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A Special Publication of

The American Association of Amateur Astronomers

Messier Marathon 2005

Maps and Recording Sheets

Primary Date: March 12-13, 2005

Alternate Dates: March 5-6 and April 9-10, 2005

Based on the *Messier Marathon Observer's Guide* by Don Machholz

The Messier Marathon presents an opportunity to view the entire Messier List in one night. Each Spring, the period around the Spring Equinox on March 21 allows observers to view all 110 of the Messier objects in one observing session. In 2005, the new moon weekends fall on March 12-13 and April 9-10, allowing for a full night of observing. During other weekends in March, the appearance of the moon during part of the night will hinder observers from viewing the whole list.

You may use any size telescope or binoculars for the Marathon, since the object is to SEE the object, rather than to OBSERVE and LOG it. For this reason, it is OK to use setting circles and other electronic devices, even though such observations would not qualify you for the Astronomical League's Messier Certificate.

This packet contains a check list and observing sheet for you to use to keep track of your observations. This is intended to be a fun project, so observing and recording on the checklist is done on the honor system. Finding objects and sharing observations with other observers is OK.

The attached map is intended to help you find the relative positions of the Messier Objects across the sky and in the constellations in which they are located. Start with M77 right after sunset, and continue on to M30 just before dawn. Use your own star charts and maps to help you find the individual objects if you do not already know where they are. You will find there will be periods of inactivity while you wait for the next object to come up, and periods of frantic activity trying to find that one last object before it sets. While the objective is to see all 110 objects, a very difficult project, whatever total number of objects you observe will be a successful night. And if you do not see all of the objects in one night, you can always try again next year!

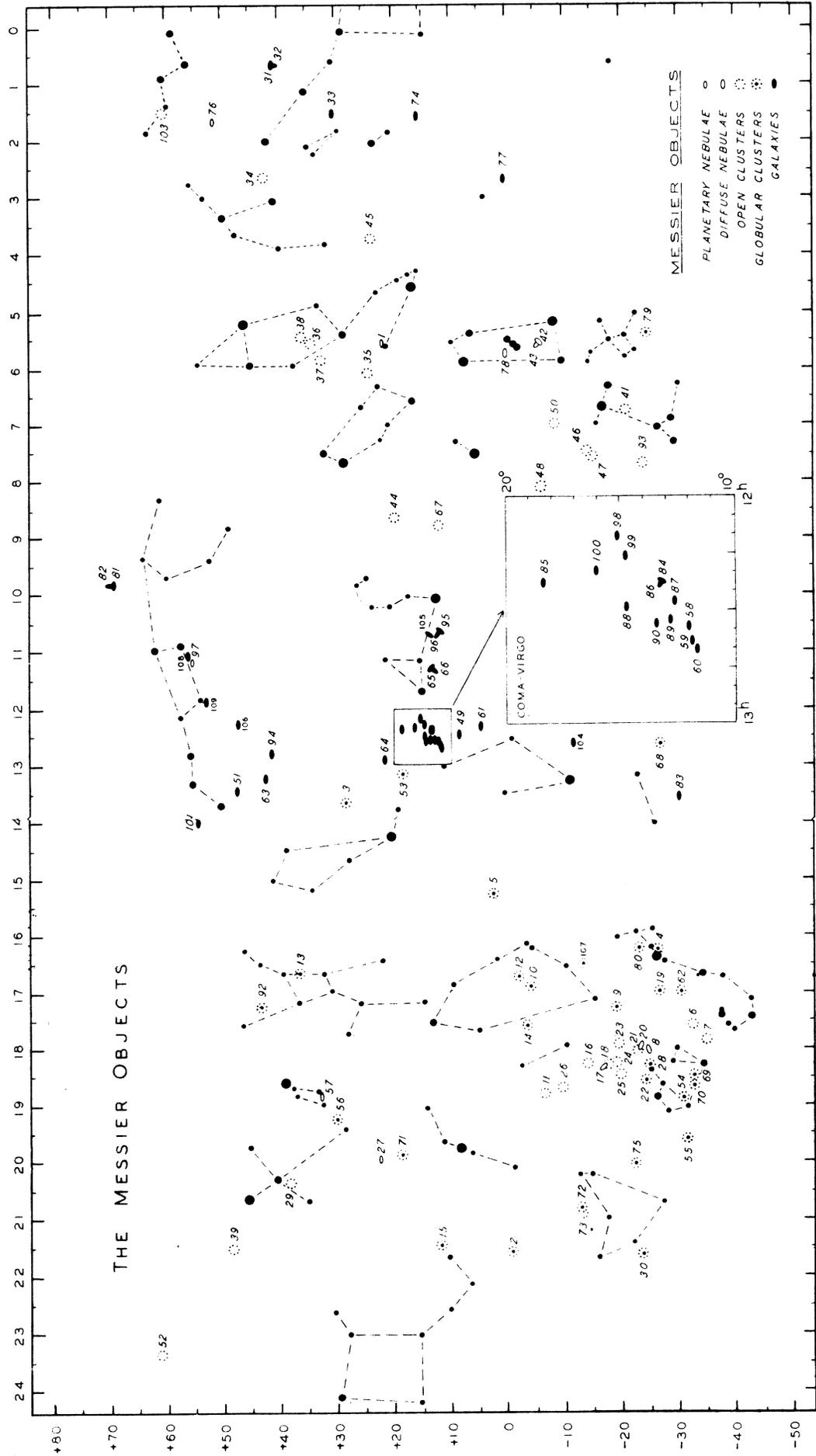
You do not have to conduct your own Messier Marathon on the dates indicated. These are just the ideal weekend dates for this year. But you can observe anytime during March or April that you have an opportunity to be out. The objects will be up!

This is a great club project for any astronomy club. Get your friends together and get out and observe!

Messier Marathon Checklist

Objects are listed in the order they are most efficiently observed. Based on a sequence devised by Don Macholz.

Messier	Constellation	Type	Rating	Messier	Constellation	Type	Rating
I. Early Evening Objects				__ M87	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
__ M77	Cetus	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M89	Virgo.	Galaxy	Difficult,
__ M74	Pisces	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M90	Virgo	Galaxy	Difficult
__ M33	Triangulum	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M88	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Difficult
__ M31	Andromeda	Galaxy	Easy	__ M91	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Difficult
__ M32	Andromeda	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M58	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
__ M110	Andromeda	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M59	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
__ M52	Cassiopeia	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M60	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
__ M103	Cassiopeia	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M49	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
__ M76	Perseus	Planetary Nebula	Moderate	__ M61	Virgo.	Galaxy	Moderate
__ M34	Perseus	Open Cluster	Easy	__ M104	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
__ M45	Taurus	Open Cluster	Easy	IV. After Midnight			
__ M79	Lepus	Globular Cluster	Moderate	__ M5	Serpens,	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M42	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Easy	__ M13	Hercules	Globular Cluster	Easy
__ M43	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Easy	__ M92	Hercules	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M78	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Moderate	__ M57	Lyra	Planetary Nebula	Moderate
__ M1	Taurus	Supernova Remnant	Difficult	__ M56	Lyra	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M35	Gemini	Open Cluster	Easy	__ M29	Cygnus	Open Cluster	Moderate
__ M37	Auriga	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M39	Cygnus	Open Cluster	Moderate
__ M36	Auriga	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M27	Vulpecula	Planetary Nebula	Easy
__ M38	Auriga	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M71	Sagitta	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M41	Canis Major	Open Cluster	Easy	__ M107	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M93	Puppis	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M12	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M47	Puppis	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M10	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M46	Puppis	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M14	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M50	Monoceros	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M9	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M48	Hydra	Open Cluster	Moderate	V. Scorpius and Sagittarius Region			
__ M44	Cancer	Open Cluster	Easy	__ M4	Scorpius	Globular Cluster	Easy
__ M67	Cancer	Open Cluster	Moderate	__ M80	Scorpius	Globular Cluster	Moderate
II. Leo and the Big Dipper Region				__ M19	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M95	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M62	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
__ M96	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M6	Scorpius	Open Cluster	Moderate
__ M105	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M7	Scorpius	Open Cluster	Easy
__ M65	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M11	Scutum	Open Cluster	Easy
__ M66	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M26	Scutum	Open Cluster	Difficult
__ M81	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M16	Serpens	Diffuse Nebula + OC	Easy
__ M82	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M17	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy
__ M97	Ursa Major	Planetary Nebula	Difficult	__ M18	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy
__ M108	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M24	Sagittarius	Star Cloud	Easy
__ M109	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M25	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy,
__ M40	Ursa Major	Double Star	Difficult	__ M23	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy
__ M106	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M21	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy
__ M94	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M20	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy
__ M63	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M8	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy
__ M51	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M28	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Easy
__ M101	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M22	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Easy
__ M102	Draco	Galaxy	Difficult	__ M69	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M53	Coma Berenices	Globular Cluster	Moderate	__ M70	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M64	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M54	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M3	Canes Venatici	Globular Cluster	Moderate	__ M55	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M68	Hydra	Globular Cluster	Difficult	__ M75	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M83	Hydra	Galaxy	Difficult	VI. Early Dawn			
III. Virgo Cluster Region				__ M15	Pegasus	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M98	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M2	Aquarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult.
__ M99	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M72	Aquarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M100	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M73	Aquarius	Open Cluster	Difficult
__ M85	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	__ M30	Capricornus	Globular Cluster	Difficult
__ M84	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate				
__ M86	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate				



THE MESSIER OBJECTS

This chart shows the distribution of the Messier objects across the sky, and their relative positions. Constellation and star names have been omitted from this chart for simplicity. Messier objects range in declination from 70 degrees north to 35 degrees south. A star atlas is needed for locating the less conspicuous Messier objects.



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The American Association of Amateur Astronomers Observing Log

Observer: _____ Location: _____ Page: _____

INDEX	Period - Instrument		Notes
Object	Date	Time	
	Power	Seeing	
	Type Instrument		
Object	Date	Time	
	Power	Seeing	
	Type Instrument		
Object	Date	Time	
	Power	Seeing	
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