

What's Up?

March 1-31, 2024

Made with the 2024 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2024
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®



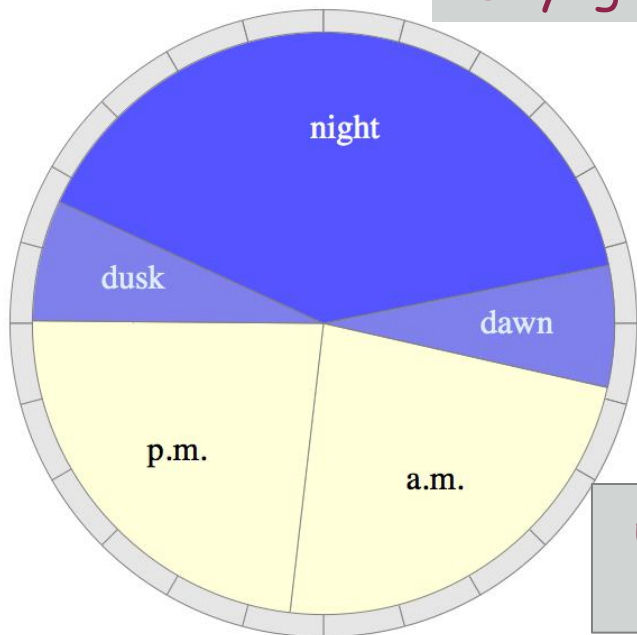
photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

Solar Activity

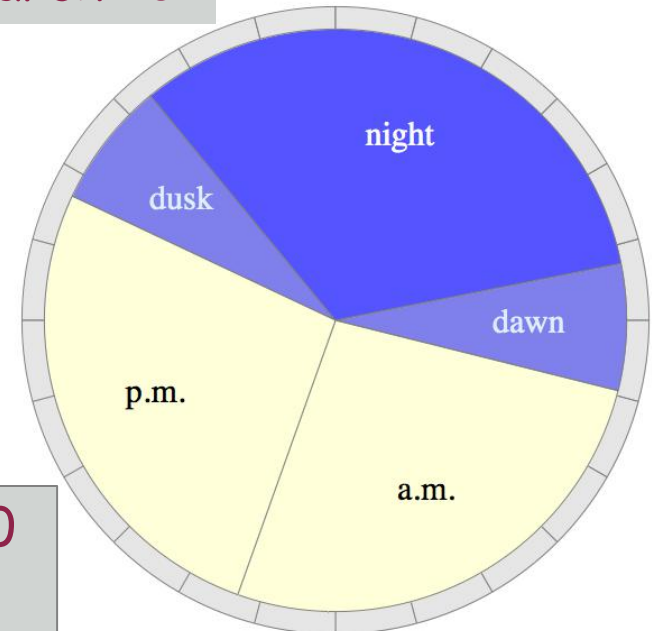
Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	“Noon”	Sunlight	Max Altitude
Mar 1	6:02 p.m.	7:39 p.m.	9.6 h	5:14 a.m.	6:50 a.m.	12:26 p.m.	11.2 h	38°
Mar 31	7:41 p.m.	9:22 p.m.	7.9 h	5:15 a.m.	6:56 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	12.8 h	50°

Halifax Mar 01



Daylight Saving Time: March 10

Halifax Mar 31



Equinox: March 20
12:06 a.m.

[YouTube: RASC Halifax](#)

The Moon This Month

Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
March 3	<i>Last Quarter Moon</i>	Snow-Blinding	<u>Apuknajit</u>
March 3	Moon near Antares & M4		
March 8	Moon near Mars & Venus		
March 10	Moon at perigee (356,900 km)		
March 10	<i>New Moon</i>	Maple Sugar	<u>Siwkewiku's</u>
March 13	Moon near Jupiter		
March 14	Moon near the Pleiades		
March 17	<i>First Quarter Moon</i>		
March 23	Moon at apogee (406,300 km)		
March 25	<i>Full Moon</i>		
March 25	Penumbral lunar eclipse		

challenge



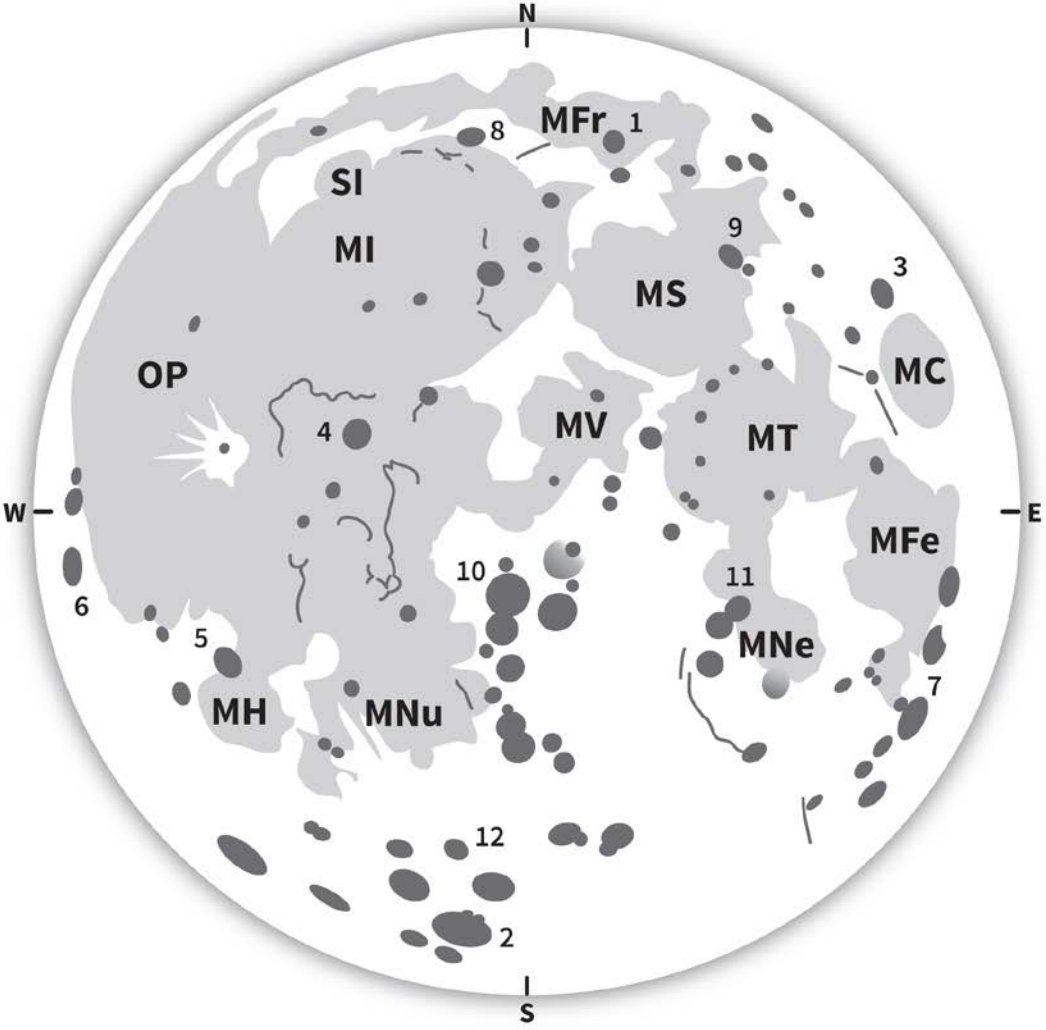
Mar 3 @ 5:00 a.m.
15x70 binoculars FOV 4.4°



Mar 13 @ 8:30 p.m.
7x50 binoculars FOV 7.1°



Mar 14 @ 10:00 p.m. wide-field photo opportunity (APS-C 16mm)



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 Procellarum

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 15-19 after sunset

The Moon in

Explore the Universe

observe 3 of each in binos



March 31 @ 9:00 p.m.
Use 15x70 binoculars

Zodiacal Light

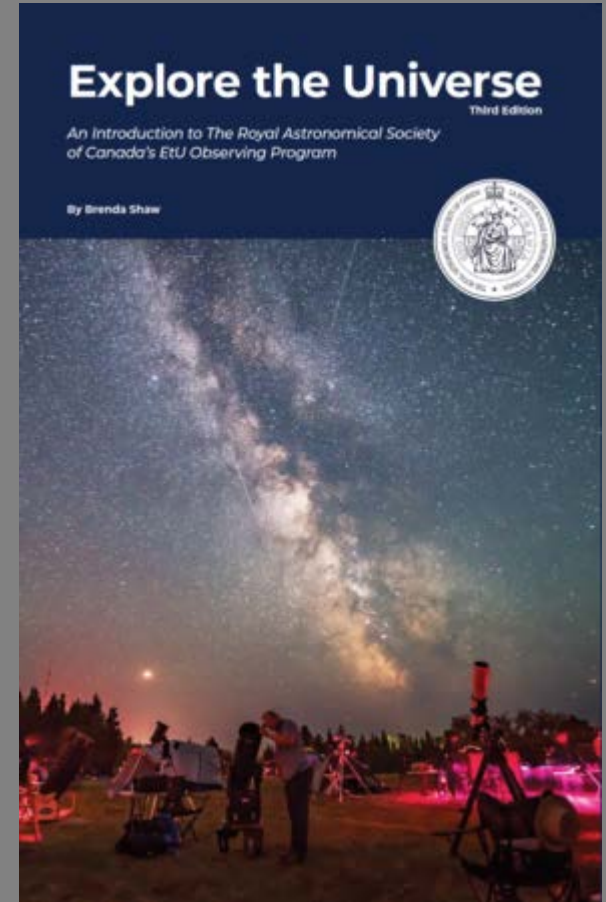
- pyramid of light in the western sky just after the end of twilight (February, March) or in the eastern sky just before the start of morning twilight (September, October)
- best seen when the ecliptic is at a high angle relative to the horizon
- requires a dark observing site
- dust concentrated in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

- Zubeneschamali

Explore the Universe:

Spring Deep-Sky

Beehive Cluster (M 44)

Look halfway between

Castor & Pollux and Regulus.

(view in binoculars in dark sky)



challenge



Explore the Universe: Double and Multiple Stars

Halifax, NS

15 Mar 2024 @ 11:30 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

Questions?



photo: David Hoskin