

THE DEAD HORSE DIGEST

THE FULL MOON PREDICTS EASTER

Ever wonder why Easter is sometimes in April and other times it's in March? Believe it or not, the full moon determines when Easter is each year.

Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the 1st Full Moon of Spring. The first day of spring is March 21st and therefore the first full moon on or after that date will determine what Sunday Easter falls on. This year's first full moon of Spring, reaches it's peak during the early morning hours of April 13th. Since that is a Sunday Easter falls on the next Sunday, which is Sunday April 20th.

The full moon that predicts Easter is often referred to as the Paschal Full Moon in honor of the Easter holiday. Although many of us might know April's full moon better by it's other name 'The Pink Moon' referencing the pink flowers that bloom in spring.



LYRID METEOR SHOWER PEAKS ON APRIL 22ND

The Lyrid meteor shower occurs between April 16-25 every year. This year it will reach it's peak in the early hours of April 22nd. Look for it in the hours just before dawn, where it will radiate from it's highest point in the sky.

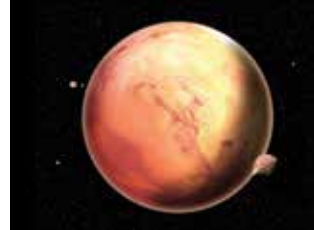
The average Lyrid shower produces 15-20 meteors per hour! During some of it's peak times it has produced up to 100 meteors and hour which is called an "outburst".



Milky Way photo by Ranger Chante

The radiant, the point from which the meteors appear to originate, is located near Vega the brightest star in the constellation Lyra. Make sure you are not looking directly at the radiant though, as you might miss some of the longest tails of the falling meteors!

PLANETS TO LOOK FOR THIS MONTH



MARS

Mars the red colored planet will be high in the sky all month. Look for it in the constellation Gemini not too far from the bright planet Jupiter. The red coloring of the planet will be shining in the night making it easier to spot.



JUPITER

As the largest planet in our solar system, Jupiter glows brightly at night. You will find the gas giant in-between the horns of Taurus the bull constellation. If looking through a telescope or binoculars you might even see 4 of it's larger moons!

