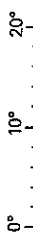


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An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Sunday Mar 6, 30 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Last easy Old Moon</p> <p>Venus ESE</p> <p>Old Moon Venus ESE</p> <p>March 1, Jupiter rises 26 minutes after sunset. By March 31, Jupiter rises 2 hours 21 minutes before sunset. Mercury is at superior conjunction March 23. When it comes out from behind the sun it's relatively bright and due to the high angle of the ecliptic, climbs quickly. Mercury may be spotted very low in the west at the end of the month.</p> <p>Morning Planets: Four planets can be spotted simultaneously at the start of March. Venus is low in the ESE at mid-twilight, rising just one hour before the Sun on March 1. By March 31, Venus rises just 33 minutes before sunrise. Venus will be at superior conjunction June 6, 2016. Venus will reemerge into the evening sky in July. Saturn and Mars continue to move closer to each other. The gap between them shrinks from 18° to 9° throughout March. Antares (1.1 mag), the rival of Mars, is 6° to the lower left of Mars on March 31. Mars brightens from 0.3 mag to -0.5 mag as we move closer to the red planet. The distance between Earth and Mars shrinks by 25,954,000 miles as we move closer to the May 22, 2016 opposition of Mars. Saturn's ring plane is tilted at 26°, making the rings easily visible. See if you can spot the rings with binoculars or a telescope. Jupiter, in the west, drops closer to the horizon each day. Make note of the last day you can spot Venus and Jupiter at the same time on opposite sides of the sky.</p>	<p>Monday Mar 7, 30 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Old Moon Venus ESE</p> <p>March 12-14, New Moon 8:54 p.m. EST</p> <p>March 14, DST begins</p> <p>TAURUS</p> <p>Aldebaran</p> <p>Pleiades</p> <p>Sunday Mar 13</p> <p>DST begins</p> <p>Enif</p> <p>Sat 12</p> <p>First Quarter Moon March 15, 1:03 p.m. EDT</p> <p>March 19-21, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Looking East</p> <p>LEO</p> <p>Jupiter</p> <p>Denebola</p> <p>Monday Mar 21</p> <p>Moon</p> <p>Saturn</p> <p>Antares</p>	<p>Tuesday Mar 1, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>Saturn Moon</p> <p>Antares</p> <p>SCORPIUS</p> <p>Last Quarter Moon March 1, 6:11 p.m. EST</p> <p>Denebola</p> <p>Jupiter at opposition</p> <p>Jupiter</p> <p>Regulus</p> <p>Tues Mar 15, 30 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Can you still spot Venus in the morning twilight?</p> <p>Venus ESE</p> <p>Denebola</p> <p>March 22-23, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Jupiter</p> <p>Tues 22</p> <p>Wed Mar 23, Partial penumbral eclipse. Deepest at 4:47 a.m. PDT (1:47 a.m. HI), observable before moonset for western US.</p> <p>Wed 23</p>	<p>Wednesday Mar 2, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Sickle</p> <p>Regulus</p> <p>LEO</p> <p>Denebola</p> <p>Jupiter</p> <p>Wed Mar 9, 30 min after sunset</p> <p>Young Moon</p> <p>W</p> <p>Thurs 16-17, one hour before sunset</p> <p>Castor</p> <p>Pollux</p> <p>GEMINI</p> <p>after sunset</p> <p>Thurs 17</p> <p>Wed 16</p> <p>Thurs 23, Full Moon 8:01 a.m. EDT</p> <p>March 23-25, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>Saturn</p> <p>Antares</p> <p>VIRGO</p> <p>Thurs 24</p> <p>Spica</p> <p>Wed 23</p> <p>W</p>	<p>Thursday Mar 3-4, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>Thurs 3</p> <p>Fri 4</p> <p>SAGITTARIUS</p> <p>SE</p> <p>March 10-11, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Fri 11</p> <p>WSW</p> <p>Thurs 17, one hour before sunset</p> <p>Denebola</p> <p>Jupiter</p> <p>W</p> <p>Thurs 16-17, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Castor</p> <p>Pollux</p> <p>GEMINI</p> <p>after sunset</p> <p>Thurs 17</p> <p>Wed 16</p> <p>Thurs 23, Full Moon 8:01 a.m. EDT</p> <p>March 23-25, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>Saturn</p> <p>Antares</p> <p>VIRGO</p> <p>Thurs 24</p> <p>Spica</p> <p>Wed 23</p> <p>W</p>	<p>Friday Mar 4, 30 minutes before sunrise</p> <p>Fri Mar 11, one hour after sunset</p> <p>ESE</p> <p>Venus</p> <p>Regulus</p> <p>LEO</p> <p>Jupiter</p> <p>Denebola</p> <p>E</p> <p>Fri Mar 18, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Beehive Cluster</p> <p>Moon</p> <p>W</p> <p>Thurs 17, one hour before sunset</p> <p>Denebola</p> <p>Jupiter</p> <p>W</p> <p>Thurs 16-17, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Castor</p> <p>Pollux</p> <p>GEMINI</p> <p>after sunset</p> <p>Thurs 17</p> <p>Wed 16</p> <p>Thurs 23, Full Moon 8:01 a.m. EDT</p> <p>March 23-25, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>Saturn</p> <p>Antares</p> <p>VIRGO</p> <p>Thurs 24</p> <p>Spica</p> <p>Wed 23</p> <p>W</p>	<p>Saturday Mar 5, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>Sat Mar 12, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>14°</p> <p>Mars</p> <p>Venus</p> <p>Antares</p> <p>SCORPIUS</p> <p>S</p> <p>Fri Mar 18, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Beehive Cluster</p> <p>Moon</p> <p>W</p> <p>Thurs 17, one hour before sunset</p> <p>Denebola</p> <p>Jupiter</p> <p>W</p> <p>Thurs 16-17, one hour after sunset</p> <p>Castor</p> <p>Pollux</p> <p>GEMINI</p> <p>after sunset</p> <p>Thurs 17</p> <p>Wed 16</p> <p>Thurs 23, Full Moon 8:01 a.m. EDT</p> <p>March 23-25, one hour before sunrise</p> <p>Saturn</p> <p>Antares</p> <p>VIRGO</p> <p>Thurs 24</p> <p>Spica</p> <p>Wed 23</p> <p>W</p>

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March Evening Skies

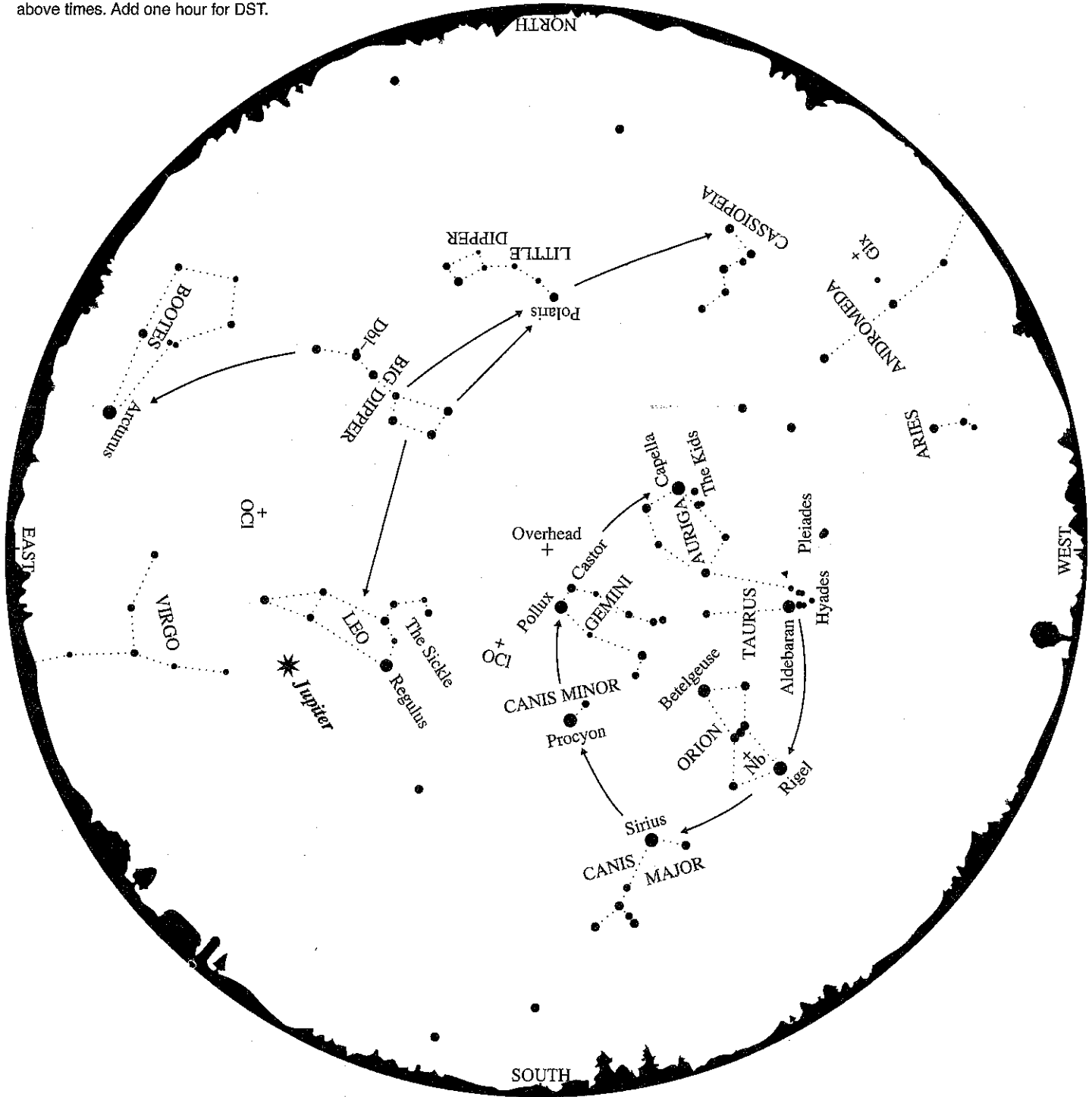
This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local standard times:

Late February	10 p.m.
Early March	9 p.m.
Late March	8 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times. Add one hour for DST.

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The planet Jupiter is plotted for mid-March 2016. At chart time 10 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Jupiter, Sirius, Arcturus, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Pollux, and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. The famous Orion Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that

constellation. The open or galactic star cluster (OCI) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. Coma Berenices, "The Hair of Berenice," is another open cluster (OCI), between Leo and Boötes. The position of an external star system, called the Andromeda Galaxy after the constellation in which it appears, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch