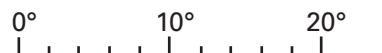


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An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.



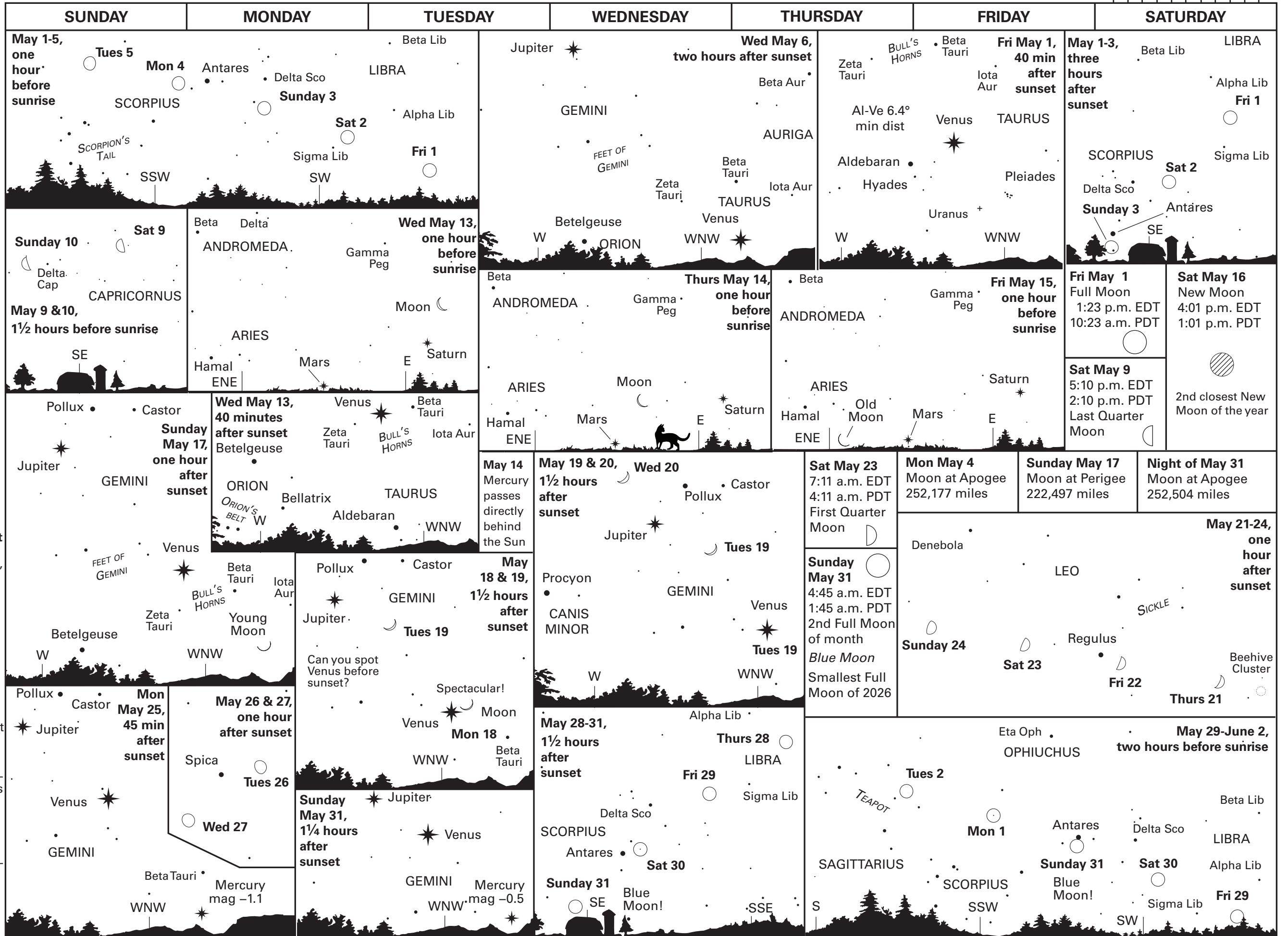
May's evening twilight scene features **Venus** of mag. -4 low in west-northwest, and **Jupiter** of mag. -2 in west, to Venus' upper left. At mid-twilight on May 1, Jupiter is halfway to overhead and nearly 40° from Venus. **The gap between them closes to 30° on May 10; to 20° on May 20; and to within 9° on May 31.** Both planets are moving east against the stars, while the zodiacal backdrop itself is nearly 1° lower in west nightly, a consequence of Earth's revolution around the Sun. Jupiter this month shifts daily by 0.14° to 0.19°, while swift Venus goes 1.2° daily, bringing it closer to Jupiter. **Don't miss their spectacular pairing on June 9.**

Watch their changing configurations with stars of Taurus and Gemini. **In May's final week, Jupiter** will pass 6° S of Pollux, and Venus will form an isosceles triangle with Pollux and Castor. Lots of photo-ops! On **May 1**, Venus passes Aldebaran, and between horns of Bull 11-12 days later; see illustrations on calendar. Farther left, in west to southwest, find Orion and bright Sirius, as depicted on April's evening sky map. Follow these stars and others until their annual exits from the western sky. Record your observations on Daily Skywatch Log, available on our *Extra Content Page*, at abramsplanetarium.org/msta. You'll also find details about **Mercury's sudden, bright entry into evening sky** after midmonth (see May 14, 25, 31), and about the **"Blue Moon"** of May 31.

Enjoy young 3% crescent on May 17, then, **nightly through May 31**, follow Moon past two brilliant planets and four first-mag. stars. **May 20, Mercury** at mag. -1.6 sets 40 min after sunset, so look earlier, with optical aid, within 25° lower right of Venus. By **May 25**, Mercury, setting later, is easy for unaided eye, 20° lower right of Venus.

In morning twilight: Use binoculars to spot 0.9-mag. **Saturn** very low in east and 1.2-mag. **Mars** within 8° to Saturn's lower left on May 1. Even 24°-32° from Sun, viewing conditions are poor, especially from northern states, with the zodiacal belt inclined low. **The waning crescent Moon** May 13-15 will help find these planets. By month's end, they're a bit higher and 27° apart. **Enrich your life by experiencing the sights and sounds of spring mornings!** Visit allaboutbirds.org/news/birding-festivals-and-biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

Planetarium business office:
(517) 355-4676
<http://abramsplanetarium.org/>



John S. French, Robert C. Victor
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