

# What's Up?

March 1-31, 2026

Made with the 2026 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2026  
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

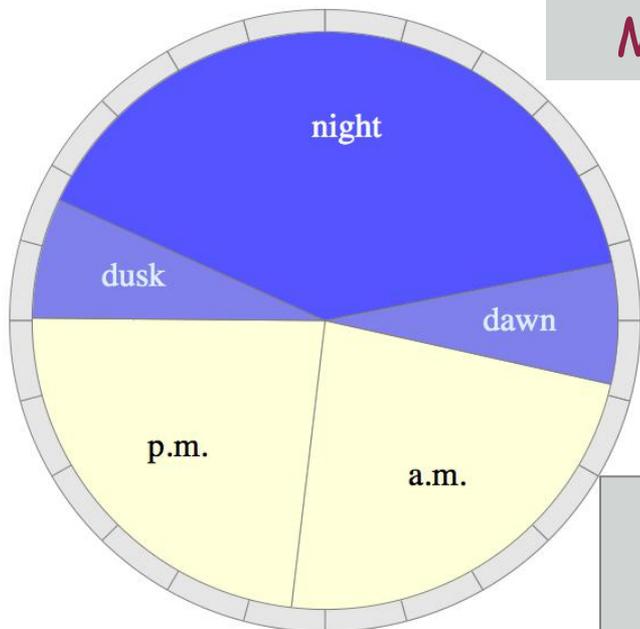
photo: David Hoskin

# The Sun This Month

Solar Activity

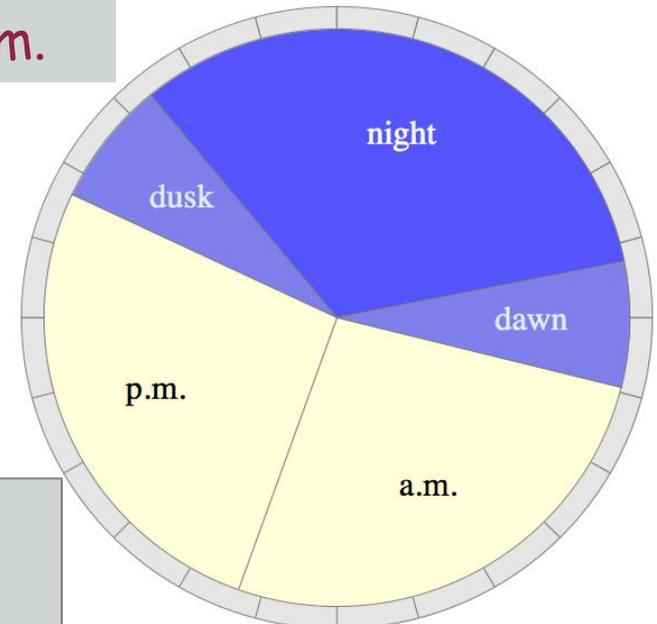
Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	“Noon”	Sunlight	Max Altitude
Mar 1	6:02 p.m.	7:39 p.m.	9.6 h	5:14 a.m.	6:51 a.m.	12:26 p.m.	11.2 h	38.0°
Mar 31	7:40 p.m.	9:21 p.m.	7.9 h	5:16 a.m.	6:56 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	12.8 h	49.7°

Halifax Mar 01



Daylight Saving Time:  
March 8 @ 2:00 a.m.

Halifax Mar 31



Vernal Equinox:  
March 20  
11:46 a.m.

[YouTube: RASC Halifax](#)

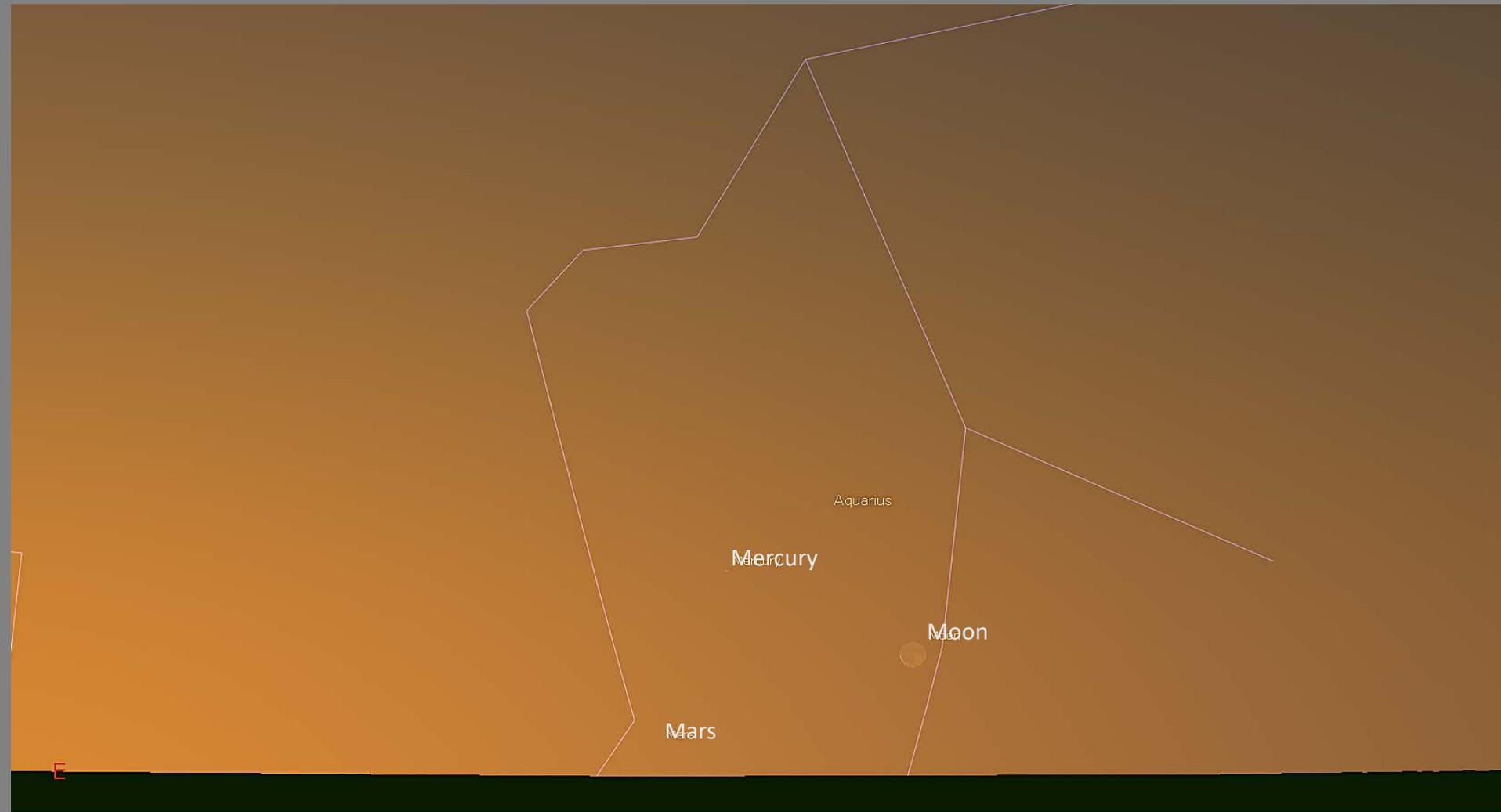
# The Moon This Month

Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
March 3	<i>Full Moon</i>	Snow-Blinding	<u><a href="#">Punamujuiku's</a></u>
March 3	Total Lunar Eclipse*		
March 10	Moon at apogee (404,400 km)		
March 10	Moon near M4 and Antares		
March 11	<i>Last Quarter Moon</i>		
March 17	Moon near Mercury and Mars		
March 19	<i>New Moon</i>	Maple Sugar	<u><a href="#">Siwkewiku's</a></u>
March 19 & 20	Moon near Venus		
March 22	Moon at perigee (366,900 km)		
March 22	Moon near Uranus & M45		
March 25	<i>First Quarter Moon</i>		
March 25 & 26	Moon near Jupiter		
March 27	Moon near M44		
March 29	Moon near Regulus		

\*Totality not visible from Nova Scotia

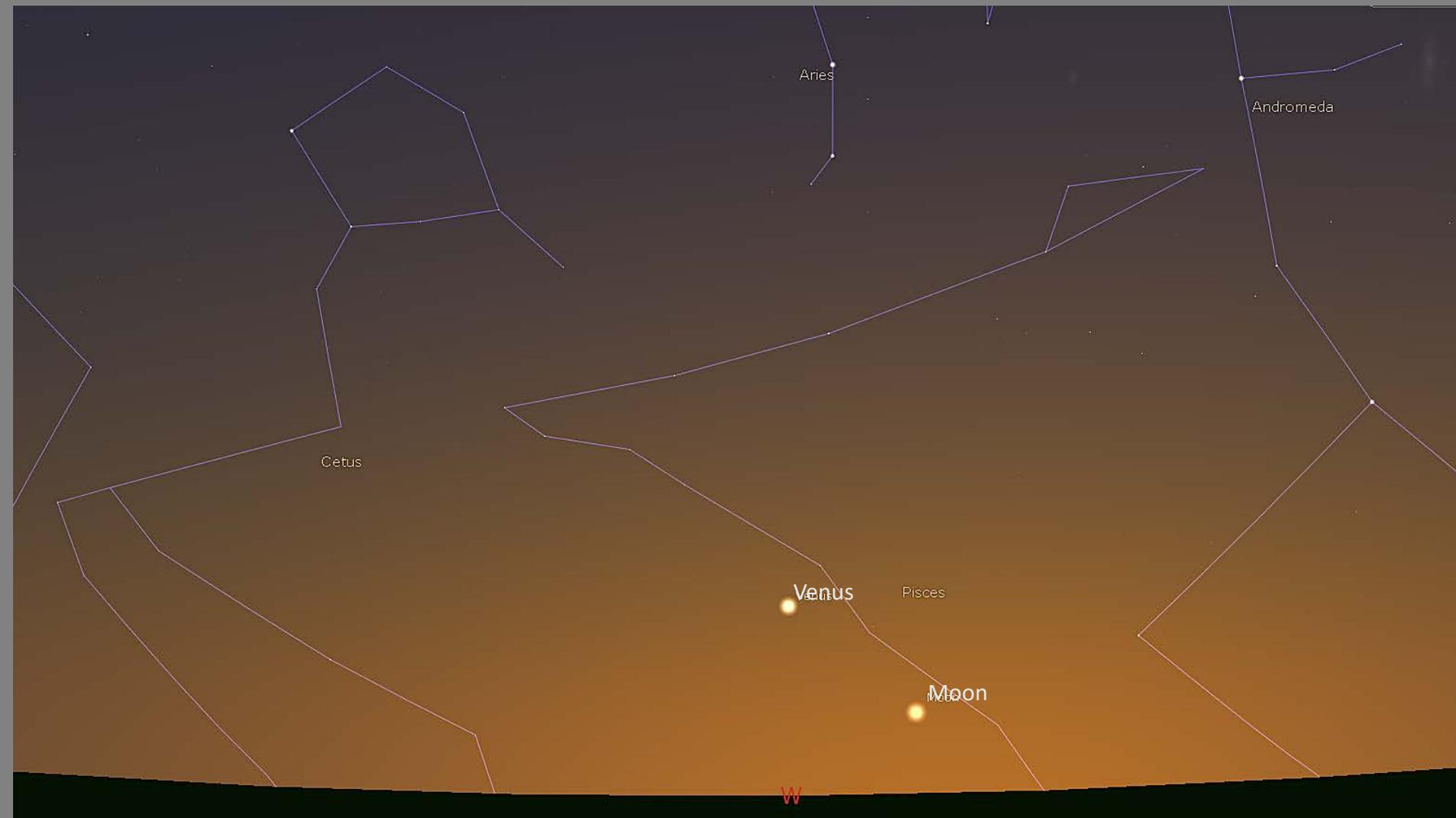


Mar 10 @ 3:45 a.m.  
15x70 binoculars FOV 4.4°



Mar 17 @ 7:00 a.m.  
Needs good eastern horizon

challenge

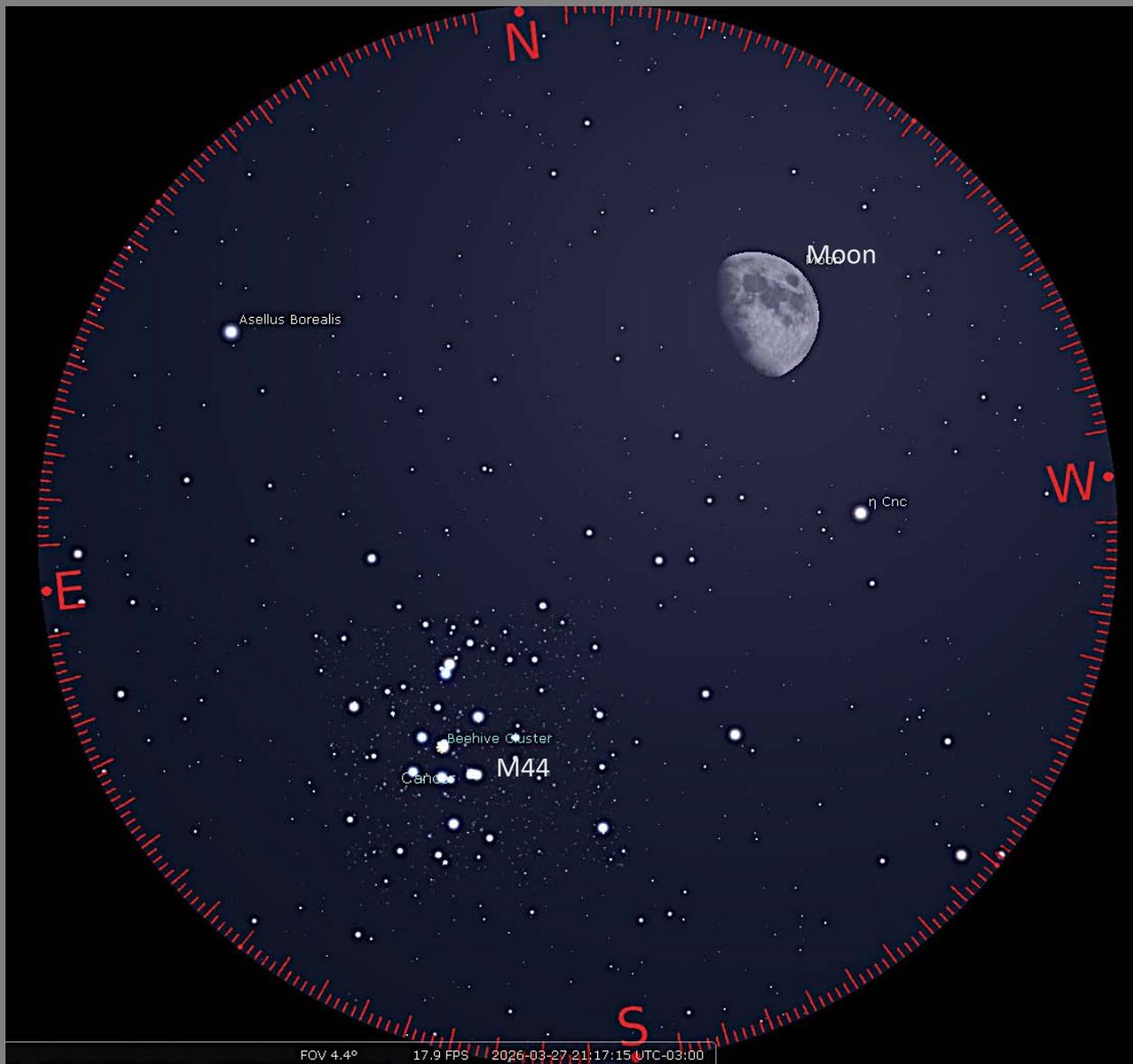


Mar 19 @ 8:00 p.m.  
Needs good western horizon

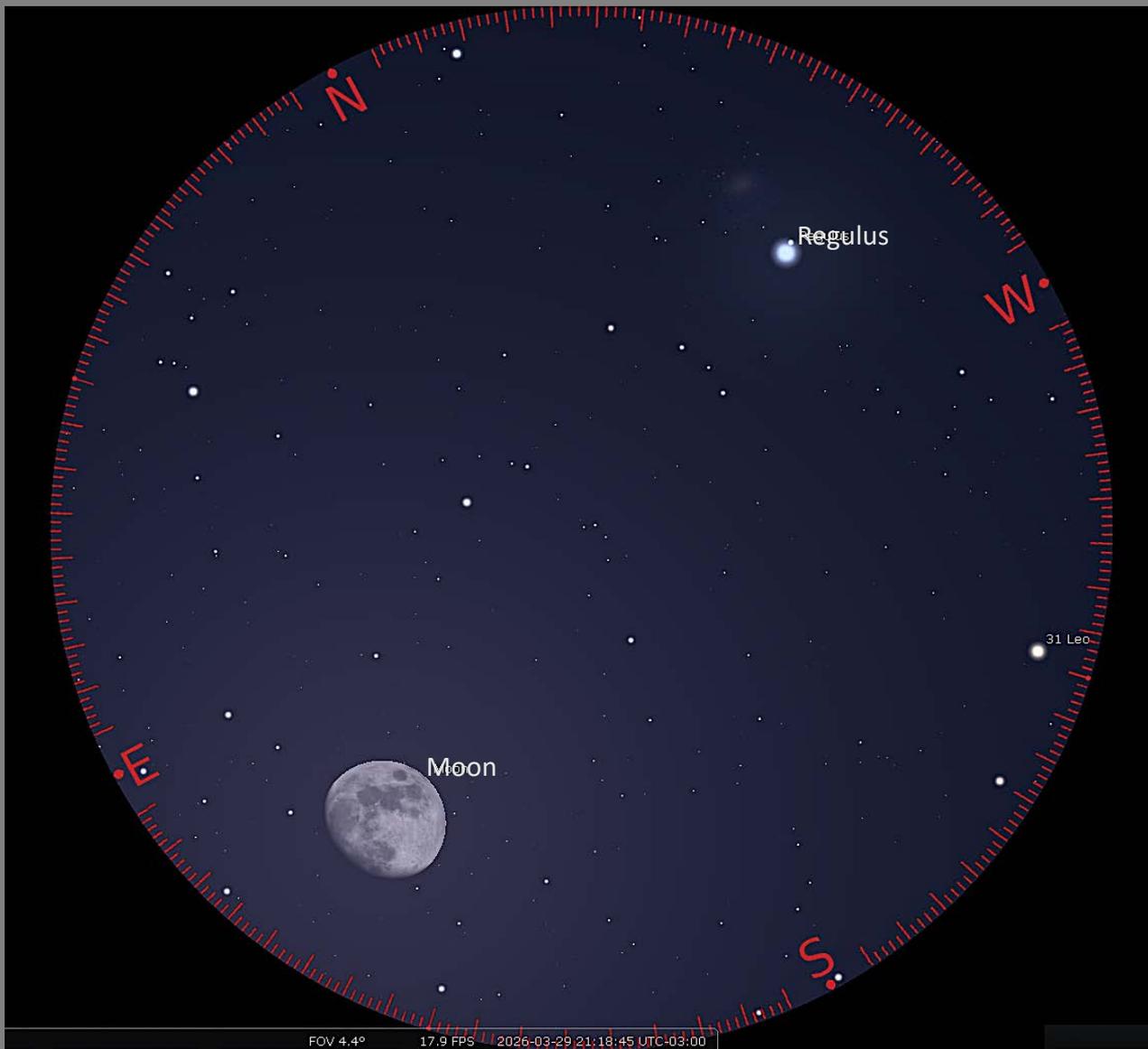
challenge



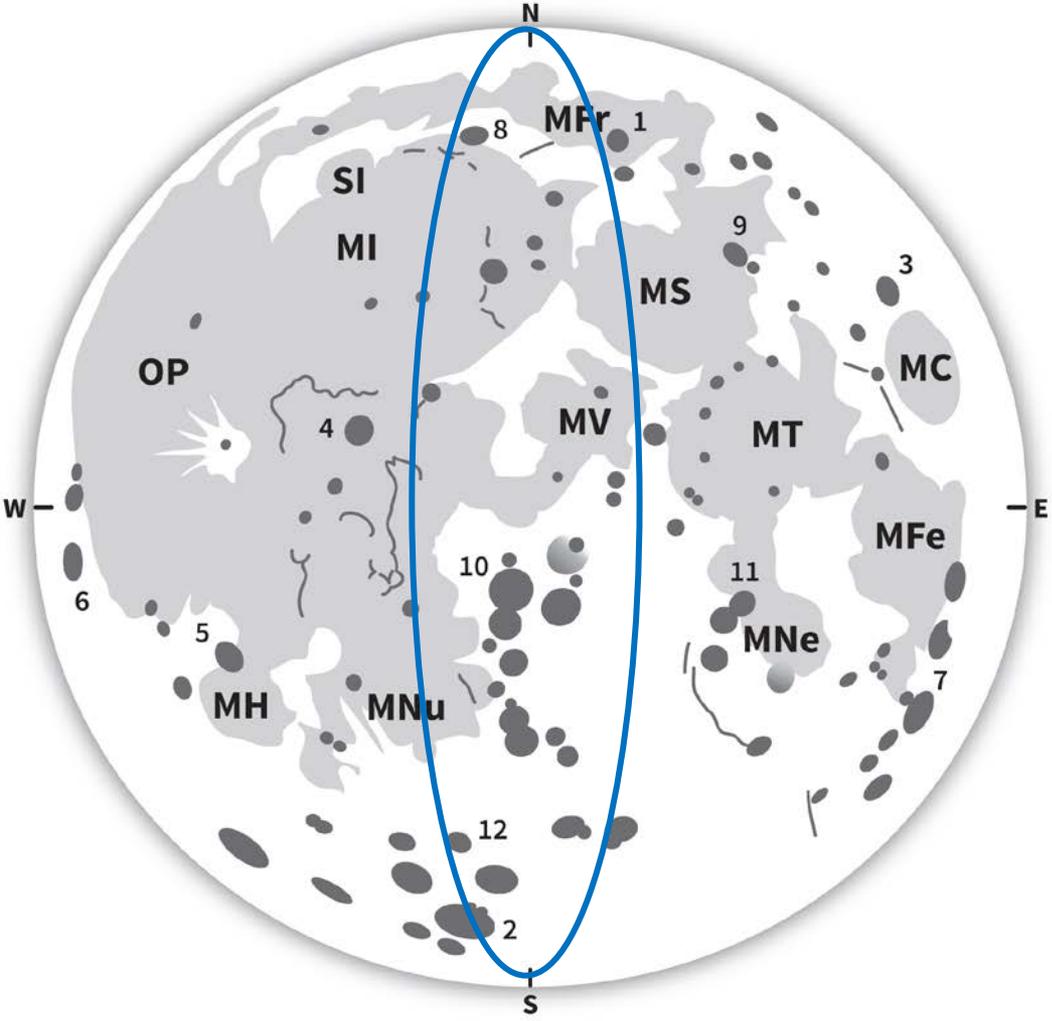
Mar 22 @ 9:00 p.m.



Mar 27 @ 9:30 p.m.  
15x70 binoculars FOV 4.4°



Mar 29 @ 9:30 p.m.  
15x70 binoculars FOV 4.4°



## MARE

- MC: Mare Crisium
- MFe: Mare Fecunditatis
- MFr: Mare Frigoris
- MH: Mare Humorum
- SI: Sinus Iridum
- MI: Mare Imbrium
- MNe: Mare Nectaris
- MNu: Mare Nubium
- MS: Mare Serenitatis
- MT: Mare Tranquillitatis
- MV: Mare Vaporum
- OP: Oceanus Procellaru

## CRATERS

- |                |               |                |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Aristoteles | 5. Gassendi   | 10. Ptolomaeus |
| 2. Clavius     | 6. Grimaldi   | 11. Theophilus |
| 3. Cleomedes   | 7. Petavius   | 12. Tycho      |
| 4. Copernicus  | 8. Plato      |                |
|                | 9. Posidonius |                |

*challenge*

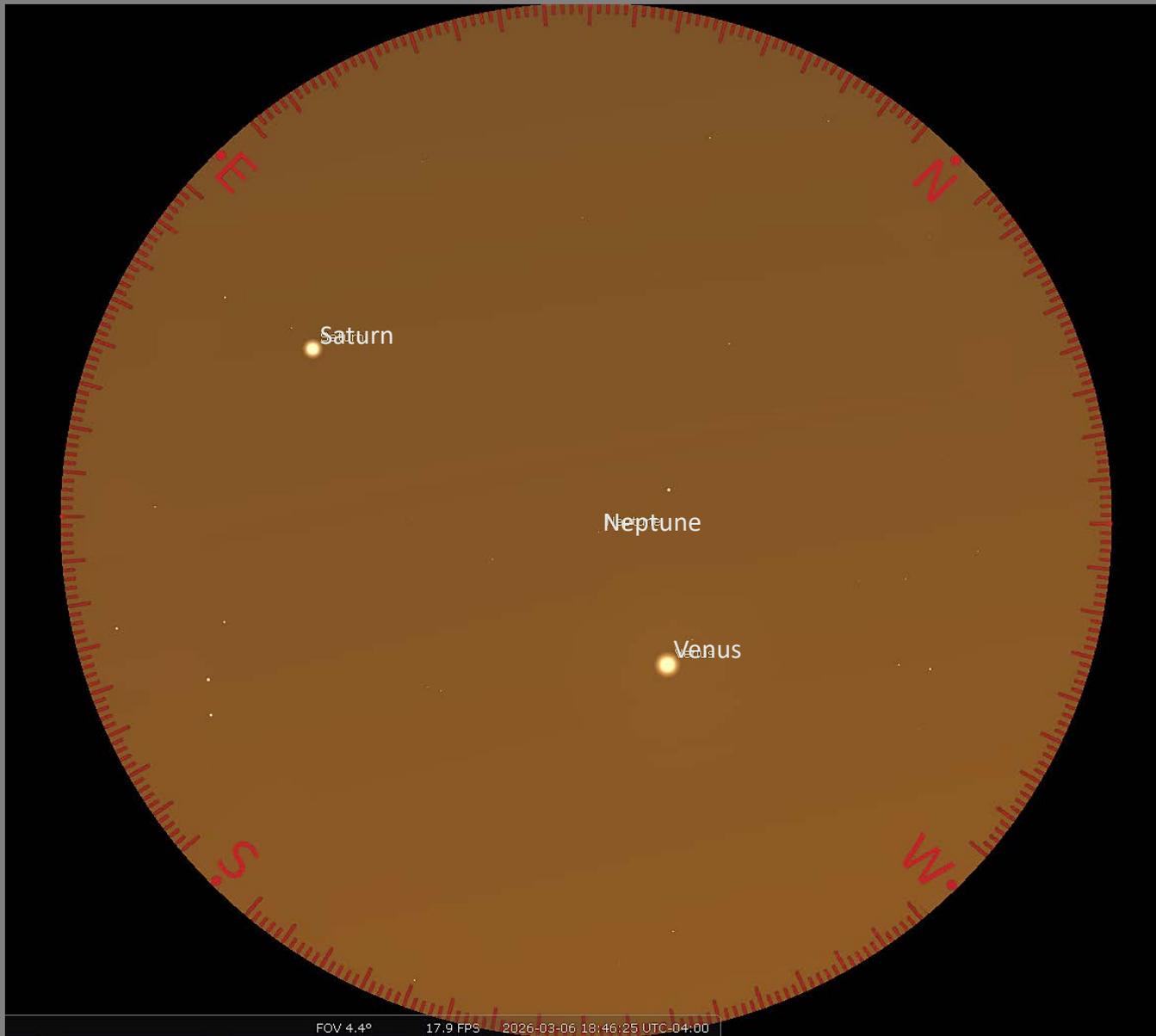
best view March 23-27 after sunset

## The Moon in

*Explore the Universe*

*observe 3 of each in binos*

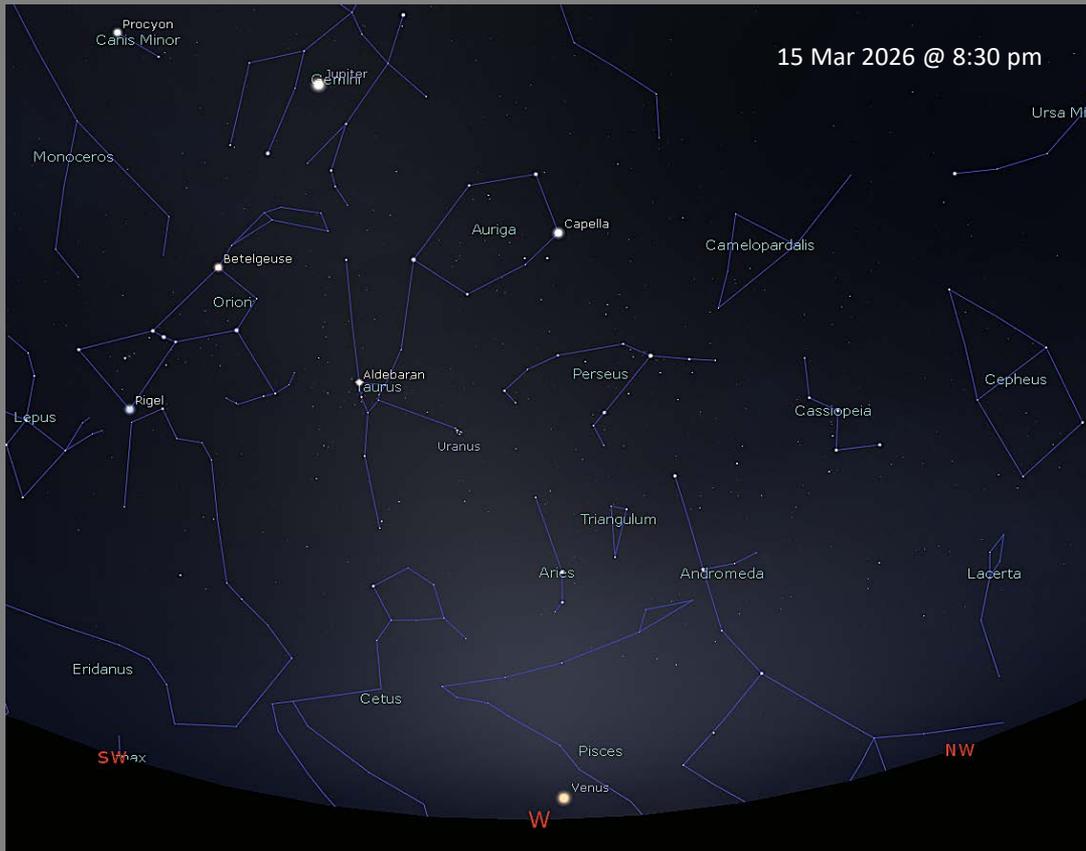




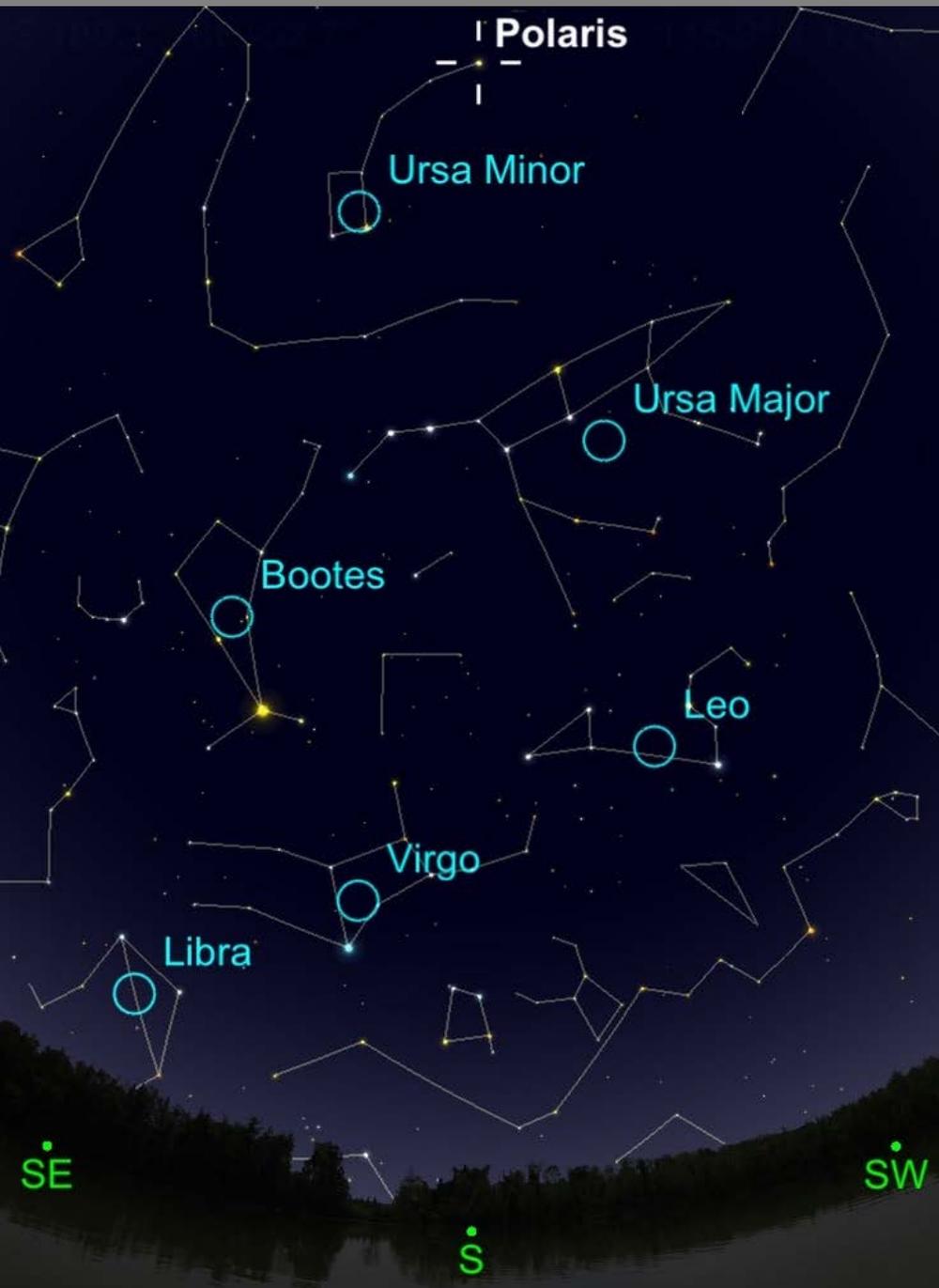
Mar 6 @ 6:45 p.m.  
15x70 binoculars FOV 4.4°

# Zodiacal Light

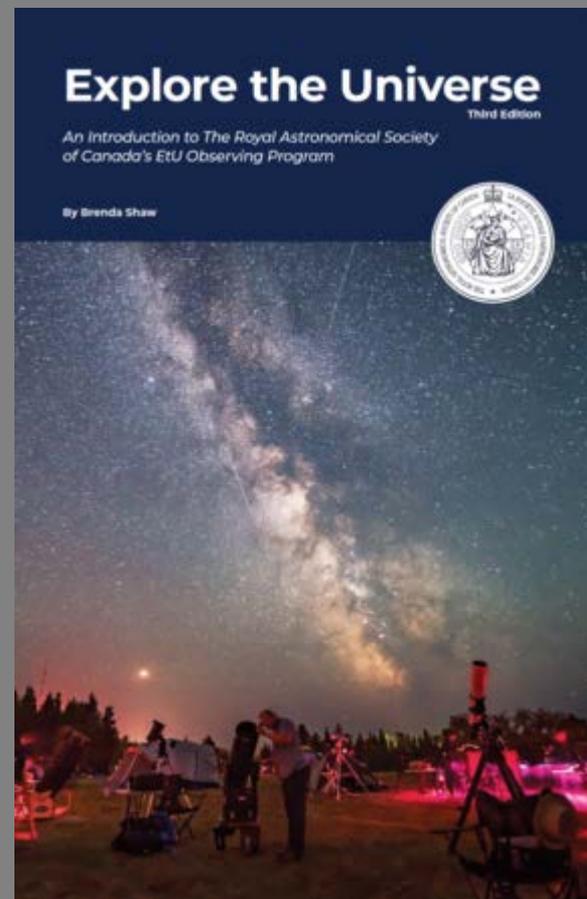
- pyramid of light in the western sky just after the end of twilight (February, March) or in the eastern sky just before the start of morning twilight (September, October)
- best seen when the ecliptic is at a high angle relative to the horizon
- requires a dark observing site (March 5-19)
- dust concentrated in the plane of the ecliptic and towards the Sun reflects sunlight



13 March 2021 @ 8:45 pm near Nine Mile River



# Explore the Universe: Spring Constellations





# Explore the Universe:

## Spring Stars

### Ranking:

- #3 Arcturus
- #14 Spica
- #22 Regulus
- #37 Dubhe
- #48 Polaris
- Denebola
- Zubenelgenubi
- Zubeneshamali

Halifax, NS

25 Mar 2025 @ 11:30 p.m.

# Explore the Universe:

## Spring Deep-Sky

Beehive Cluster (M 44)

Look halfway between

Castor & Pollux and Regulus.

(view in binoculars in dark sky)



challenge



photo: David Hoskin

# Explore the Universe: Double and Multiple Stars

Halifax, NS

15 Mar 2025 @ 11:00 pm



Nu Draconis (4.9, 4.9, 63")

Double star (Kuma)

in the "Head of the Dragon"

Nu1 Dra (blue-white)

Nu2 Dra (blue-white)

Split with a telescope

photo: Wikipedia



challenge

# A New Supernova Challenge

challenge



## NGC 3913 - IC 740 - PGC 37024 - UGC 6813

Type: **galaxy** (8)  
Magnitude: **13.12** (reduced to **13.28** by 1.30 Air masses)  
Color Index (B-V): **1.08**  
Surface brightness: **13.13** mag/arc-min<sup>2</sup> (after extinction: **13.29** mag/arc-min<sup>2</sup>)  
Contrast index: 0.70  
RA/Dec (J2000.0): 11h50m38.93s/+55°21'13.9"  
RA/Dec (on date): 11h52m02.62s/+55°12'27.4"  
HA/Dec: 19h54m41.68s/+55°12'36.8" (apparent)  
Az./Alt.: +51°56'34.4"/+50°31'24.5" (apparent)  
Gal. long./lat.: +140°06'45.8"/+59°42'01.0"  
Supergal. long./lat.: +59°39'14.0"/+4°04'27.2"  
Ecl. long./lat. (J2000.0): +148°28'07.1"/+48°12'28.7"  
Ecl. long./lat. (on date): +148°50'22.6"/+48°12'34.2"  
Ecliptic obliquity (on date): +23°26'18.2"  
Mean Sidereal Time: 7h46m38.2s  
Apparent Sidereal Time: 7h46m38.6s  
Transit: 1h08m  
Circumpolar (never sets)  
Parallactic Angle: -79°03'57.6"  
IAU Constellation: UMa  
Size: +0°01'14.22" x +0°01'02.34"  
Orientation angle: 40°  
Distance: 17,000 Mpc (55,454 M ly)  
Redshift: 0.003170±0.000020



SN2026dix  
Mag. 13.6 type IIb  
Ursa Major  
Discovered Feb 16 2026

# Messier Marathon

- March is the month for "Messier Madness" in which keen observers try to see all 110 Messier objects in a single night
- nights of March 13-14 or 20-21 will be best this year
- from a sufficiently dark location with good horizons, most Messier objects are visible with 10x50 binoculars
- a specific sequence of targets must be followed to complete the Messier Marathon; [Messier Marathon Search Sequence List \(seds.org\)](http://seds.org)



Questions?

photo: David Hoskin