What's Up?

March 1–31, 2025

Made with the 2025 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2025
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

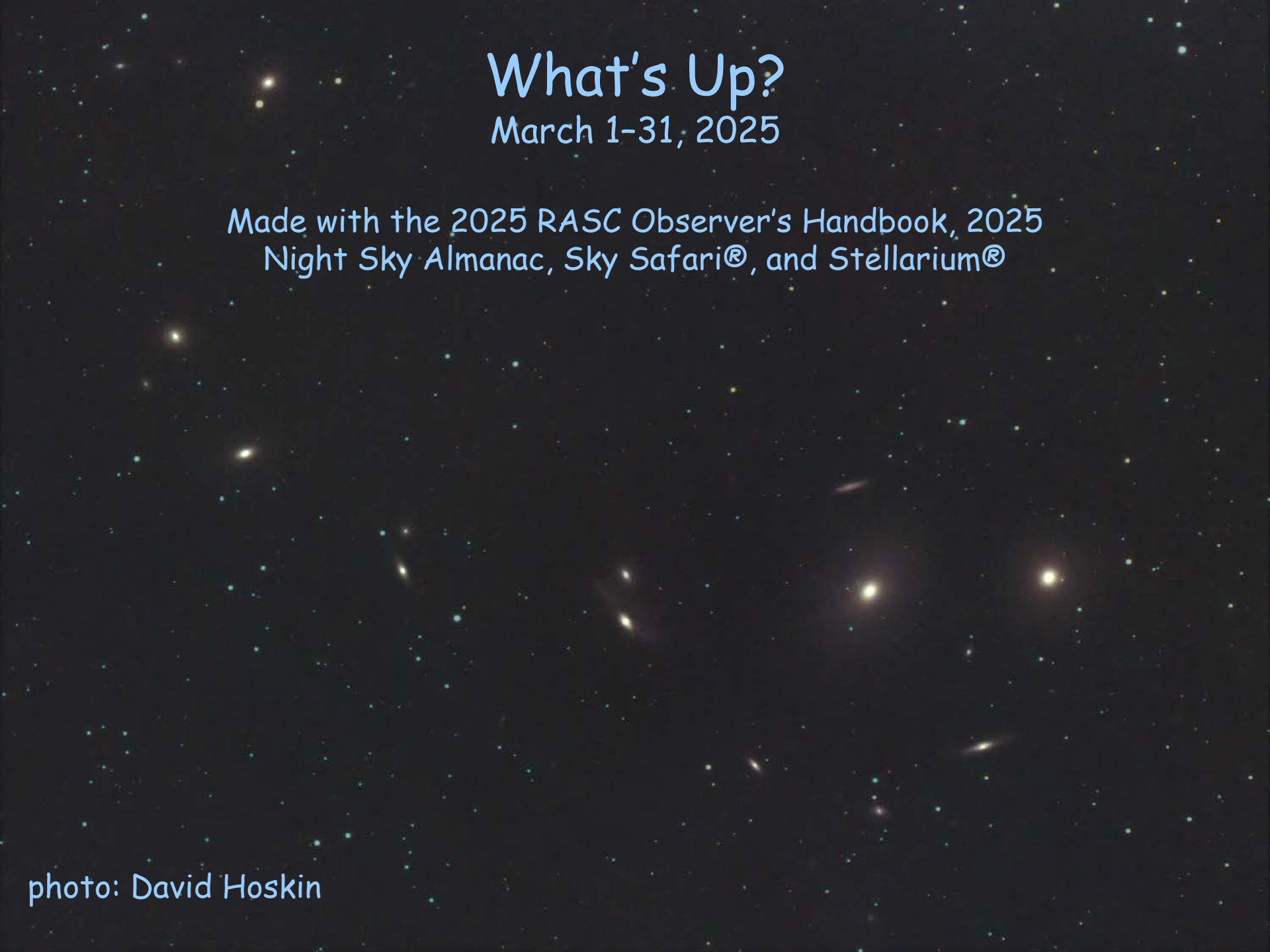
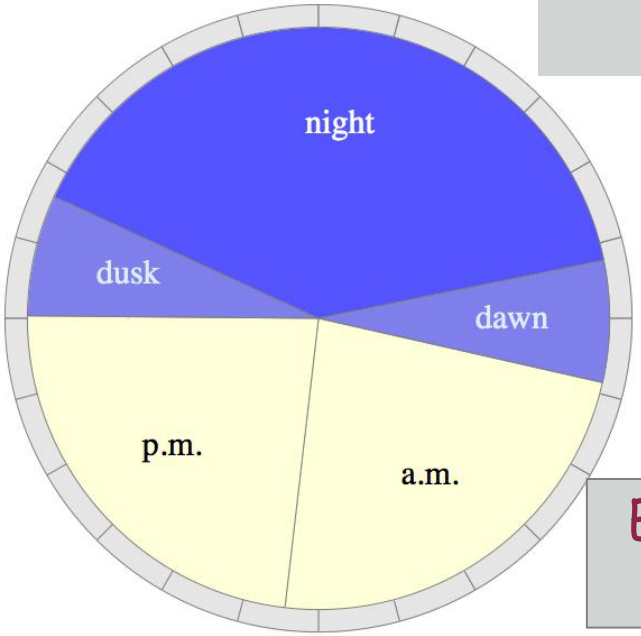


photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

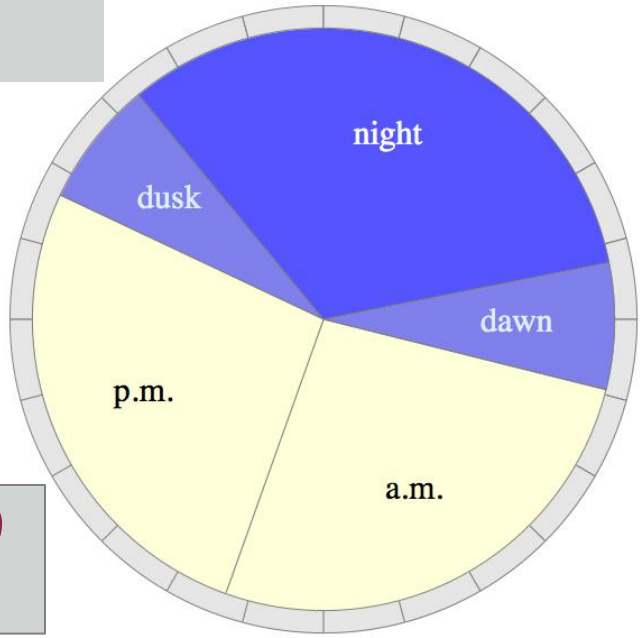
Solar Activity

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	38.1°
Mar 31	7:40 p.m.	9:22 p.m.	7.9 h	5:15 a.m.	6:56 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	12.8 h	49.8°



Daylight Saving Time:
March 9 @ 2 a.m.

Equinox: March 20
6:01 a.m.

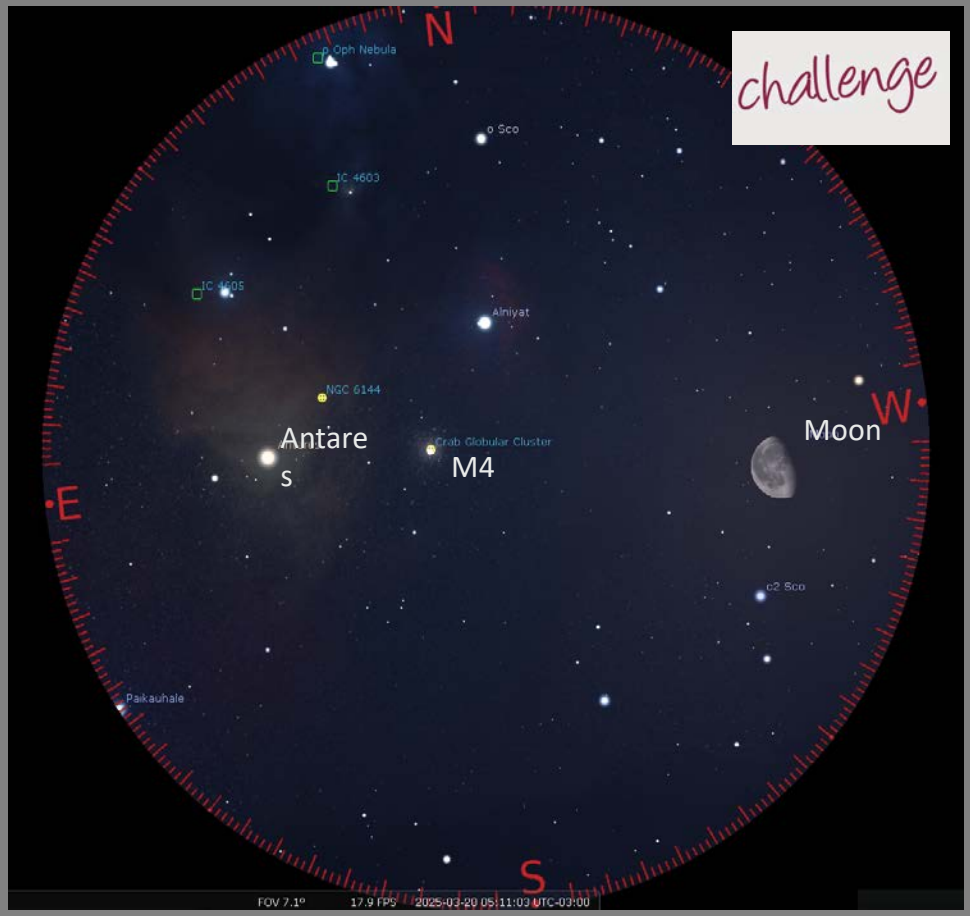


YouTube: RASC Halifax

The Moon This Month

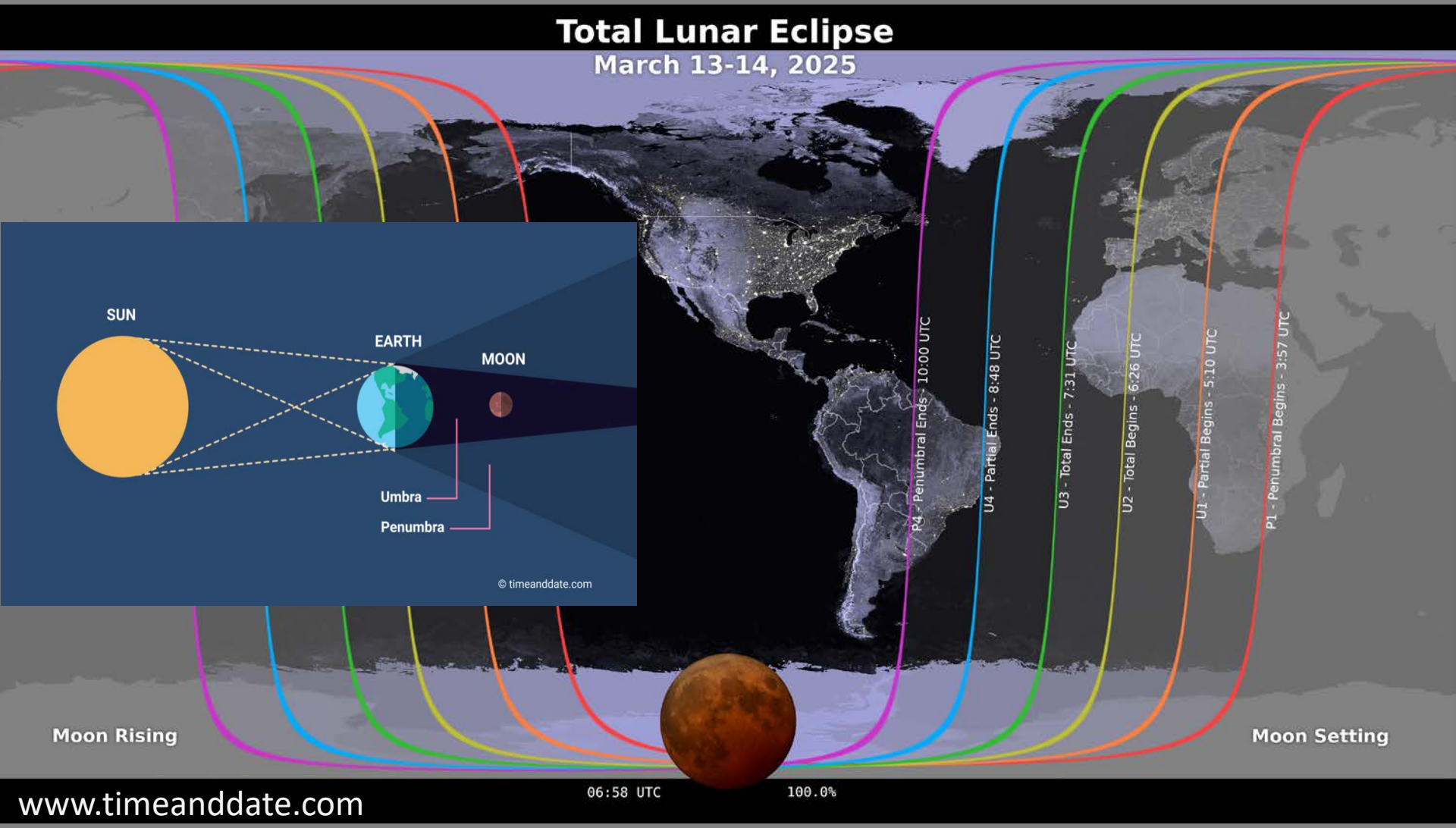
Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
March 1	Moon at perigee (362,000 km)		
March 5	Moon near M45		
March 6	*First Quarter Moon*	Maple Sugar	Siwkewiku's
March 8	Moon near Mars		
March 10	Moon at perigee (356,900 km)		
March 10	Moon near M44		
March 14	*Full Moon*		
March 14	Total lunar eclipse		
March 17	Moon at apogee (405,800 km)		
March 20	Moon near Antares		
March 22	*Last Quarter Moon*		
March 29	Partial solar eclipse		
March 29	*New Moon*	Birds Laying Eggs	Penatmuiku's
March 29	Moon at perigee (358,100 km)		

Mar 8 @ 11:00 p.m.
15x70 binoculars FOV 4.4°



Mar 20 @ 5:00 a.m.
7x50 binoculars FOV 7.1°

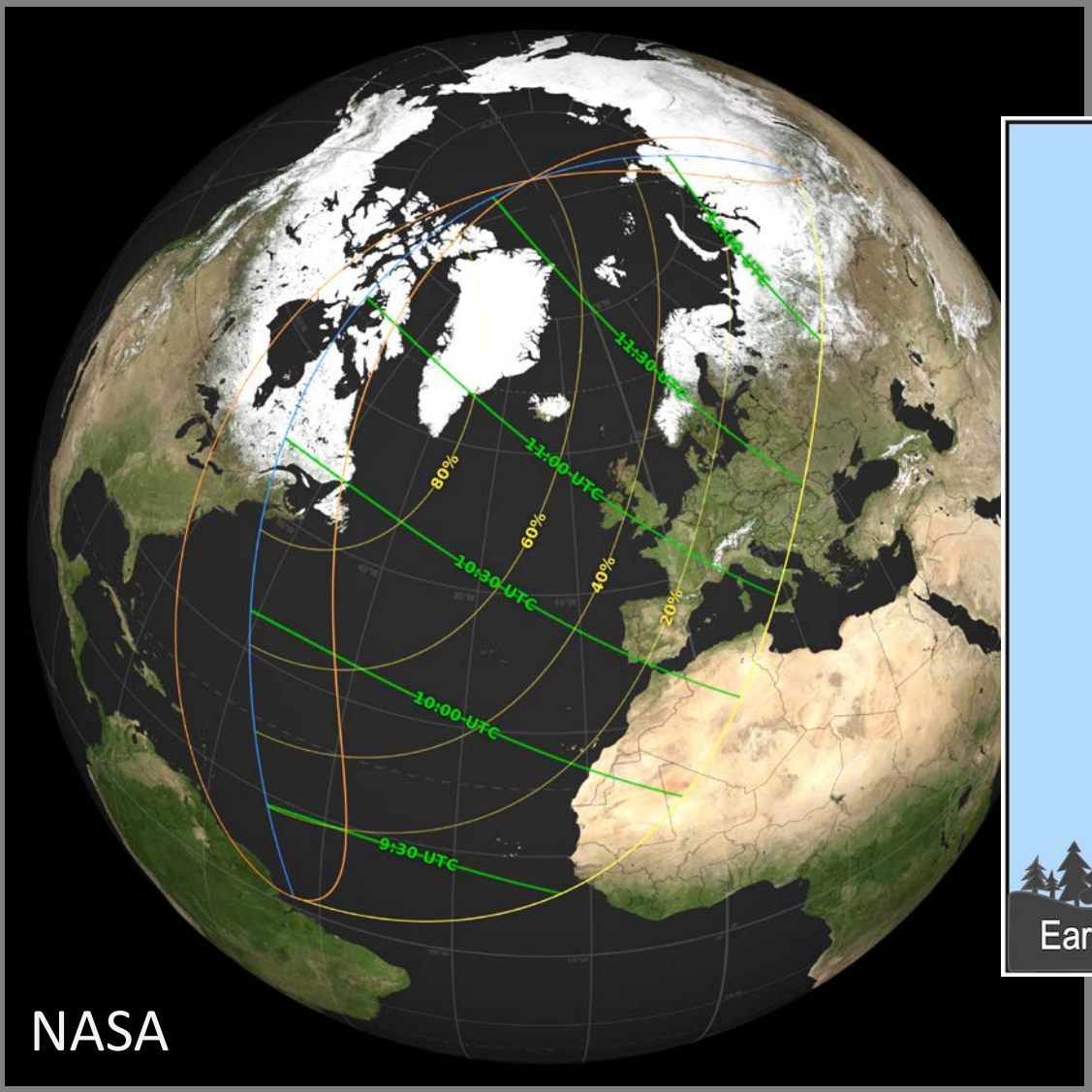
Total Lunar Eclipse on March 14



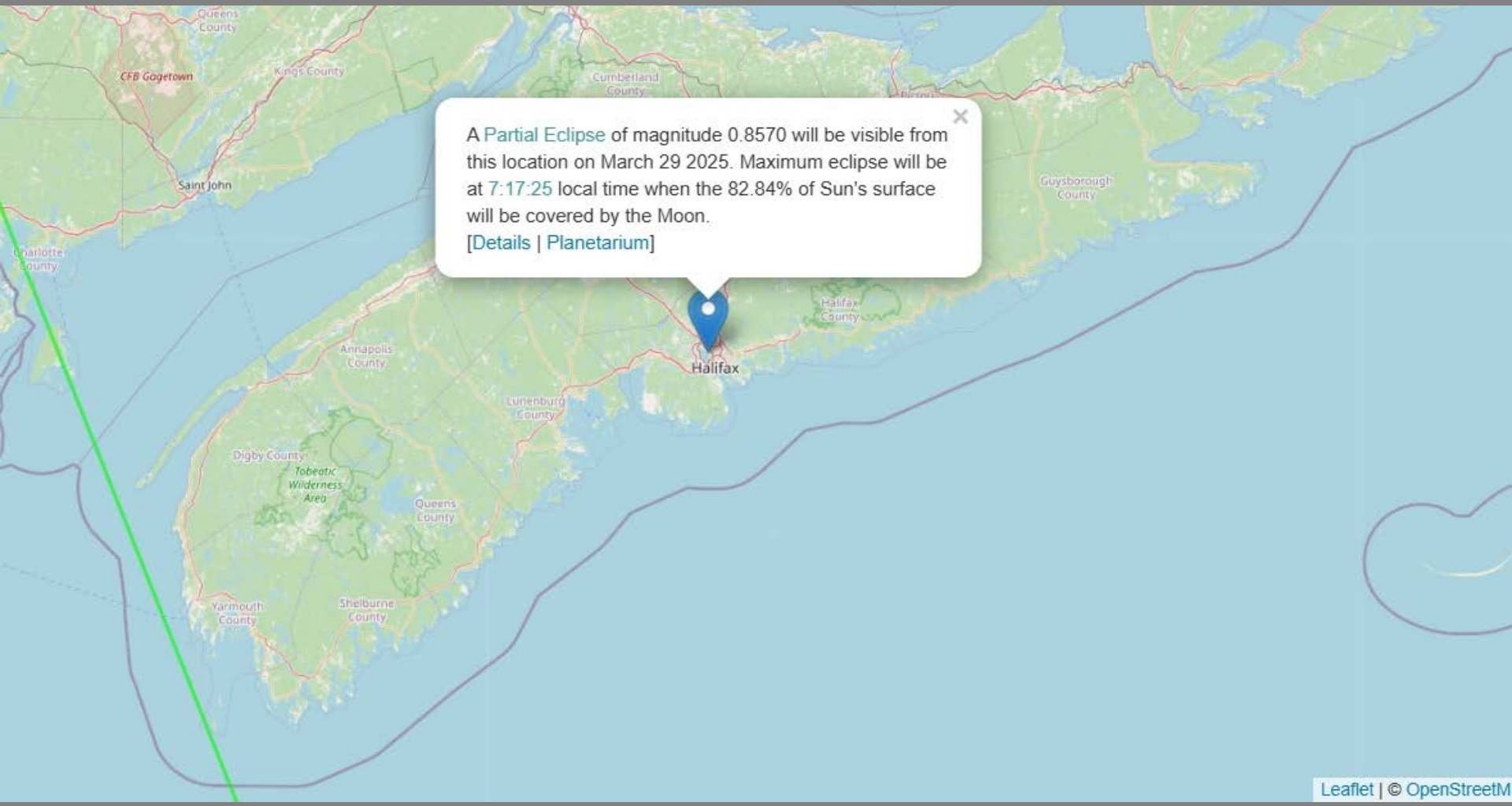
Eclipse Stages Worldwide	UTC Time	Local Time in Halifax*	Visible in Halifax
Penumbral Eclipse begins	Mar 14 at 03:57:28	Mar 14 at 12:57:28 am	Yes
Partial Eclipse begins	Mar 14 at 05:09:40	Mar 14 at 2:09:40 am	Yes
Full Eclipse begins	Mar 14 at 06:26:06	Mar 14 at 3:26:06 am	Yes
Maximum Eclipse	Mar 14 at 06:58:43	Mar 14 at 3:58:43 am	Yes
Full Eclipse ends	Mar 14 at 07:31:26	Mar 14 at 4:31:26 am	Yes
Partial Eclipse ends	Mar 14 at 08:47:52	Mar 14 at 5:47:52 am	Yes
Penumbral Eclipse ends	Mar 14 at 10:00:09	Mar 14 at 7:00:09 am	Yes

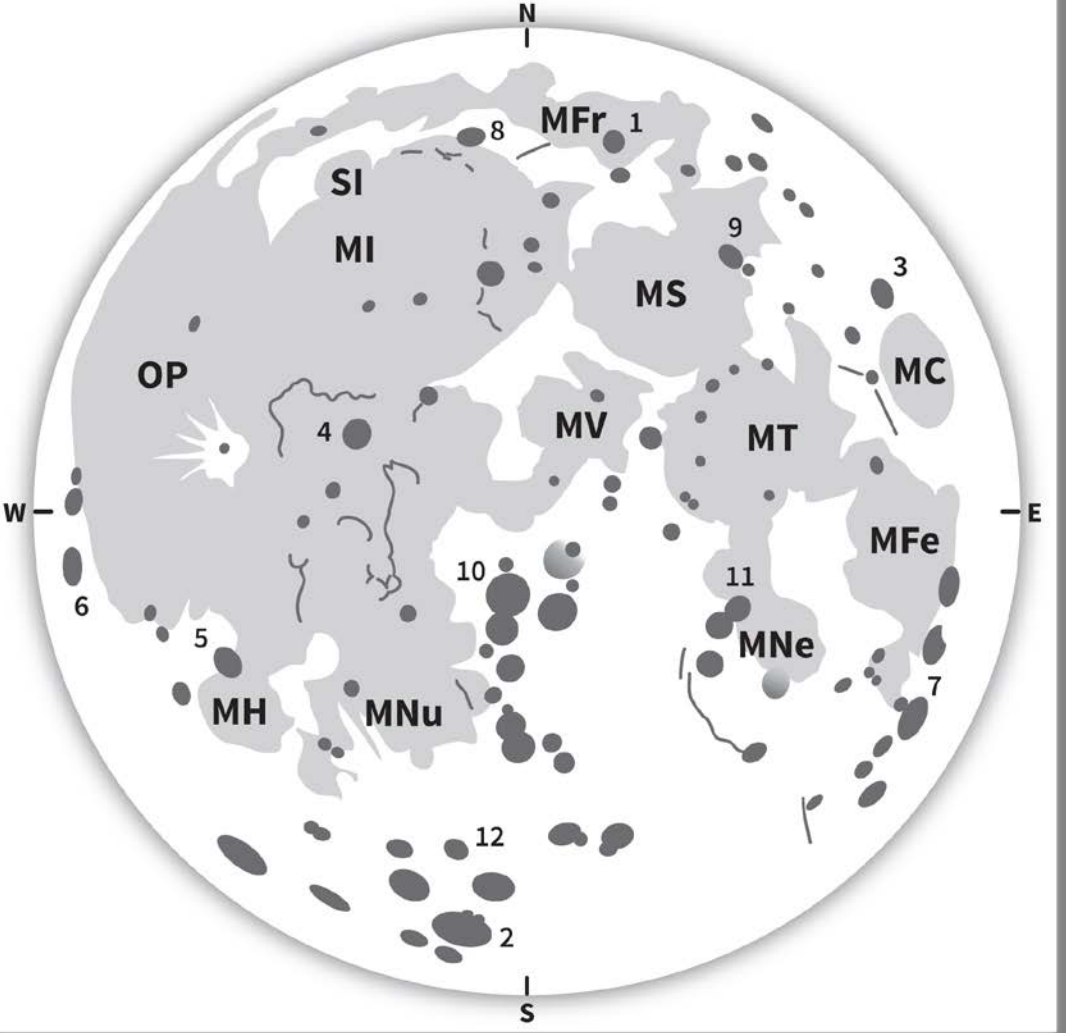
Data	Value	Comments
Magnitude	1.178	Fraction of the Moon's diameter covered by Earth's umbra
Obscuration	100.0%	Percentage of the Moon's area covered by Earth's umbra
Penumbral magnitude	2.260	Fraction of the Moon's diameter covered by Earth's penumbra
Overall duration	6 hours, 3 minutes	Period between the beginning and end of all eclipse phases
Duration of totality	1 hour, 5 minutes	Period between the beginning and end of the total phase
Duration of partial phases	2 hours, 33 minutes	Combined period of both partial phases
Duration of penumbral phases	2 hours, 24 minutes	Combined period of both penumbral phases

Deep Partial Solar Eclipse on March 29



The eclipse will begin before sunrise and end at 8:13 AST


A Partial Eclipse of magnitude 0.8570 will be visible from this location on March 29 2025. Maximum eclipse will be at 7:17:25 local time when the 82.84% of Sun's surface will be covered by the Moon.
[Details | Planetarium]
Halifax
Saint John
CFB Gagetown
Kings County
Cumberland County
Guysborough County
Annapolis County
Lunenburg County
Digby County
Queens County
Yarmouth County
Shelburne County
Leaflet | © OpenStreetM



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

challenge

best view March 12-16 after sunset

The Moon in

Explore the Universe

observe 3 of each in binos

The Planets in March

Mercury-visible low in the W (mag. -0.3) after sunset
-maximum eastern elongation of 18° on 8 March
-begins to fade by mid-March

Venus -visible very low in the SW (mag. -4.6) after sunset until mid-March
-emerges from morning twilight by the end of March

Mars -visible in Gemini (mag. -0.2) after sunset
-close to waxing gibbous Moon on 8 March

Jupiter -prominent in Taurus (mag. -2.3) after sunset
-near waxing gibbous Moon on 6 February

Saturn -too close to the Sun so not visible this month

Uranus -visible near the Aries and Taurus boundary (mag. 5.7) after sunset

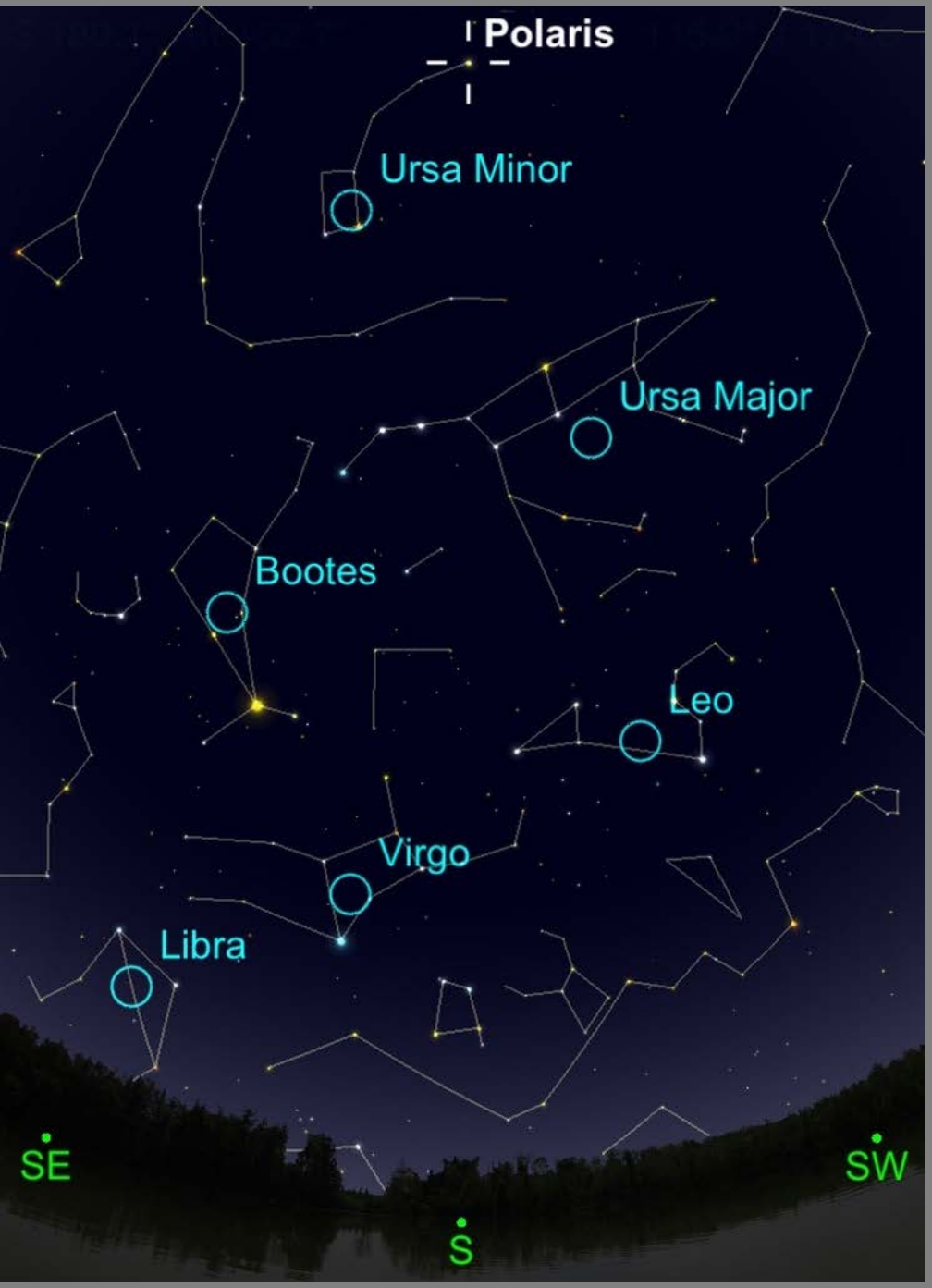
Neptune-too close to the Sun so not visible this month

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 21-April 4)
-dust concentrated in the plane of the ecliptic and towards the Sun reflects sunlight

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

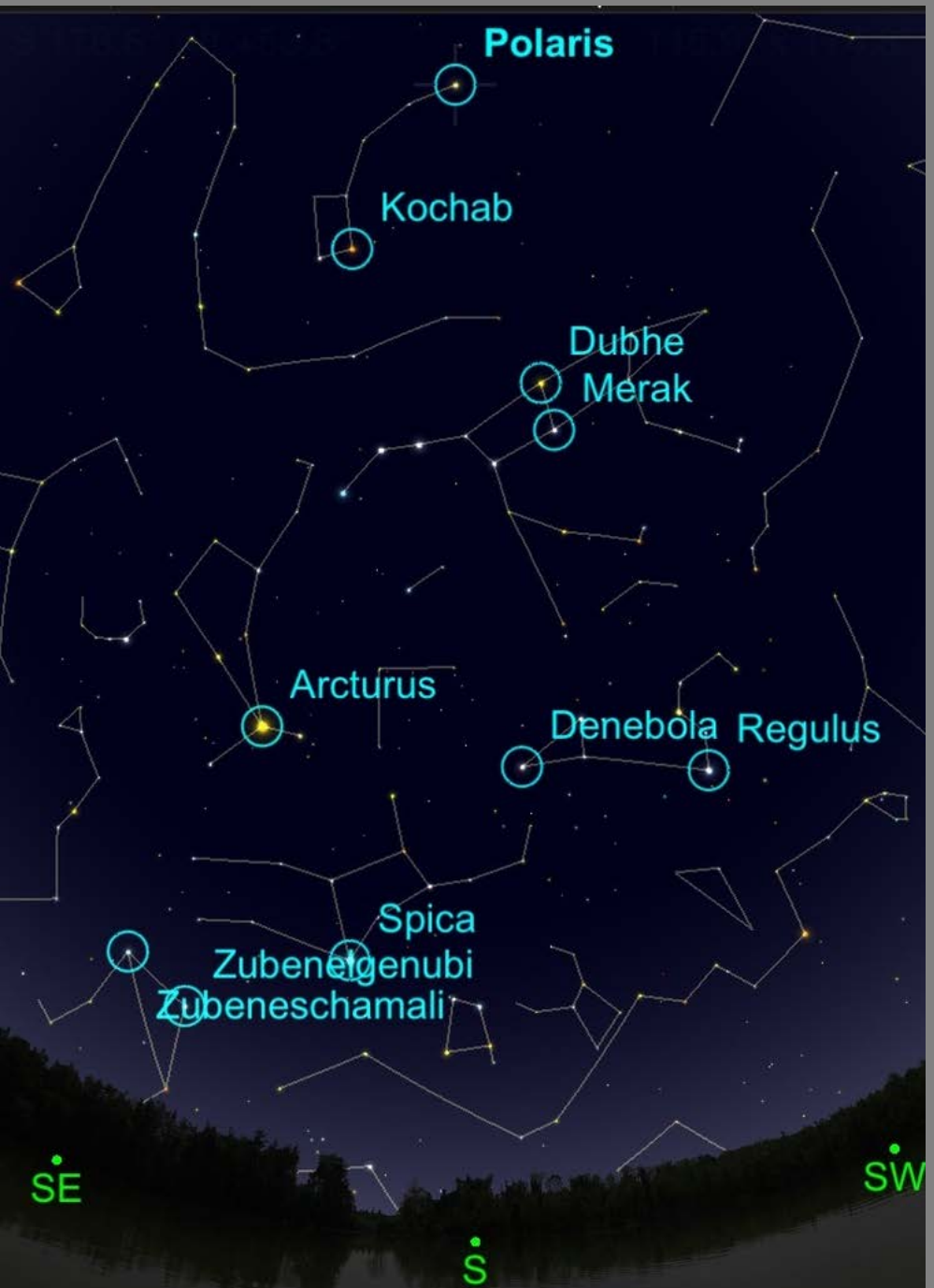
Halifax, NS 30 Mar 2025 @ 11:30 p.m.



Explore the Universe:

Spring Constellations

Halifax, NS 30 Mar 2025 @ 11:30 p.m.



Explore the Universe:

Spring Stars

Ranking:

#3 Arcturus

#14 Spica

#22 Regulus

#37 Dubhe

#48 Polaris

- Denebola

- Zubenelgenubi

- Zubeneschamali

Halifax, NS

30 Mar 2025 @ 11:30 p.m.

Explore the Universe:

Spring Deep-Sky

Beehive Cluster (M 44)

Look halfway between

Castor & Pollux and Regulus.

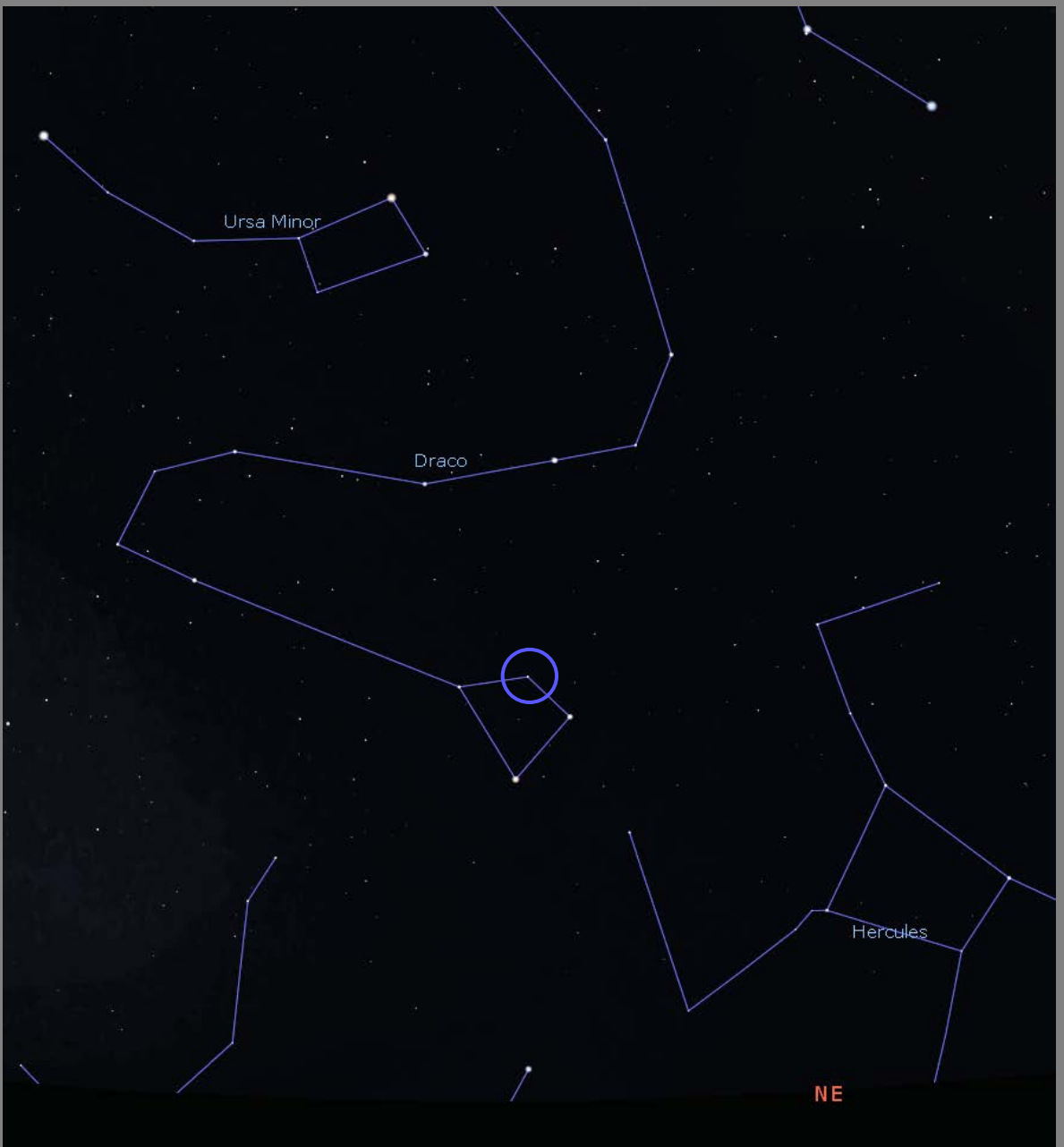
(view in binoculars in dark sky)

challenge

Explore the Universe: Double and Multiple Stars

Halifax, NS

15 Mar 2025 @ 9:30 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

challenge

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 28-30 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)

Questions?

photo: David Hoskin