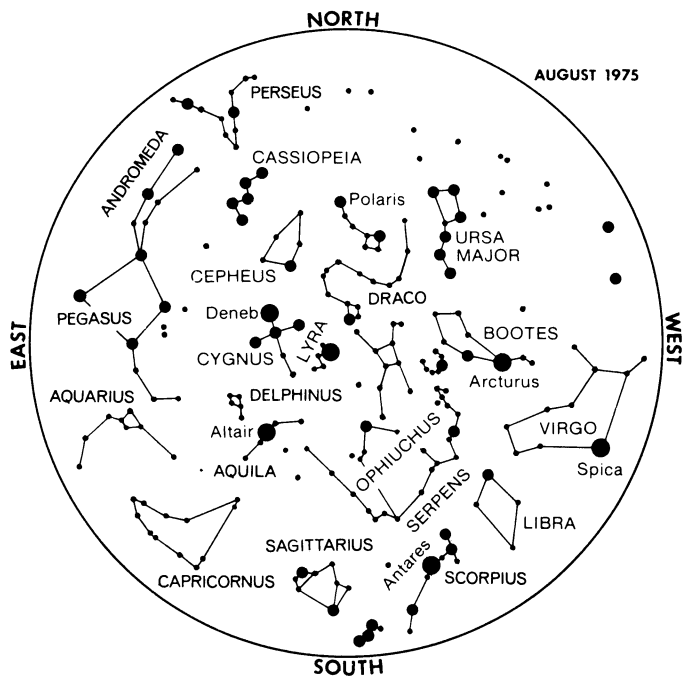


STARS OF AUGUST

CELESTIAL TIME TABLE			
Aug. 1	9:00 am EDT	Moon passes north of Mars	
6	2:00 am	Moon passes south of Saturn	
7	7:57 am	New Moon	
8	4:00 pm	Moon nearest earth, distance 223,700 miles	
9	3:00 am	Moon passes north of Venus	
12	early am	Perseid meteor shower	
13	10:24 pm	Moon in first quarter	
21	3:48 pm	Full Moon	
23	midnight	Moon farthest; distance 252,400 miles	
26	1:00 pm	Moon passes north of Jupiter	
27	9:00 am	Venus between earth and sun	
29	7:20 pm	Moon in last quarter	
30	1:00 am	Moon passes south of Mars	



BY JAMES STOKLEY

August nights usually afford the best chance of the year to see meteors or "shooting stars." They bring the Perseid meteor shower, which lasts for several weeks and is at its best about August 12.

Although the Perseids are the most reliable of the year's 19 principal meteor showers, the moon is sometimes so bright that it spoils the show. This year, however, it will be near first quarter on the 12th and will set before midnight. The sky will therefore be free of lunar interference in the early morning when the meteors are most numerous.

Then, if the sky is clear and you watch toward the northeast, you may see one of these shooting stars flash across the sky every minute or so. Moving in various directions all will seem to come from the constellation Perseus. Actually these bits of

cosmic dust, which burn up in a flash of light when they encounter earth's atmosphere, move around the sun in parallel paths. Perspective makes these paths seem to converge in the direction from which they come. This happens to be towards Perseus, so the name Perseid is applied to the annual shower.

We are now, in August and September, at the most favorable time of year for an evening view of the Milky Way. You won't see it through the polluted air and glare of a big city but if you are fortunate to be at a location far from city lights you can now see it arching overhead on a dark night. It extends from Sagittarius, low in the south, through Aquila, Cygnus, Cepheus, Cassiopeia and Perseus, on the northeastern horizon.

To the naked eye it appears a continuous

band of faint light. But with a pair of binoculars, you'll see some of the myriads of separate stars of which it consists.

The sun and the stars that we see at night all belong to a huge system that has about a hundred billion members. Its shape is a disk which light (with a speed of 186,000 miles per second) takes about 100,000 years to cross. Its diameter is therefore about 100,000 light years. The sun and the solar system are about three-fifths of the way out from the center to the edge.

When we look toward the edge we see many more stars than when we look toward the sides of the disk, and this edgewise concentration of stars is what causes the appearance of the Milky Way. The center of the disk-shaped system, also called the Galaxy, is towards Sagittarius, about 30,000 light years away. □

PRODUCTS

PRODUCTS are selected and listed as an editorial service. The claims are the manufacturers'. For further information circle the appropriate number on the postpaid, self-addressed Reader Service Card in the center of this issue.

Time controller can be programmed for continuous automatic recycling with a time period ranging from .003 to 11 seconds; a similar range of delay periods can be programmed between cycles. Available with digital readout. Rack mounted.

Durgin and Browne, Inc.

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Jensen Tools and Alloys

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Labware fittings made of borosilicate glass are available in a variety of shapes—L's, T's, Y's, U's, short straight pieces and Teflon plug-valves in glass bodies—for use with the manufacturer's line of taper-sealed tubing connectors. Available in 6-millimeter, 8-mm and 12-mm sizes.

Chemplast, Inc.

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Laboratory instrument catalog includes single-and-dual-pen, remotely programmable strip-chart recorders; digital-and-analog-readout power supplies; and a computing frequency counter that reads from 0.1 Hz to 20 MHz with a resolution of 0.00001 Hz.

Heath/Schlumberger Instruments

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CO₂ incubator for bench-top use offers 8.8 cubic-foot capacity for clinical, tissue-culture and other applications. The chamber can monitor and control temperature from 5 degrees C. over ambient to 70 degrees C., relative humidity up to 98 percent and CO₂ tension from ambient to 20 percent.

New Brunswick Scientific Co., Inc.

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Stainless steel lab flask holds 3,000 milliliters in a 7.75-inch-diameter sphere with 24/40 side opening and 34/45 center opening. Also available in 250-ml to 72,000-ml capacities.

Scientific Machine and Supply Co.

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Forma Scientific

Circle No. 62 on Reader Service Card

Digital pH meter offers expanded range with .001 pH precision; manual and automatic temperature compensation from 0 to 100 degrees C.; and binary-coded-decimal and analog outputs.

Brinkmann Instruments Inc.

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