



Orpington Astronomical Society

# Observing Officer's report for May 2025



# Sky chart

1/5/2025

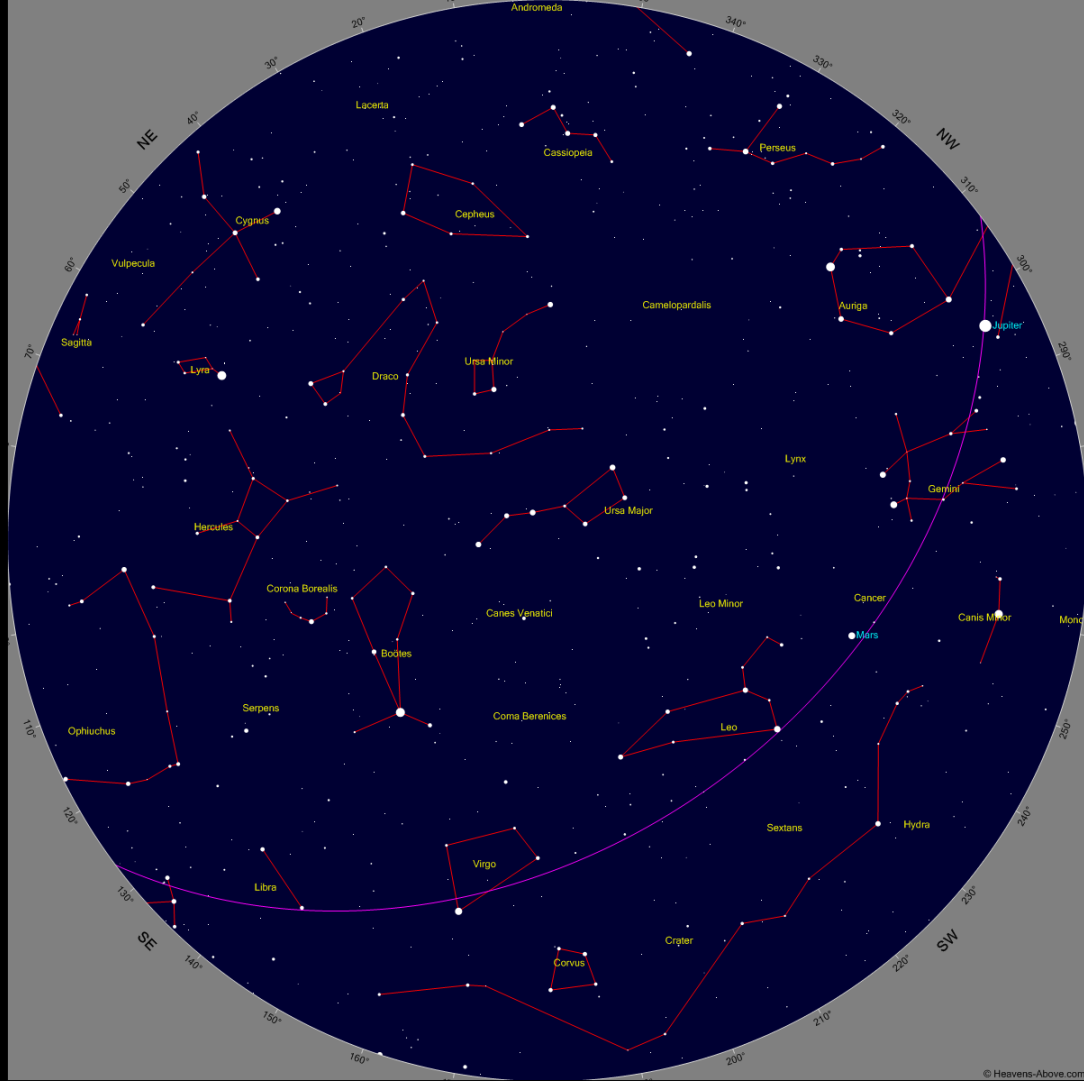
23:00

15/5/2025

22:00

28/5/2025

21:00



Source

<https://heavens-above.com/>

# Phases of the Moon

1<sup>st</sup> quarter



4<sup>th</sup> May  
14:51

Full Moon



12<sup>th</sup> May  
17:55

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter



20<sup>th</sup> May  
12:58

New Moon



27<sup>th</sup> May  
04:02

# Sun phenomena in May

No astronomical night conditions after 23rd May

Date	Twilight starts *)	Rise	Set	Twilight ends *)	Day length
1 <sup>st</sup>	3:03	5:31	20:22	22:52	14:51
15 <sup>th</sup>	2:07	5:08	20:44	23:48	15:37
28 <sup>th</sup>	-	4:52	21:02	-	16:10

\*) Astronomical twilight

# Planets in May

M - Morning sky, before sunrise, E - evening sky, after sunset

Mercury - difficult to see later not visible (M)

Venus - great visibility (M)

Mars - average visibility (E) @0.9-1.1 mag

Jupiter - fairly good visibility (E) @-2.0 mag later average

Saturn - average visibility (M)

Uranus - extremely difficult to see

Neptune - extremely difficult to see

## Selected events:

4 May Mars in Beehive cluster (M44) with Moon nearby ( $1^\circ$  away)

5 May Moon close to Regulus

17 May 23 h Uranus conjunction

30 May 04 h Mercury superior conjunction

1 June 03 h Venus greatest western elongation

# Eta Aquarids meteor shower

Period: 19 Apr–28 May

Peak: 5–6 May

Zenithal hourly rate: Up to 50

Velocity: 66 km/s

Parent: 1P/Halley

The meteors we currently see as members of the Eta Aquariid shower separated from Halley's Comet hundreds of years ago. The current orbit of Halley's Comet does not pass close enough to the Earth to be a source of meteoric activity.



**The next Observing evening will be at the  
OVMH on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm.**



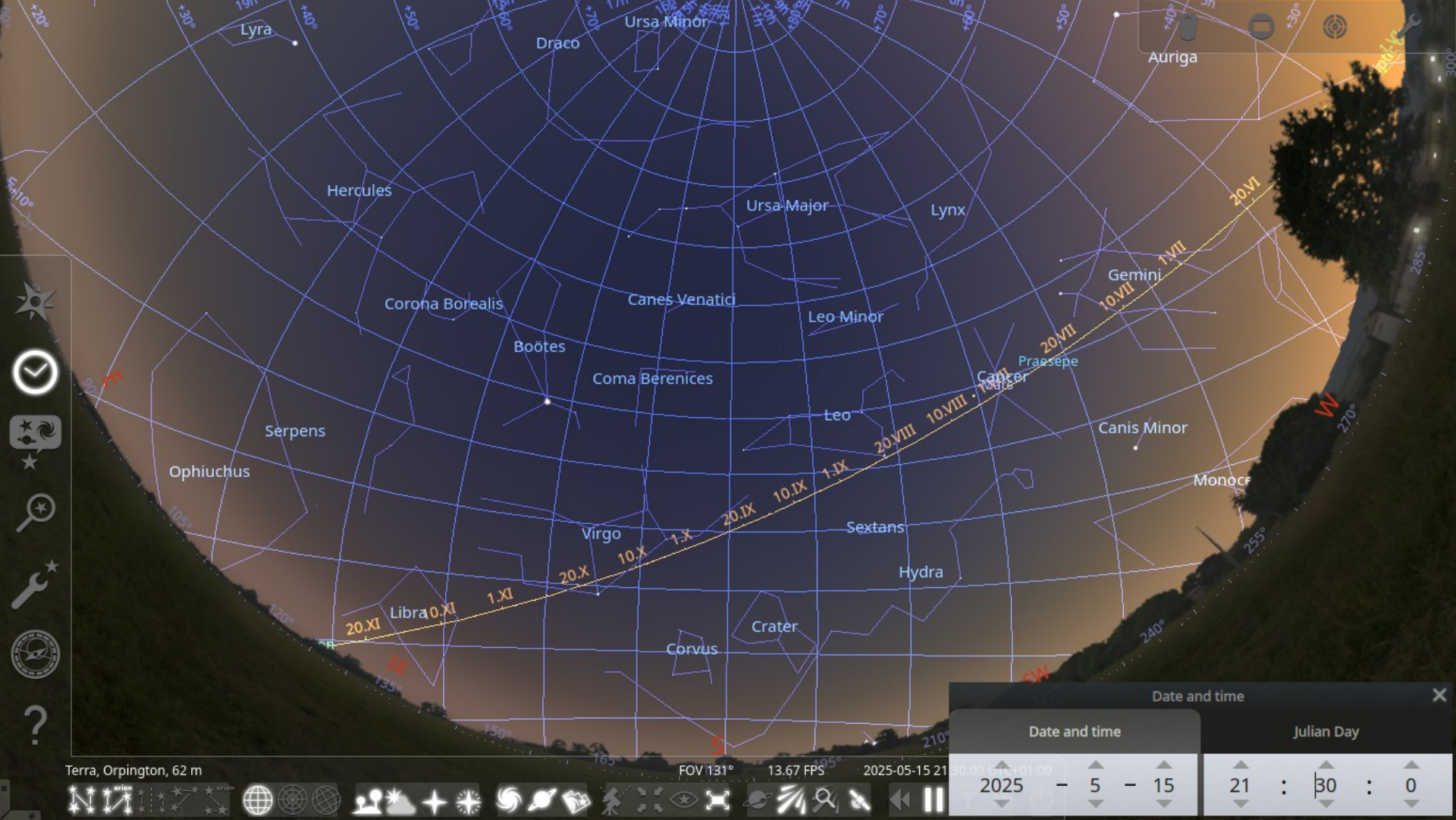
# At the observing evening we will be observing:

- Still visible Mars and Jupiter
- Hercules, Corona Borealis, Bootes, Virgo, Leo constellations
- Too many to mention M and NGC objects in Virgo and Coma Berenices

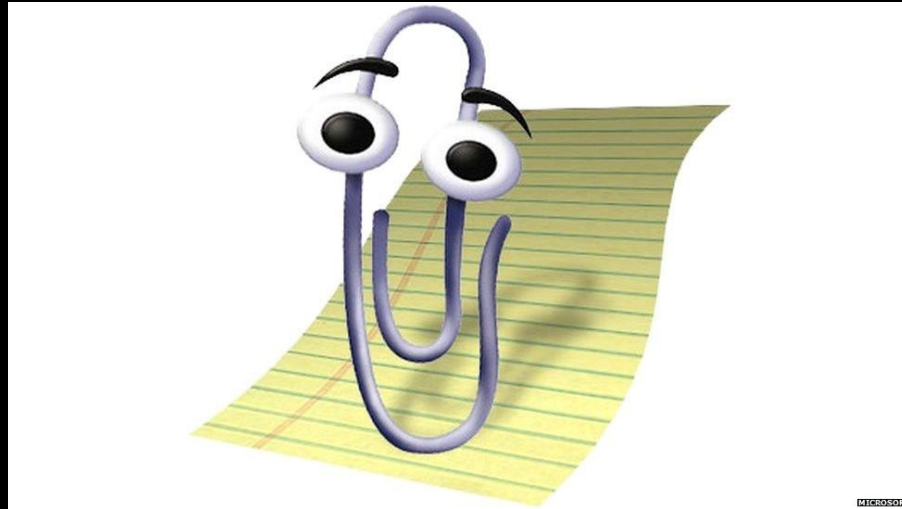
Sunset 20:44

Astronomical twilight: 23:48

Moon 17 days old rising 00:23 the following day



# Did you know?



**Star Wars Day** is an informal commemorative day observed annually on May 4 to celebrate the Star Wars media franchise.





The first recorded reference of the phrase being used was on May 4, 1979, the day after Margaret Thatcher was elected as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The Conservatives placed a congratulatory advertisement in the Evening News saying "May the Fourth Be with You, Maggie. Congratulations."



## Notable birthdays:

May 14 1944 - George Lucas

May 19 1944 - Peter Mayhew

May 26 1913 - Peter Cushing

May 27 1922 - Christopher Lee

## Film releases & TV airings:

May 16 2002 – Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones

May 19 1999 – Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace

May 19 2005 – Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith

May 21 1980 – Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back

May 25 1977 – Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope.

May 25 1983 – Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi

May 25 2018 – Solo: A Star Wars Story

## May 1 – 501st Day

When you see a trooper on this day, thank them for all they have done for the Empire.

## May 2 – Wedge Antilles Day

The X-wing novel Wedge's Gamble was released on May 2nd 1996. This is a day to celebrate all of the unsung heroes of the Star Wars Saga.

## May 7 – Obi-Wan Kenobi Day

Obi-Wan Kenobi was born in 57 BBY.

## May 11 – Blaster Day

The E-11 blaster rifle was the standard blaster rifle of the Imperial stormtroopers.

## May 12 – Parsec Day

We don't know exactly how many parsecs the Millennium Falcon made the Kessel Run in, but we know it was less than twelve.

## May 14 – The Maker Day

## May 19 – Chewbacca Day

## May 21 – Empire Strikes Back Day

## May 22 – R2-D2 Day



May 25 – Universal Day of the Jedi, release date of Star Wars: A New Hope (1977)

Also Frank Richard Oznowicz was born May 25, 1944 - puppeteer performing Yoda as well as Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, Animal, Sam Eagle, Cookie Monster, Bert and Grover

May 26 – Grand Moff Day

May 27 – Dooku Day

May 31 – Death Star Day - end May with a bang.

Not forgetting the importance of...



the 25<sup>th</sup> May  
– The Towel Day



STAR WARS DAY  
**MAY THE 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BE WITH YOU**

The image features a stylized city skyline in shades of orange and red against a bright yellow background. A large, bold, black-outlined text box is tilted diagonally across the center. The text inside the box reads "STAR WARS DAY" in a smaller font, followed by "MAY THE 4<sup>TH</sup>" and "BE WITH YOU" in a larger, bold font. To the right of the text box, there is a stylized explosion or starburst effect with radiating lines and small circles.