

The Cosmic Reporter

"October Sky Events"
By Tim Linder

A lot will be happening in the sky in October. There will be a number of conjunctions between the moon and the planets and there will also be a meteor shower at mid-month. Here's what's happening in October:

OCTOBER 2: Tonight the planets Mars and Uranus will be only one degree apart. First locate red Mars low in the southwest after dark, then, using binoculars look one degree north of Mars to see Uranus.

OCTOBER 4: This morning the planet Venus will be only a third of a degree south of the star

Regulus in the constellation of Leo. This should be an interesting event since both objects are quite bright. Look for Venus and Regulus high in the east at sunrise.

OCTOBER 5: This morning the moon will pass a half a degree north of the star Regulus (in the constellation of Leo) and about a degree north of the planet Venus. Look for these three objects low in the east after about 4 a.m.

OCTOBER 8: New Moon. The moon is not visible today.

OCTOBER 16: First Quarter Moon. The moon is now half full and is in the evening sky.

OCTOBER 21: This morning is the peak of the Orionid Meteor Shower. This shower is called the Orionids because the meteors radiate from the area of the sky near Orion. To see the Orionids look towards the high east after midnight. You should see about 25 meteors per hour.

OCTOBER 23: Full Moon. Tonight the moon rises as the sun sets.

OCTOBER 26: This morning before sunrise the moon will pass less than a degree north of the star Aldebaran in the constellation of Taurus. Look for the moon and Aldebaran low in the west.

OCTOBER 30: Last Quarter Moon. The moon is now half full and is high in the south at sunrise.

Also on the morning of the 30th the planets Venus and Jupiter will be only a half a degree apart. Look for Venus and Jupiter high in the east before sunrise. This should be a very interesting event since both of these planets are very bright.

That's it for this week. HAPPY STARGAZING!!!!

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