DAVIS PLANETARIUM

Starmap

MARCH/APRIL 2022

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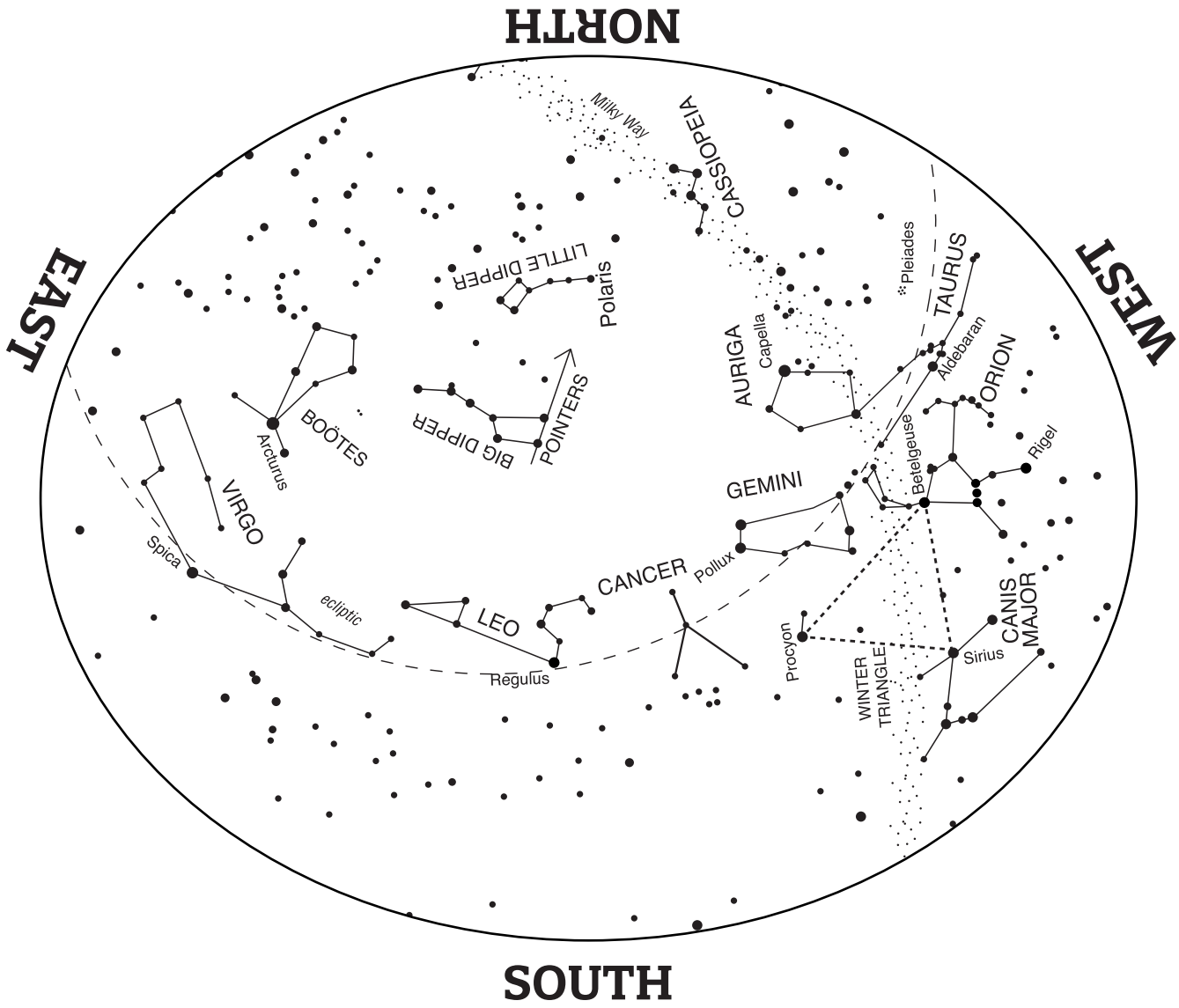

TO USE MAP:
Hold the map in front of you so that the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The stars on the lower half on the map will match up with the stars in the sky. The center of the map is directly overhead in the sky. Constellation and star pattern names are all capitalized. Names of stars have only the first letter capitalized. The map is valid within an hour of:
11:30pm Mid-March EDT
9:30pm Mid-April EDT

MAGNITUDE is a measure of a star's brightness. The lower the number, the brighter the star

- 1st or brighter magnitude star
- 2nd magnitude star
- 3rd magnitude star
- 4th or fainter magnitude star

ECLIPTIC:
The imaginary path of the Sun through the year. Constellations of the Zodiac surround the Ecliptic and the Moon and planets appear along it.

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IN THE MARCH/APRIL SKY

March 2
New Moon
Mercury near Saturn

March 5
Jupiter in conjunction with Sun

March 8
Moon near Pleiadas cluster

March 10
First Quarter Moon

March 12
Venus in Conjunction with Mars (morning)
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

March 13
Neptune in conjunction with Sun
Daylight savings time starts
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

March 15
Venus near Mars (morning)
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)
Moon near Regulus

March 18
Full Moon

March 20
Venus at greatest elongation (morning)
Moon near Spica
Vernal Equinox
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

March 23
Moon near Antares (morning)

March 25
Last Quarter Moon

March 28
Moon near Mars, Venus and Saturn (morning)
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

April 1
New Moon

April 2
Mercury in conjunction with Sun

April 4
Mars near Saturn (morning)

April 9
First Quarter Moon near Pollux

April 11/12
Moon near Regulus

April 15
Moon near Spica

April 16
Full Moon

April 20
Moon near Antares (morning)

April 23
Last Quarter Moon

April 24
Moon near Saturn (morning)

April 25
Moon near Mars (morning)

April 27
Moon near Jupiter and Venus (morning)
(see ***Celestial Highlights***)

April 29
Mercury at greatest elongation

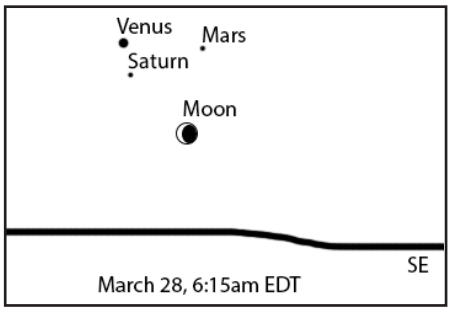
April 30
New Moon
Venus near Jupiter (morning)
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

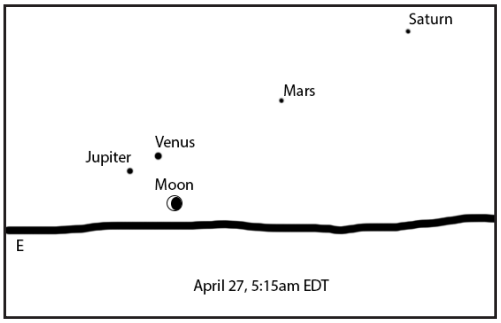
CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Daylight Saving Time begins, Sunday, March 13, 2:00 am – Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night!

Vernal Equinox, Saturday, March 20, 11:27 am – The Vernal Equinox marks the first day of spring. The Equinoxes are the only two days each year when the sun rises due east and sets due west everywhere on Earth! If you happen to be standing at the Earth's equator at noon during the Equinox, you will see the sun pass directly overhead.

Planet and Moon groupings – Conjunction means that two objects appear in the same place in the sky as seen from Earth. Planets in conjunction with the Sun are not visible. Besides being in conjunction with the Sun, planets are also seen partnered with the Moon or another planet in the sky. When planets are at their nearest, from Earth's perspective, astronomers call it an appulse. In the morning sky before sunrise, look for Venus near Mars on March 12, with their closest on March 15. On March 28, before sunrise look for Mars, Venus, and Saturn near the crescent Moon low in the southeastern sky, Venus will be the brightest seen over Saturn, Mars a less bright reddish dot to the right of the pair and the Moon below Mars. (See picture 1.) In April, Saturn moves toward Mars with closest appulse on April 4, seen very low on the east-southeast horizon before sunrise. Mars and Saturn then move away from each other after April 6. In the last week of April in the predawn sky, the Moon passes by Saturn on April 24, Mars on April 25, and Jupiter and Venus on April 27 (see picture 2). Jupiter and Venus are at their closest on April 30 seen before sunrise in the eastern sky, Venus is the brighter of the two.





The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/

MERCURY

When:
Not visible, March
After sunset, mid-April

Where:
Not visible, March
Very low in West, mid-April

Constellation:
Aries, Taurus

VENUS

When:
Before sunrise

Where:
East

Constellation:
Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius, Pisces

MARS

When:
Before sunrise

Where:
East

Constellation:
Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius

JUPITER

When:
Not visible, March
Before sunrise, after April

Where:
Not visible, March
East to Southeast, after April 8

Constellation:
Aquarius, Pisces

SATURN

When:
Before sunrise

Where:
East to Southeast

Constellation:
Capricornus