



Berkeley Public Library Weekly Sky Report December 3 - December 9, 2023

Space Stations

The **International Space Station (ISS)** has some great passes for us this week. You can follow the life 250 miles above us on NASA's daily ISS blog: <https://blogs.nasa.gov/spacestation/>

Dec. 3 6:38pm North West, Altitude 20°; 6:40pm West, Altitude 71°; Magnitude -3.6

Dec. 4 5:49pm North West, Altitude 20°; 5:52pm North East, Altitude 56°; Magnitude -3.7

Dec. 6 5:49pm West North West, Altitude 20°; 5:51pm South West, Altitude 45°; Magnitude -2.6

Planets

Venus rises just after 4 a.m. as the Morning Star and is visible high in the east until it gets lost in the glare of the sunrise; it is, in fact, still visible after 6 a.m. **Saturn** is halfway across the sky towards the south as it gets dark with **Jupiter** blazing away in the east.

Planetariums

The **Lawrence Hall of Science** has some great planetarium shows to get you ready for the fall and our upcoming trips to Mars:

Mission to the Red Planet recounts the history of our missions to Mars, from "landers, fly-bys, orbiters and rovers...and learn how to locate Mars in our own night sky."

Traditions of the Winter Sky, which explores different cultural perspectives and traditions.

They have a new experience called **Planetarium Pilots**, which lets you "control the dome and choose which planets, moons, and more to explore. Learn all about space from Planetarium voice overs as you fly around the universe!"

Launches

The second launch of SpaceX's **Starship** was quite exciting. SpaceX hopes to launch the next flight by the end of December. You can watch the largest, most powerful rocket ever launched as it gets ready for the next test flight by searching for videos: spacex boca chica. They have just installed a giant sign on the side of one of their buildings: GATEWAY TO MARS



Central Library

2090 Kittredge Street

Berkeley, CA 94704

Phone: 510-981-6100

Fax: 510-981-6111



Wheelchair accessible. To request a sign language interpreter, real-time captioning, materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for this event, please call 510-981-6195 (voice) or 510-548-1240 (TTY); at least five working days will help ensure availability.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to public programs.

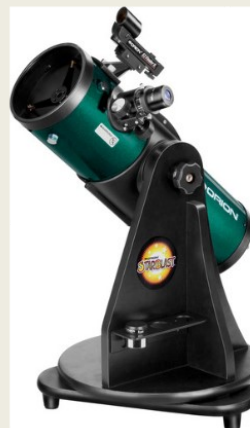
www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

Telescopes @Berkeley Public Library!

We have **5 Orion StarBlast Astro Reflector Telescopes** that you can borrow! **Each BPL Branch has a telescope**, which may be borrowed for 1 week. Place a hold on it and then pick it up from your branch when it is ready. It is fairly easy to carry at 13 lbs., and stands about 2 feet tall.

Here's what you get:

"A great compact grab-and-go telescope designed for entry-level and intermediate astronomy enthusiasts. Substantial 4.5" aperture and fast f/4 focal ratio provides bright, detailed views of solar system targets like the Moon and planets, as well as wide-field celestial objects like nebulas and star clusters."



Much of the information for this report comes from the wonderful web site, Heavens Above. You can enter your home city location and bookmark it for easy access: <http://www.heavens-above.com>. Other stellar sources include: <http://www.space.com> and <http://www.nasa.gov>. And check spacex.com for launches.

Binoculars @Berkeley Public Library!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Cal Falcons program, we have 9 Vortex-Raptor binocular kits that you can put on hold and pick up at the location of your choice.

Here's what you get:


Porro prism performance in a mid-size, wide-angle design, the Raptors deliver a bright, crisp image with excellent color fidelity - even in low light conditions. With a wide range of interpupillary distance, they can easily be adjusted to fit anyone in the family, making them ideal for serious, hard-core youth hunters. The kit comes with a copy of The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western America and a pocket guide to local birds of the SF Bay Area. But it is also great for looking at planets, the moon and the stars!



This **Sky Report** is brought to you by Berkeley Public Library's [Cornerstones of Science](#), which is funded in part by the Silberstein Foundation. Cornerstones of Science is part of a multi-library initiative to bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programming to patrons.



Central Library
2090 Kittredge Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
Phone: 510-981-6100
Fax: 510-981-6111

 Wheelchair accessible. To request a sign language interpreter, real-time captioning, materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for this event, please call 510-981-6195 (voice) or 510-548-1240 (TTY); at least five working days will help ensure availability.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to public programs.

www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org