

What's Up?

March 1-31, 2023

Made with the 2023 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2023
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®



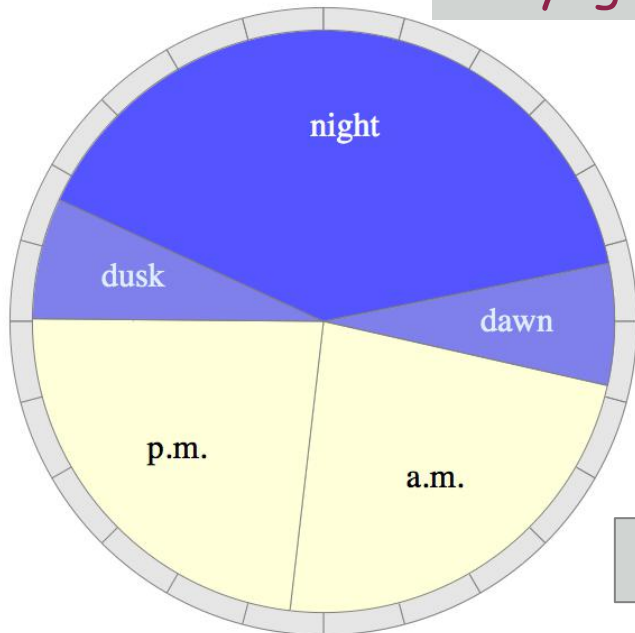
photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

[Solar Activity](#)

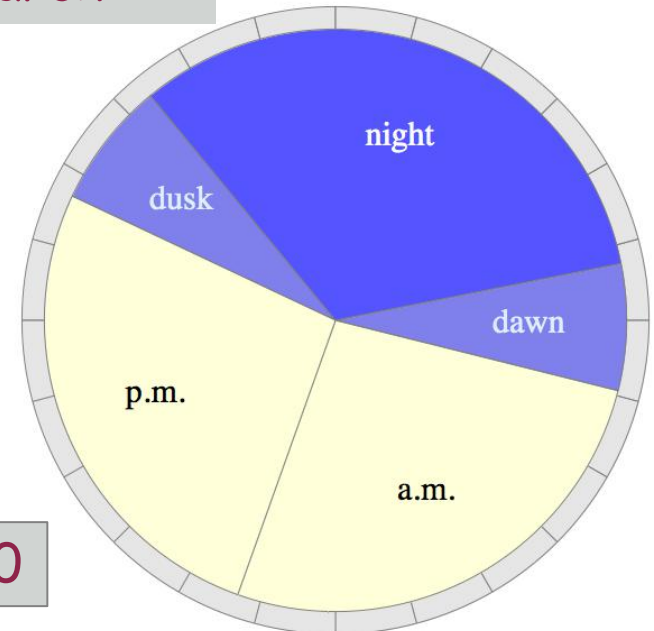
Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	“Noon”	Sunlight	Max Altitude
Mar 1	6:01 p.m.	7:38 p.m.	9.6 h	5:15 a.m.	6:52 a.m.	12:26 p.m.	11.2 h	38°
Mar 31	7:40 p.m.	9:21 p.m.	7.9 h	5:16 a.m.	6:57 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	12.8 h	50°

Halifax Mar 01



Daylight Saving Time: March 12

Halifax Mar 31



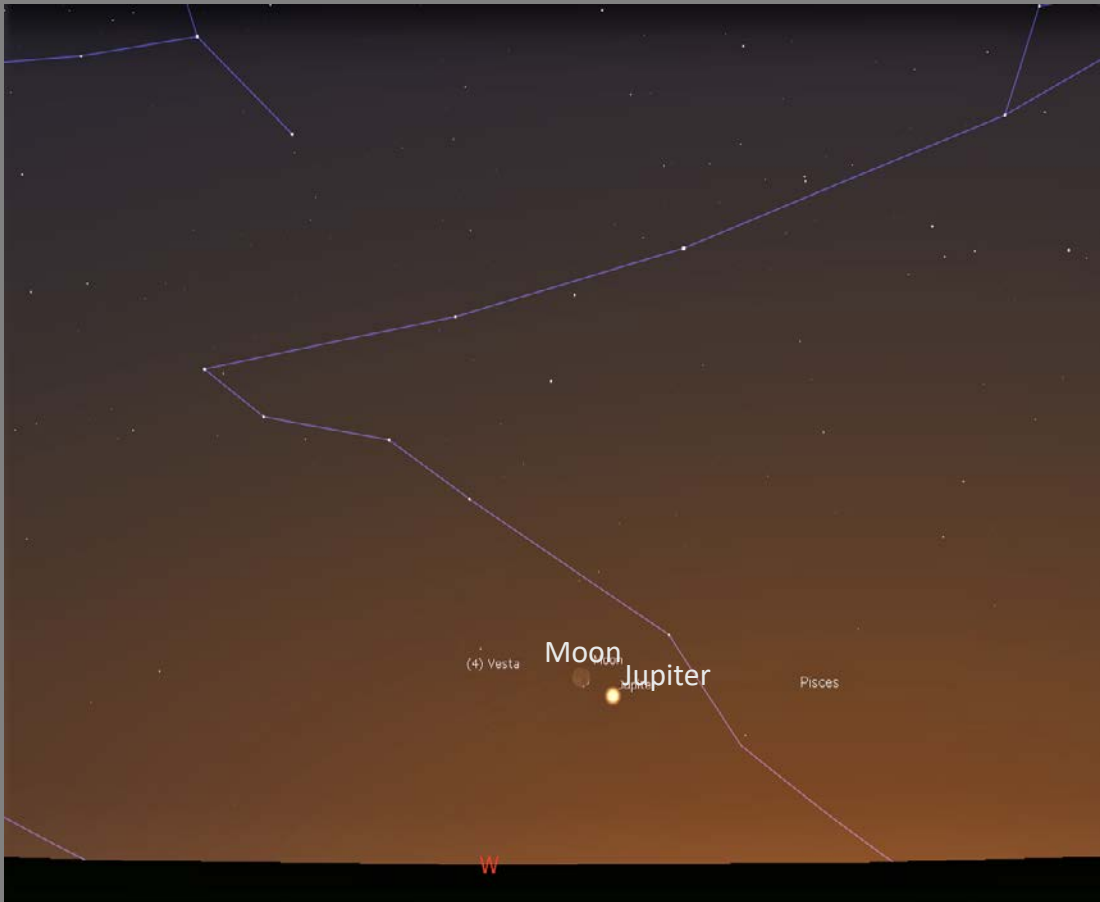
Equinox: March 20

[YouTube: RASC Halifax](#)

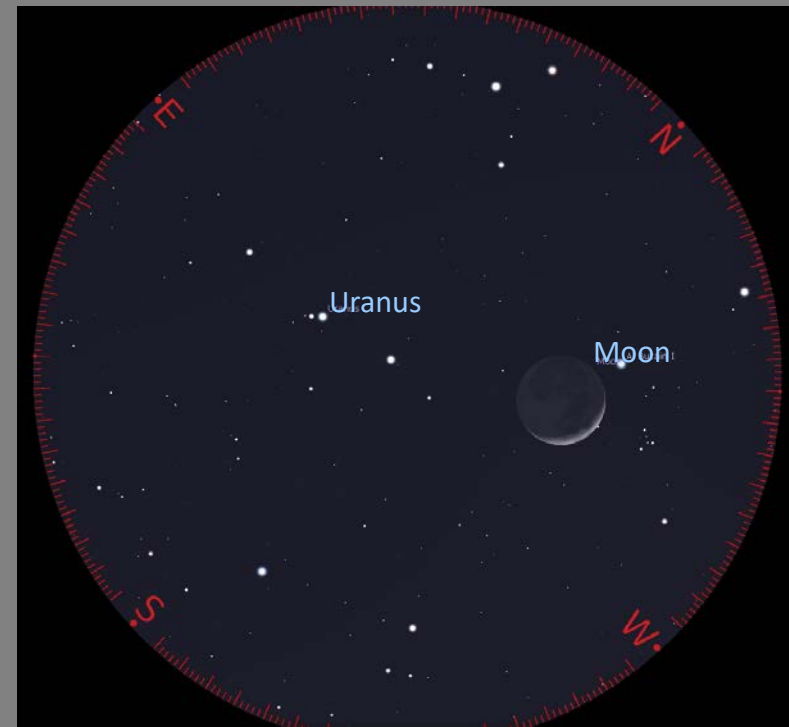
The Moon This Month

Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
March 7	<i>Full Moon</i>	Maple Sugar	<u>Siwkewiku's</u>
March 14	Moon near Antares		
March 15	<i>Last Quarter Moon</i>		
March 21	<i>New Moon</i>	Birds Laying Eggs	<u>Penatmuiku's</u>
March 22	Moon near Jupiter		
March 24	Uranus near Moon		
March 25	Moon near Pleiades		
March 29	<i>First Quarter Moon</i>		
March 29	Moon near Pollux		

Mar 22 @ 8:15 p.m.



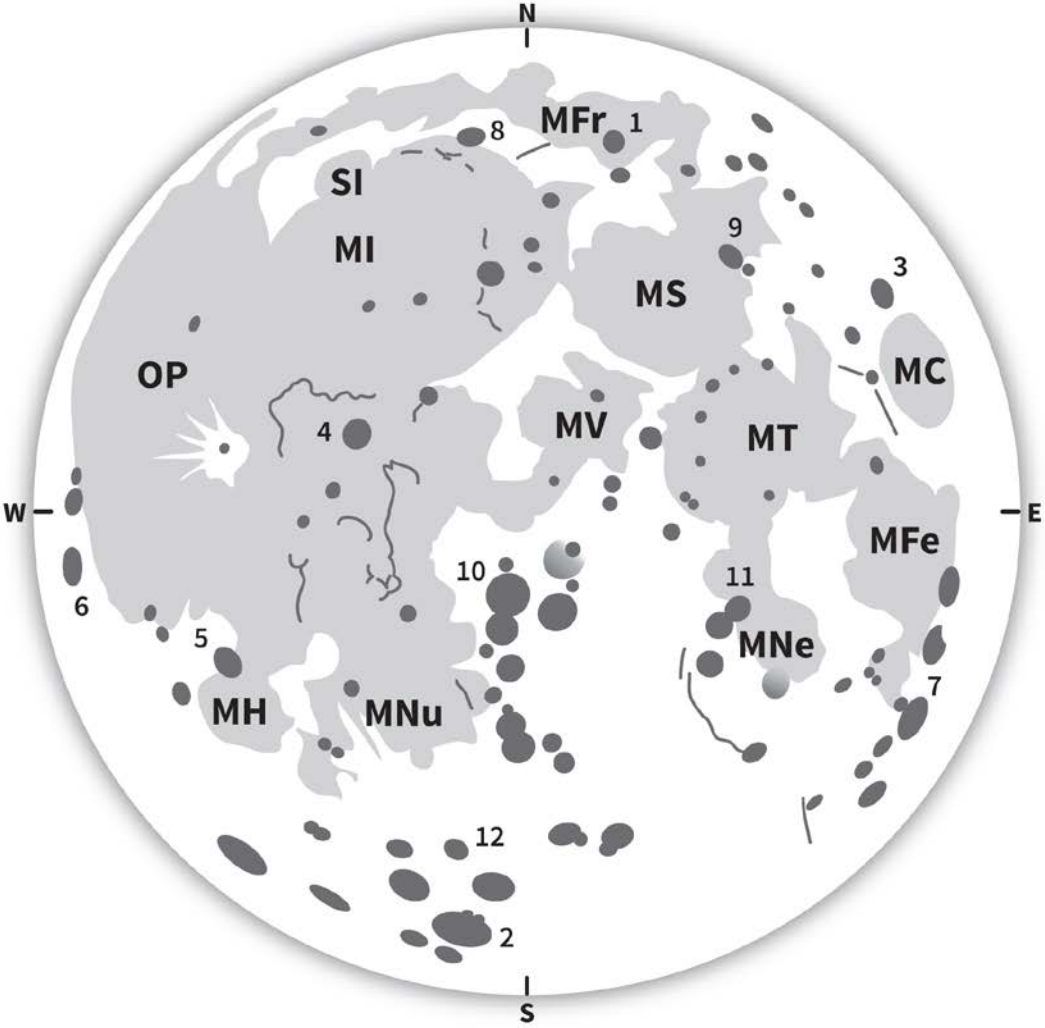
challenge



Mar 24 @ 8:30 p.m.
Use 15x70 binoculars



Mar 25 @ 8:30 p.m. wide-field photo opportunity



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 28-30 after sunset

The Moon in

Explore the Universe

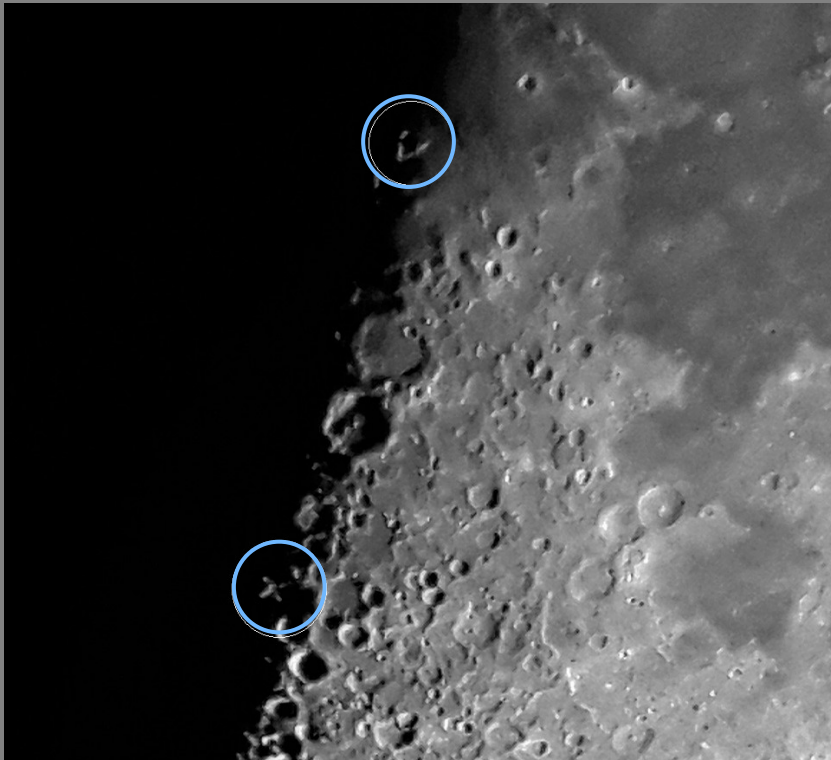
observe 3 of each in binos

Lunar X and V

March 29

12:59 a.m.

challenge



photos: David Hoskin

"Spooky Eyes"



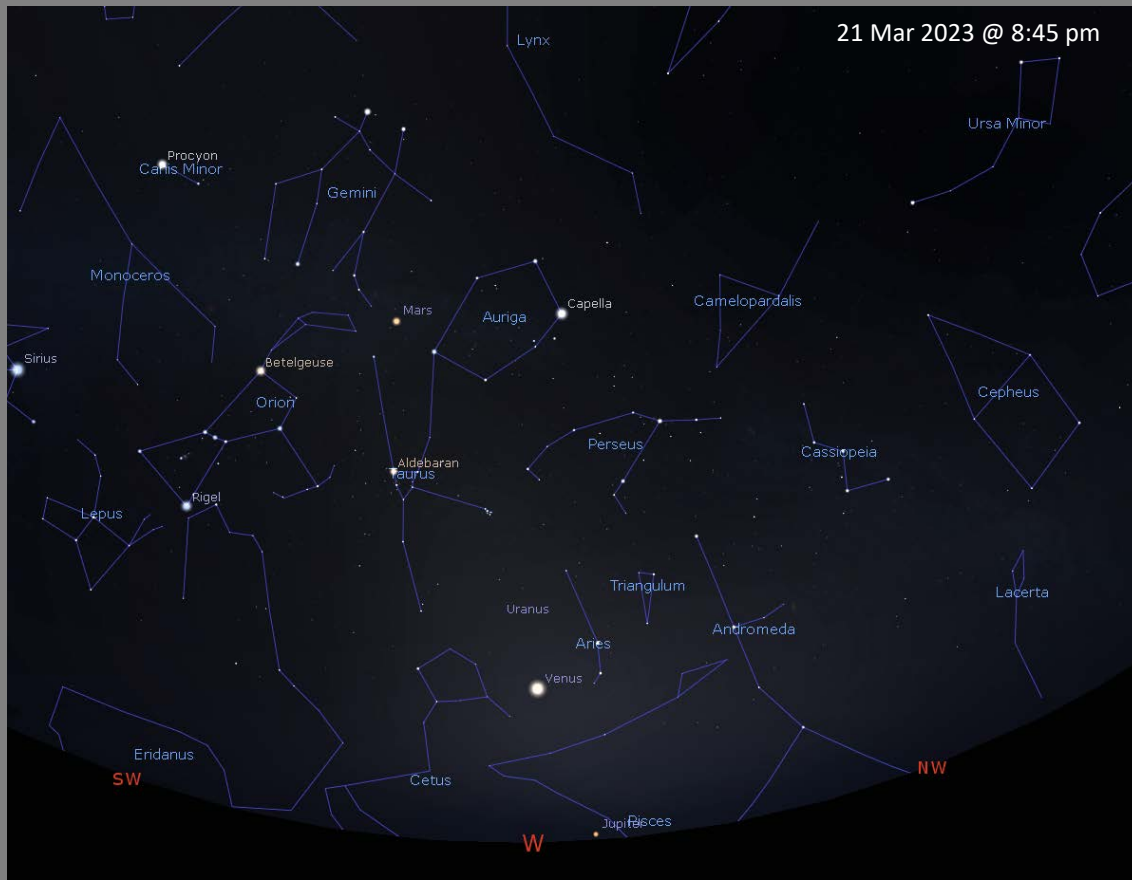
March 1 @ 7:30 p.m. photo opportunity



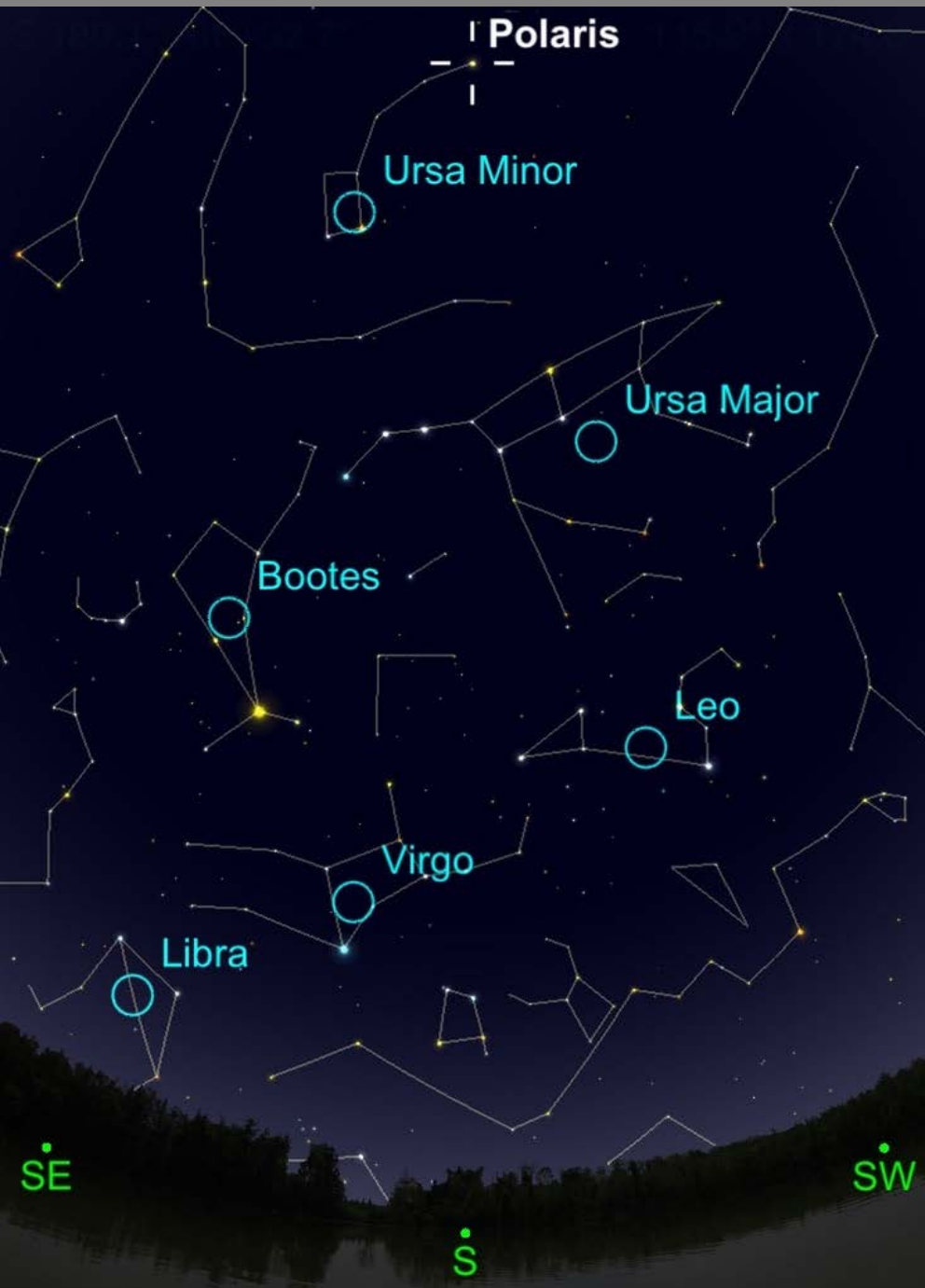
March 30 @ 9:00 p.m.
Use 15x70 binoculars

Zodiacal Light

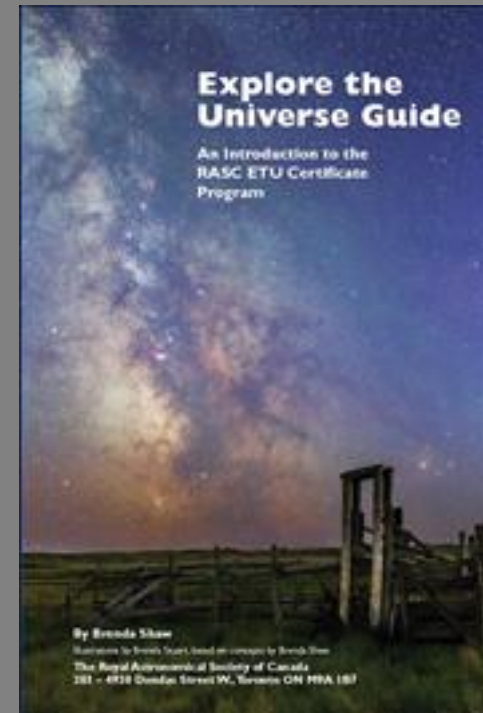
- pyramid of light in the western sky just after the end of twilight (February, March) or in the eastern sky just before the start of morning twilight (September, October)
- best seen when the ecliptic is at a high angle relative to the horizon
- requires a dark observing site
- dust concentrated in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

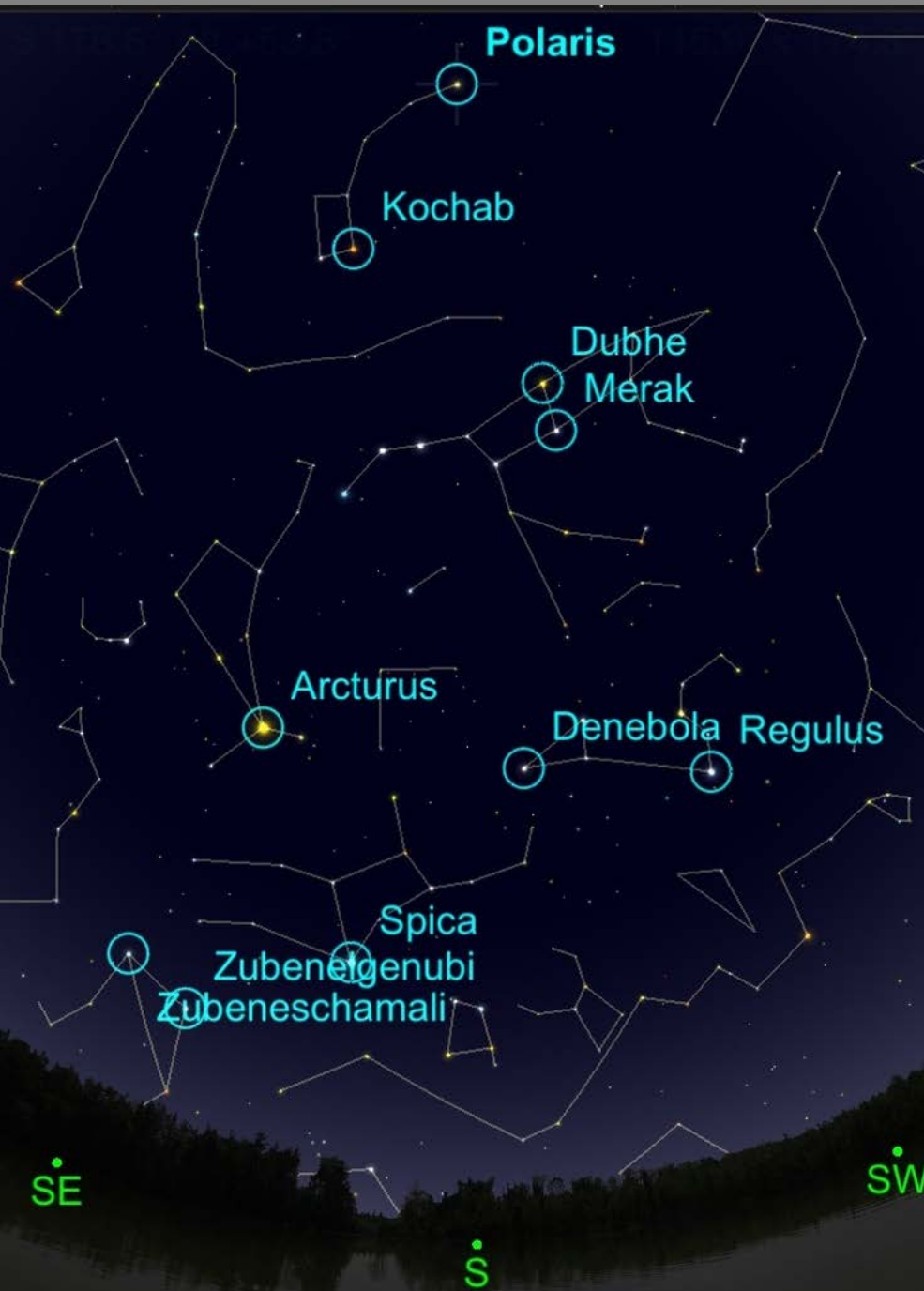


13 March 2021 @ 8:45 pm near Nine Mile River



Explore the Universe: Spring Constellations





Explore the Universe:

Spring Stars

Ranking:

#3 Arcturus

#14 Spica

#22 Regulus

#37 Dubhe

#48 Polaris

- Denebola

- Zubenelgenubi

- Zubeneshamali

Halifax, NS

28 March 2023 @ 12 am

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 2023 @ 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

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 22-23 will be best this year since the full Moon dominates the night sky around the first part of the month
- 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