

# Special Astronomy Events

Club members enjoy seeing special events in the sky. Examples in approximate order from most to least rare include

- Total eclipse of the Sun (partial much more common)
- Transit of Mercury when it crosses the Sun
- Bright comet passing near Earth
- Star occultation by asteroid for a second or two (telescope needed).
- Star occultation by moon or asteroid
- Lunar eclipse
- Conjunction of planets when they pass close together
- Planet oppositions (when planet is opposite Sun; they are brightest and largest then). Mars is most exciting.
- Features visible on Moon like Lunar X
- Meteor shower
- Aurora



Some students might want to drive with their parents to see particularly interesting events. There are several places where you can read of predicted events:

RASC member Chris Vaughan sends a weekly email with news about new astronomy events. Subscribe to Astronomy Skylights by clicking:

<https://astrogeo.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=938aa73a0c2c6075a70b653ec&id=02e14580b4>

Joining the RASC lets members follow (and contribute to) forums where special events are often mentioned. Also WHEN (not if) a difficult question is asked by a student, the issue can be raised on the email forum of the centre and probably get a good answer.

Sky and Telescope magazine runs a weekly Sky at a Glance.

<https://skyandtelescope.org/observing/sky-at-a-glance/>

If someone lives in the southern hemisphere, different things can be seen. Websites can be found by googling.

For aurora there is only a few day's notice and even then predictions are often wrong. Aurora apps are available for cell phones.

Spaceweather.com predicts many events.