

NITE SKY FOR APR.-MAY 2011

Moon Phases New 4/3, FQ 4/11, Full 4/17, LQ 4/24, New 5/3, FQ 5/10, Full 5/17, LQ 5/24.

Planets: At dawn Mars, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter are on the Eastern horizon near Pisces with Uranus and Neptune near Capricorn. Saturn is best viewed in S/SE after Midnight in Virgo

Events: 4/24 Easter Sunday, 5/1 Dawn see Moon, Venus, Jupiter, Mercury and faint Mars clustered, 5/4 Dusk see Pleiades & Moon in W-NW, 5/6 Eta Aquarid meteor shower peaks, 5/20 KVAS Meeting, 5/20-24 Dawn Mars is 1 degree above Venus with Mercury <4 deg. to lower left.

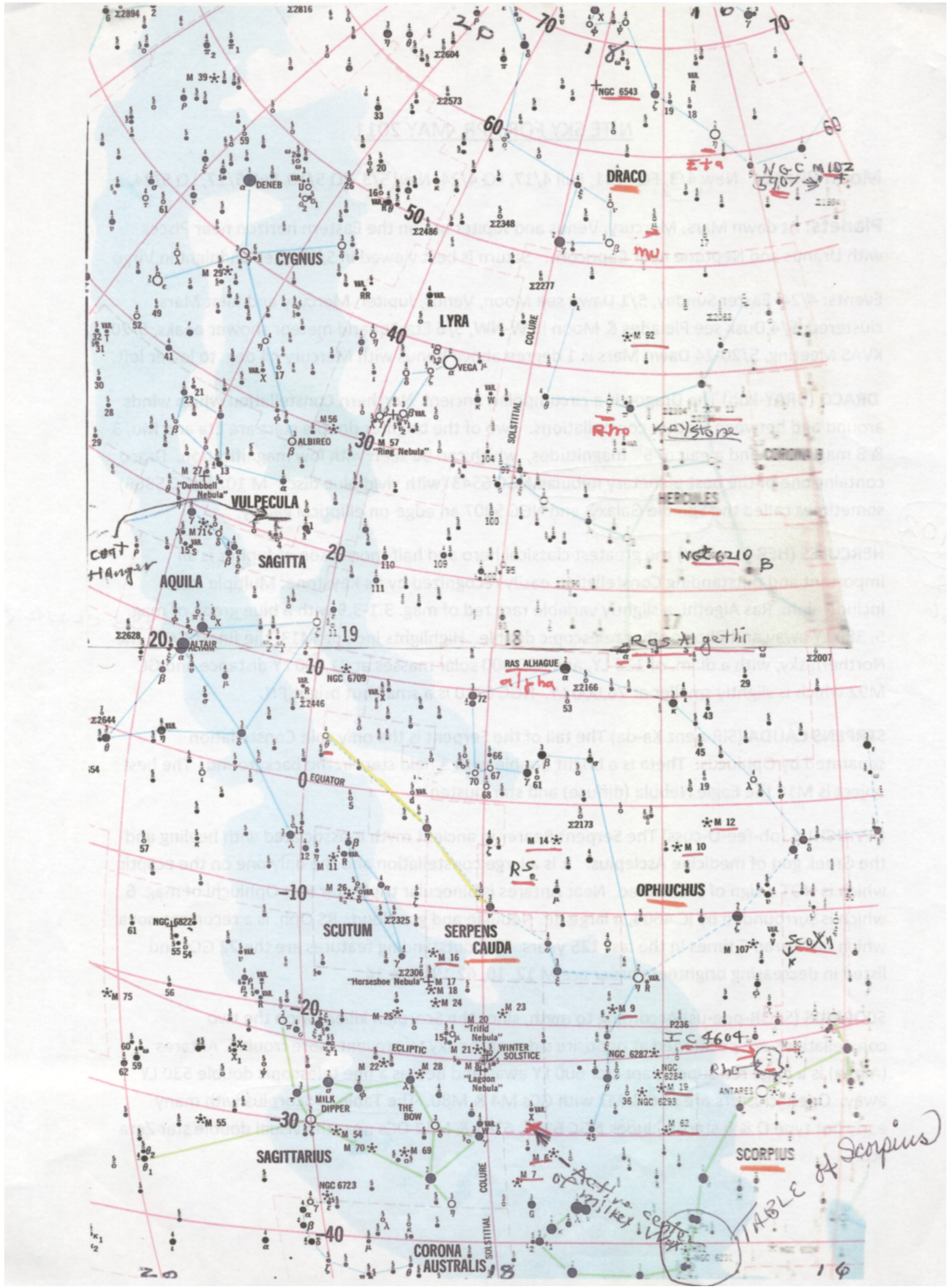
DRACO (DRAY-koh) The Dragon is a circumpolar, ancient Northern Constellation which winds around and between 6 other constellations. Two of the brighter double stars are Eta and Mu, 3 & 8 magnituded and a pair of 5th magnitudes, which can be seen with low magnification. Draco contains one of the best planetary nebulae, NGC 6543 (with vivid blue disc), M 102 (NGC 5866) sometimes called the Spindle Galaxy, and NGC 5907 an edge-on elliptical galaxy.

M 102
NGC 5866
HERCULES (HER-kyu-leez) the greatest classical hero and half-mortal son of Jupiter is an important and outstanding Constellation easily recognized by its Keystone. Multiple stars include alpha Ras Algethi, a slightly variable rare red of mag. 3.1-3.9 with a blue green of mag. 5, 380 LY away and Rho another telescopic double. Highlights include **M13**, the finest GC in the Northern sky, with a diam. of 125 LY, and 400,000 solar masses at 21,000 LY distance and GC M92 which is slightly smaller at 26,000 LY. NGC 6210 is a small but bright PN. **GLOB CLUST**

SERPENS CAUDA (SIR-penz Ka-da) The tail of the Serpent is the only split Constellation separated by Ophiucus. Theta is a bright double with 3 field stars in the background. The best object is M16 the Eagle Nebula (diffuse) and star cluster.

OPHUCHUS (oh-fee-U-cuss) The Serpent Bearer in ancient myth is associated with healing and the Greek god of medicine Asclepius. It is a large constellation and the only one on the ecliptic which is NOT a sign of the Zodiac. Near Antares is binocular triple star Rho Ophiuchi of mag. 6 which is surrounded by IC 4604, a large dif. Nebulae and gas cloud. RS Oph. is a recurrent nova which has flared 5 times in the last 125 years. The outstanding features are the 22 GCs and listed in decreasing brightness order are M 12, 10, 62 19, 9, & 14

SCORPIUS (SKOR-pee-us) According to myth, since the Scorpion killed Orion the two constellations are positioned at opposite sides of the sky to prevent more trouble. Antares (Alpha) is a huge red super giant star 600 LY away and Beta is a fine telescopic double 530 LY away. Open clusters are M 6 & M7 with GCs M4 & M80. **The Table of Scorpius** with many early hot type O & B stars includes NGC 6231, 6242 & M12 OCs near the visual double star Zeta Sco.



Cat
Hanger

NGC M102
5907

Key Stone

NGC 6210 B

Ras Algethi

RAS ALHAGUE
alpha

SCOXI

IC 4604

Rho

Active center

TABLE of Scorpions