Here are some highlights of the 2061 apparition of Halley’s Comet. Positions are for mid-U.S. at long. 90° W, lat. 40° N, in deep twilight (Sun 15° below horizon).

Comet Halley in Morning Sky, June-July 2061

*June 20:* Halley, 1 a.u. from Sun, near mag. 4, 7° up in ENE, just above the Pleiades.
*July 4:* Halley near mag. 3, 17° up in ENE, 6° left of Pleiades.
*July 11:* Comet Halley, mag. 2, approaching Earth at 3.6 million miles per day.
*July 14:* Comet Halley in gathering with old crescent Moon and Saturn.
*July 16:* Comet Halley at mag. 1 and highest in morning, 23° up, 30° N of E.
*July 20:* Comet still 21° up, within 7° lower right of Capella.
*July 24:* Comet, now near mag. zero, 15° up in NE, or 30° directly above Sun, gas tail pointing straight up, dust tail curving to right.
*July 28:* Halley last rises in dark sky, mag. between 0 and –1. Rises in twilight next two mornings. Passes perihelion later on July 28, 0.593 a.u.* (55 million miles) from Sun.
*July 29:* Comet Halley passes closest to Earth, at a distance of 0.477 a.u.* (44 million miles).

Comet Halley in Evening Sky, July-August 2061

*July 24 or 25:* Comet Halley begins to be seen in evening twilight very low in NNW. First sets in dark sky on July 27.
*July 29:* Comet, near mag. –0.3, about 5° up in NW in deep twilight. Earlier on same date, comet passed closest to Earth (distance 0.477 a.u.* or 44 million miles).
*July 30:* Comet 6° up in NW and 21° directly above Sun. Gas tail vertical and dust tail curving to right.
*August 1:* Comet near mag. zero, 30° N of W, 8° up, and 25° upper right of Venus.
*August 3:* Comet 9° up in WNW and 18° upper right of Venus.
*August 5:* Comet highest, 10° up, 15° N of W, and 13° upper right of Venus.
*August 7:* Comet some 10° up, 18° N of W, 10° upper right of Venus, and 1.5° below Beta Leonis.
*August 11:* Comet near mag. 1, nearly due west, 9° up and 7° upper right of Venus.
*August 16:* Comet Halley, faded to mag. 2, is receding from Earth by 3.5 million miles per day.
*August 18:* Comet in compact gathering with young crescent Moon and Venus.
*August 19:* Comet passes 0.054 a.u.* (5 million miles) from Venus overnight.
*August 23:* Comet near mag. 3, just 3° up, 7 degrees S of W, and about 1° (min. apparent dist.) upper right of Venus.
*Aug. 27:* Comet crosses ecliptic, descending through Earth’s orbital plane, 38° E of Sun.
*Aug. 30:* Comet, near mag. 4, sets 8° S of W in deep twilight.

*One a.u., or astronomical unit, the mean distance from Sun to Earth, is the standard measuring unit used to express distances between objects within our solar system.*

This summary of Halley’s 2061 apparition is adapted from THOUGHTS ON COMET HALLEY 2061, presented by Robert C. Victor at the 2007 annual conference of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association.