What's Up?

April 1–30, 2026

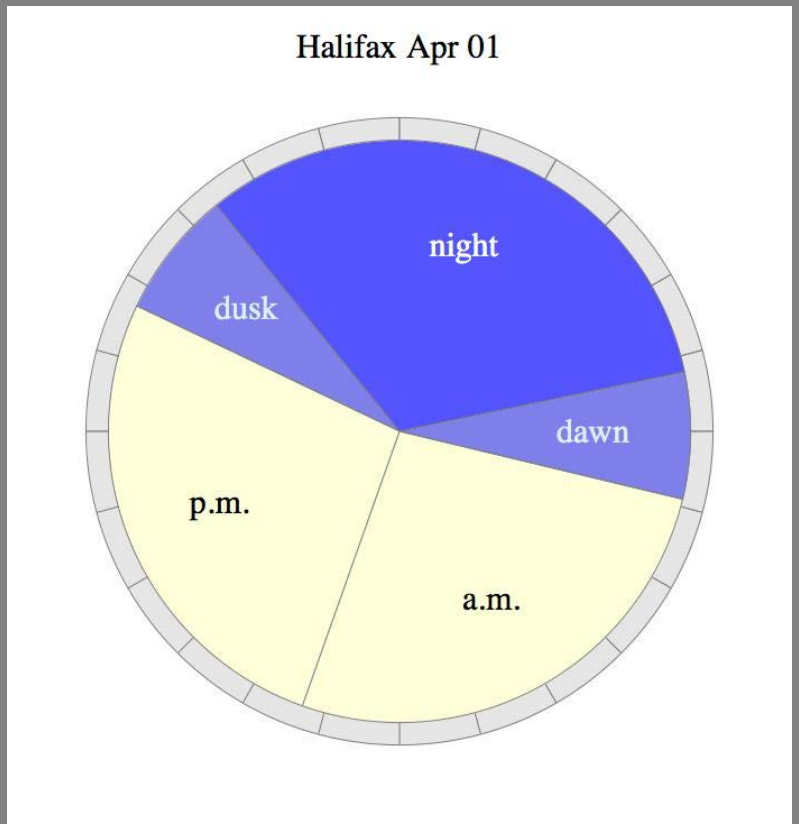
Made with the 2026 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2026
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

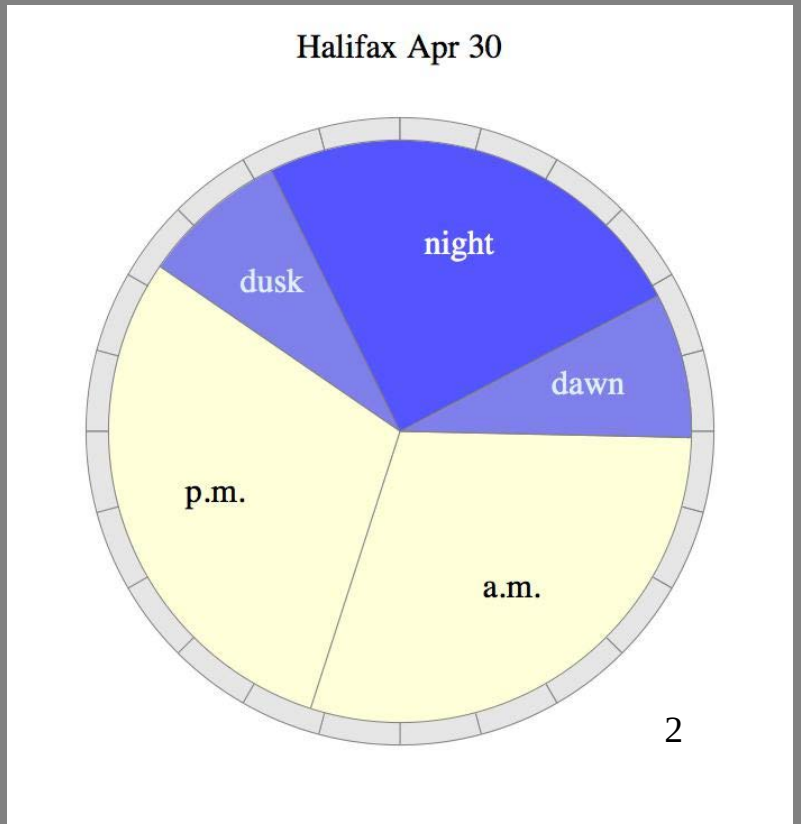
photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

Today's Solar Activity

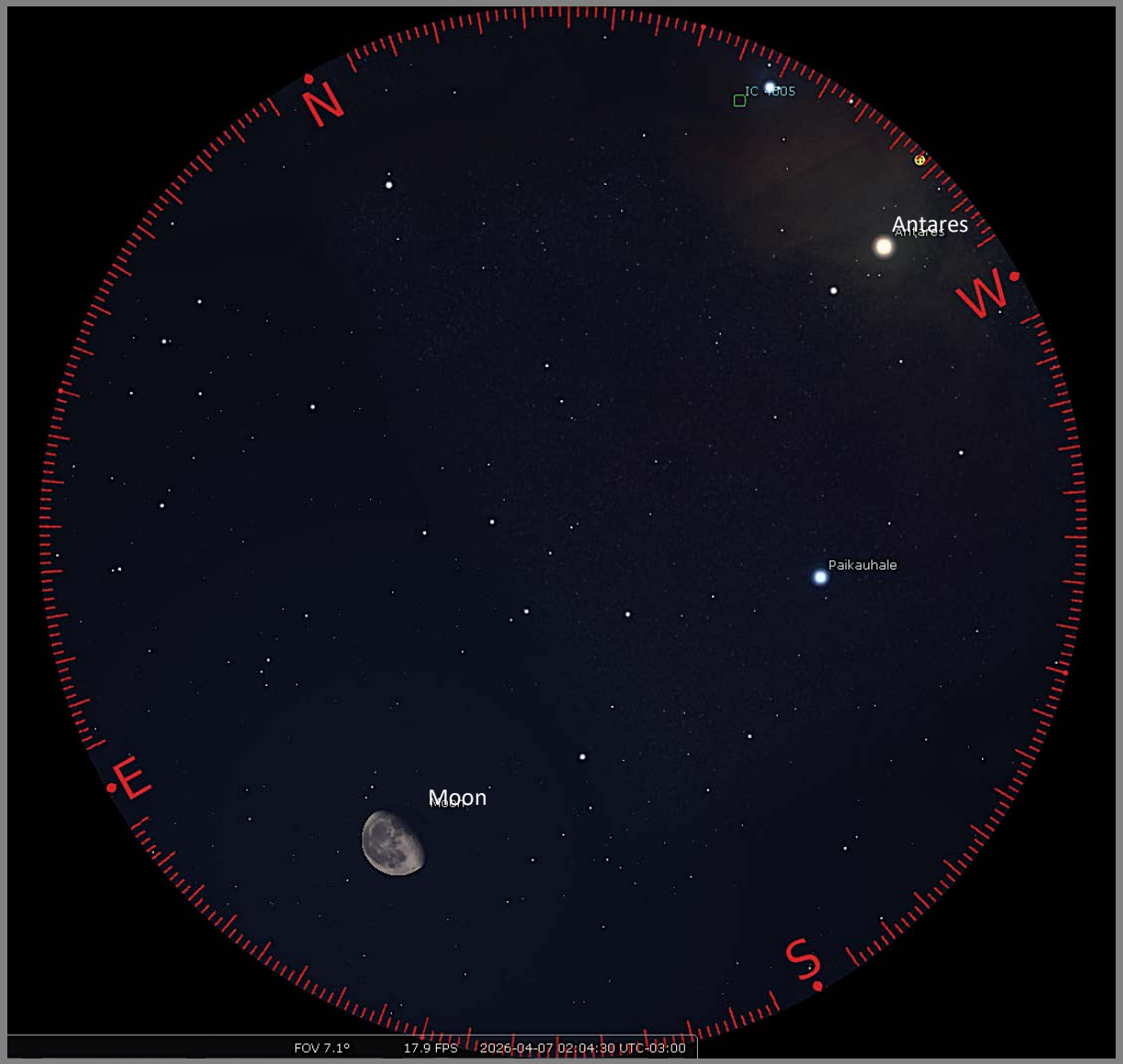
Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	"Noon"	Sunlight	Max Altitude
Apr 1	7:41 p.m.	9:23 p.m.	7.8 h	5:14 a.m.	6:55 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	12.8 h	50.1º
Apr 30	8:17 p.m.	10:13 p.m.	5.9 h	4:10 a.m.	6:05 a.m.	1:11 p.m.	14.2 h	60.3º



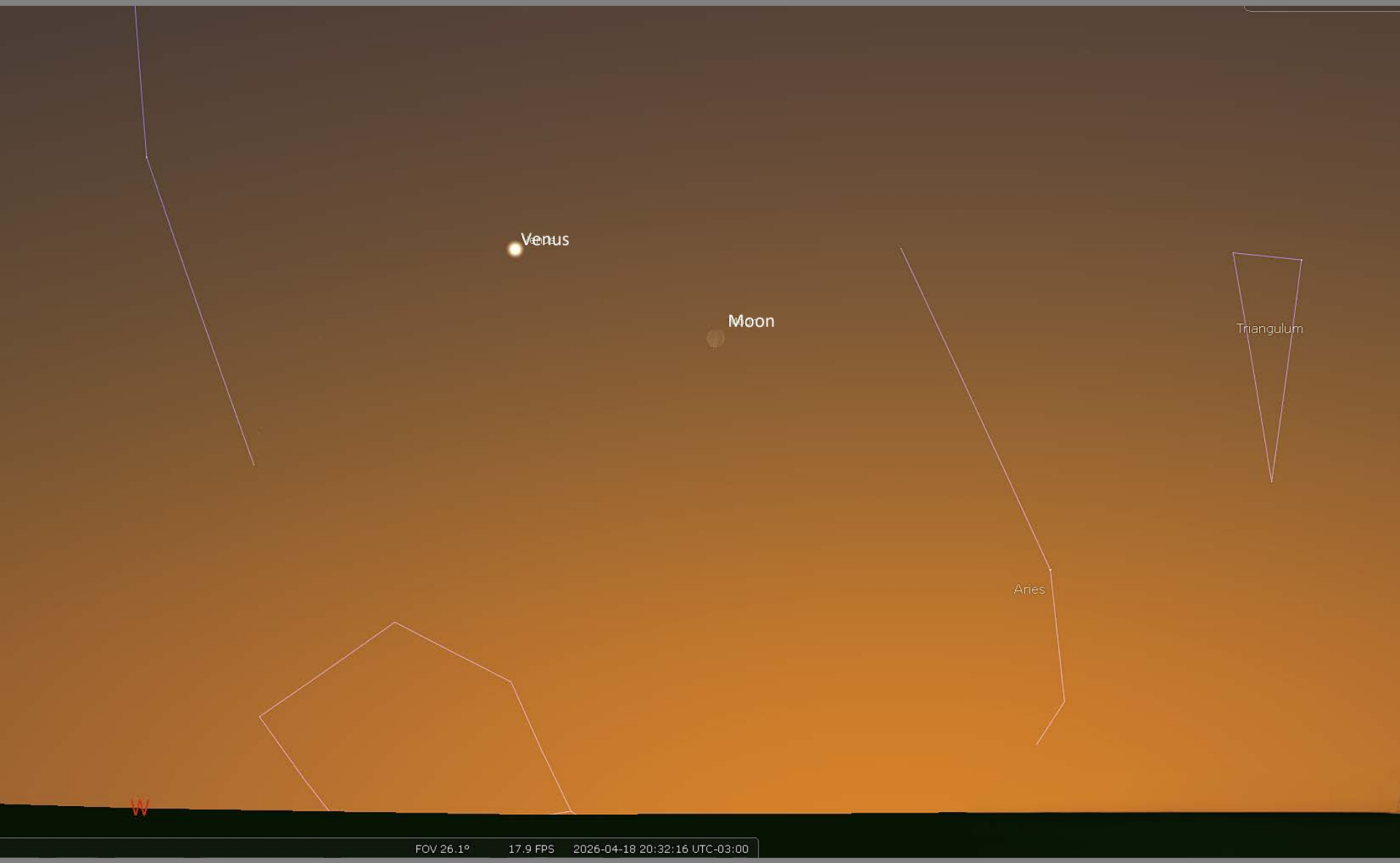


The Moon This Month

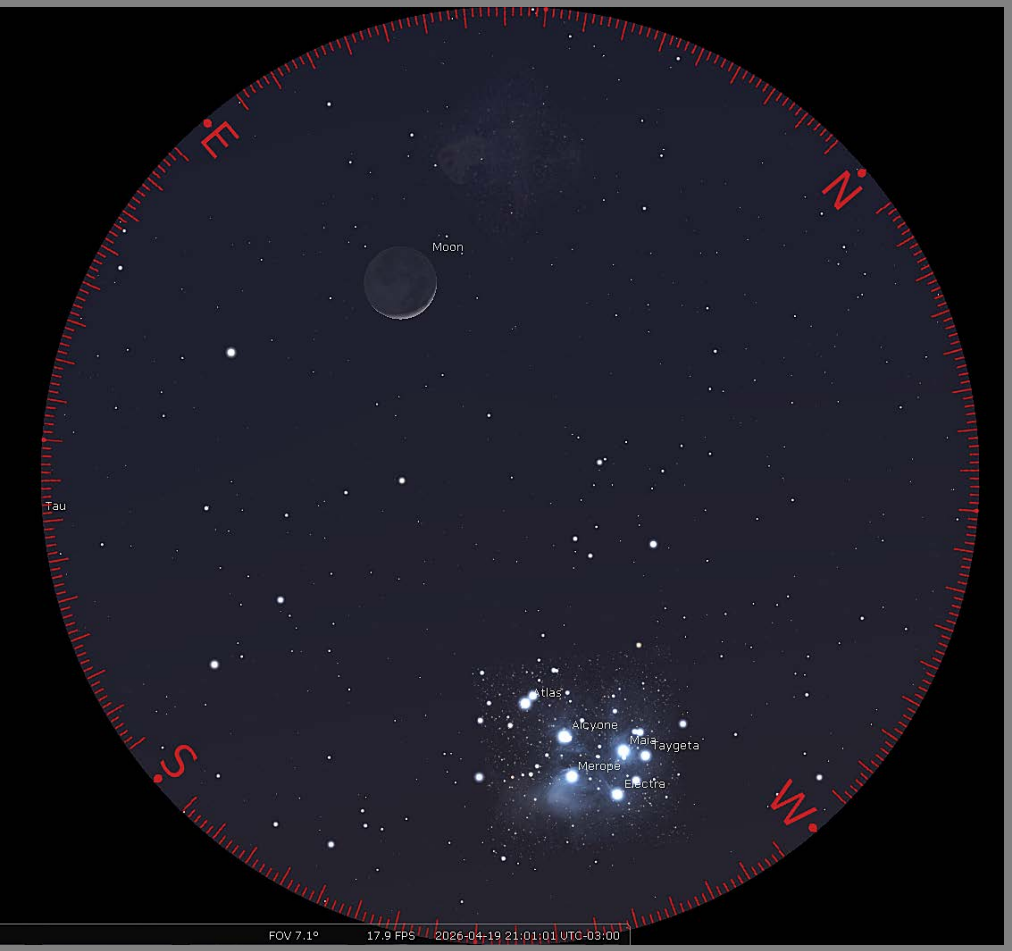
Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
April 2	*Full Moon*	Snow-Blinding	Punamujuiku's
April 2	Moon near Spica		
April 7	Moon near Antares		
April 7	Moon at apogee (405,000 km)		
April 10	*Last Quarter*		
April 17	*New Moon*	Birds Laying Eggs	Penatmuiku's
April 18	Moon near Venus		
April 19	Moon near M45		
April 19	Moon at perigee (361,600 km)		
April 22	Moon near Jupiter		
April 23	Moon near M44		
April 24	*First Quarter*		
April 25	Moon near Regulus		
April 29	Moon near Spica		



Apr 7 @ 2:00 a.m.
7x50 binoculars FOV 7.1°


Venus
Moon
Triangulum
Aries
W
FOV 26.1°
17.9 FPS
2026-04-18 20:32:16 UTC-03:00

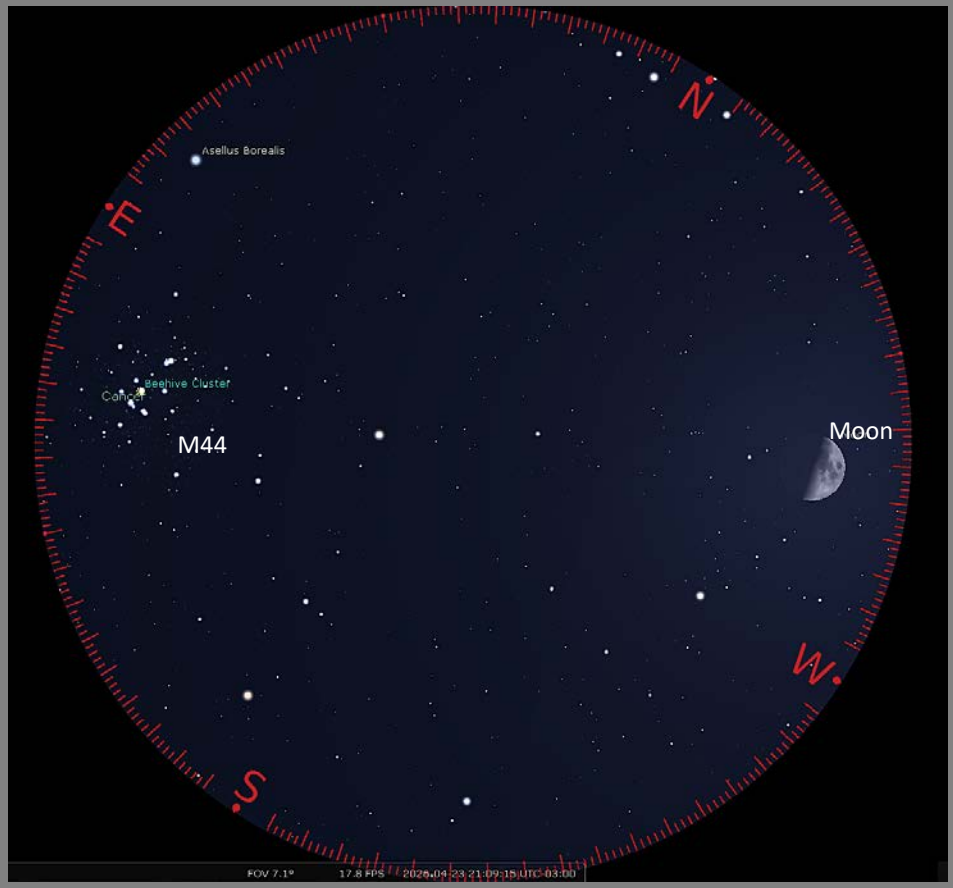
Apr 18 @ 8:30 p.m.



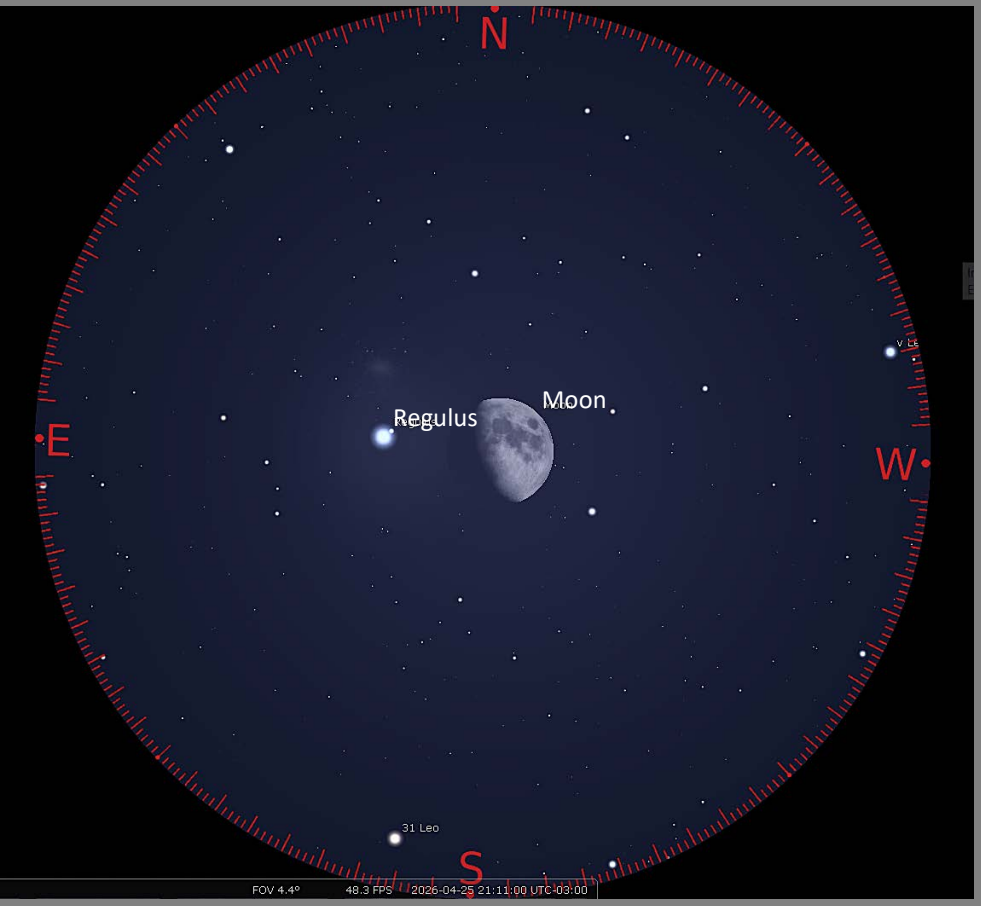
Apr 19 @ 9:00 p.m.
7x50 binoculars FOV 7.1°

RedCat 51 (248mm FL) +
camera with APS-C sensor

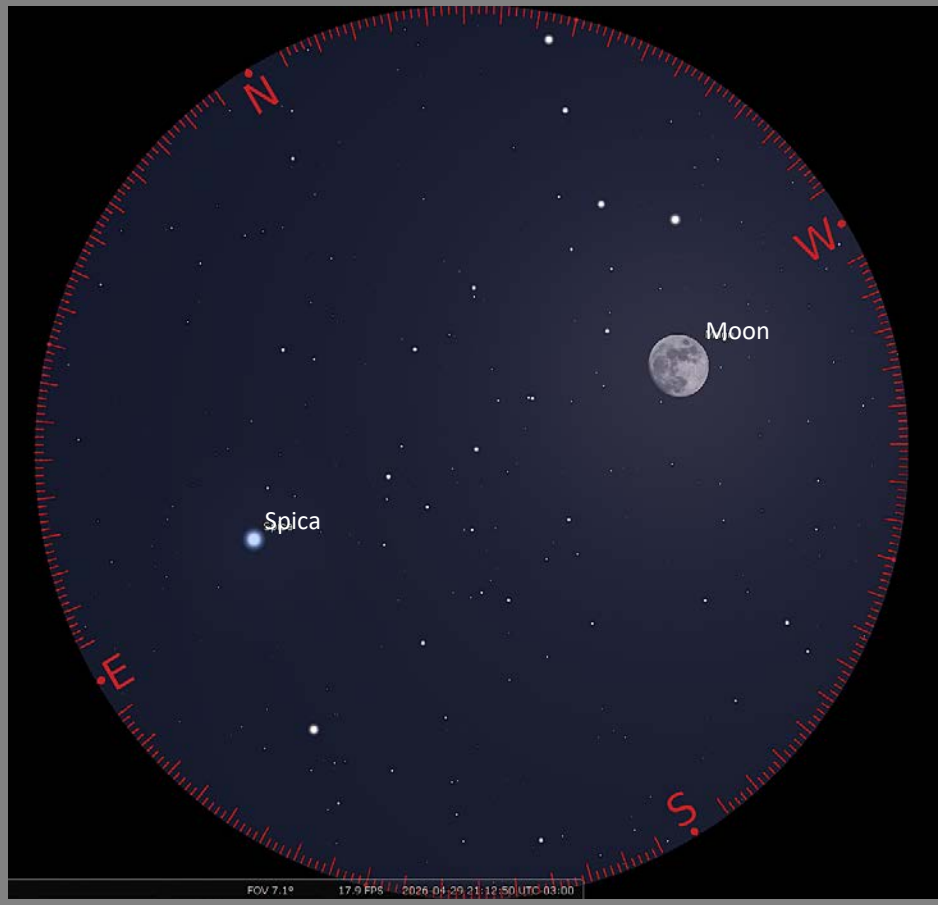
Apr 22 @ 9:00 p.m.
7x50 binoculars FOV 7.1°



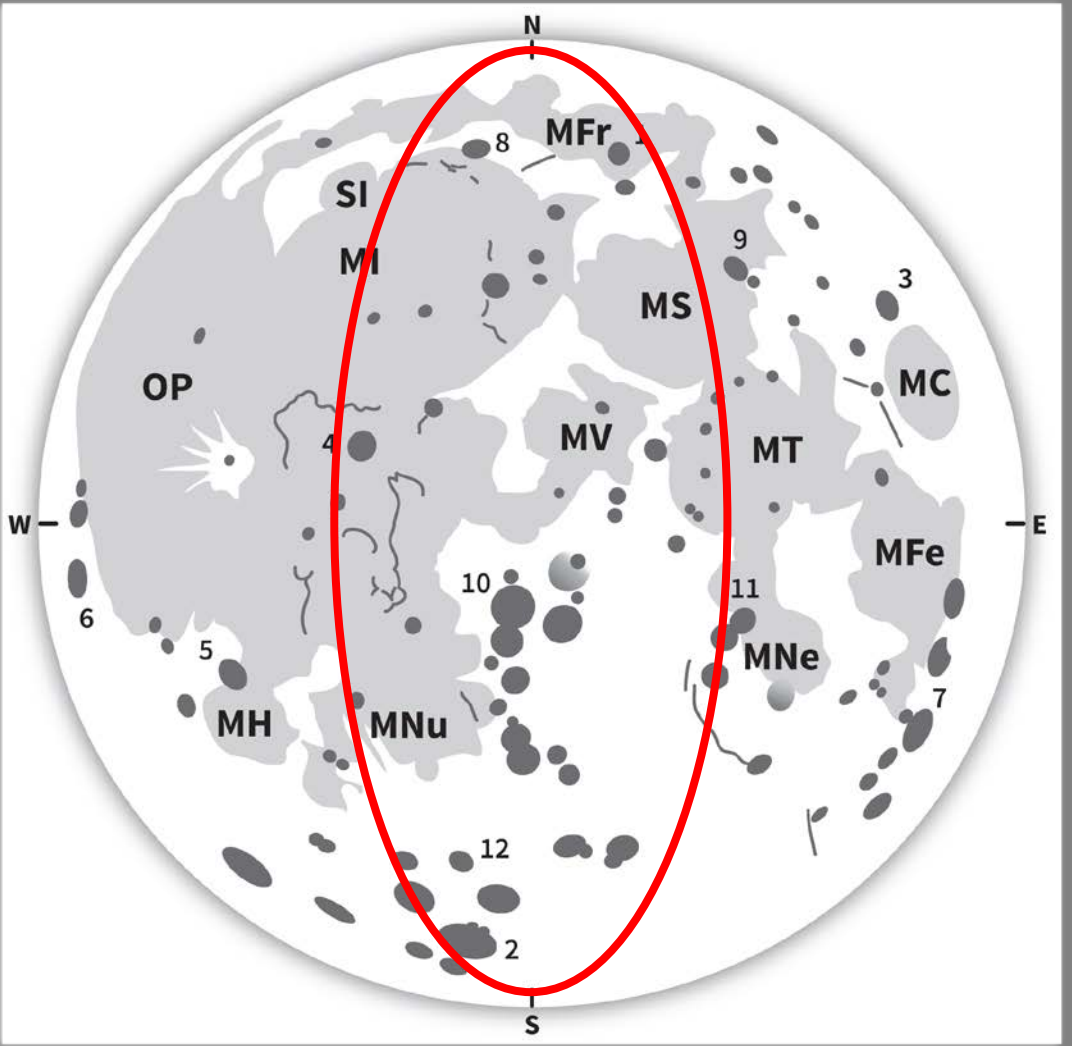
Apr 23 @ 9:00 p.m.
7x50 binoculars FOV 7.1°



Apr 25 @ 9:00 p.m.
15x70 binoculars FOV 4.4°



Apr 29 @ 9:00 p.m.
7x50 binoculars FOV 7.1°



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

best view April 22-26 after sunset

The Moon in

Explore the Universe

challenge

observe 3 of each in binos

The Planets in April

Mercury-very low in the E (mag. 1.6) before sunrise by mid-March
-conjunction with Mars and Saturn on Apr 19

Venus -prominent in W after sunset (mag. -3.9)
-near the waxing crescent Moon on Apr 19
-near M45 on Apr 21-27

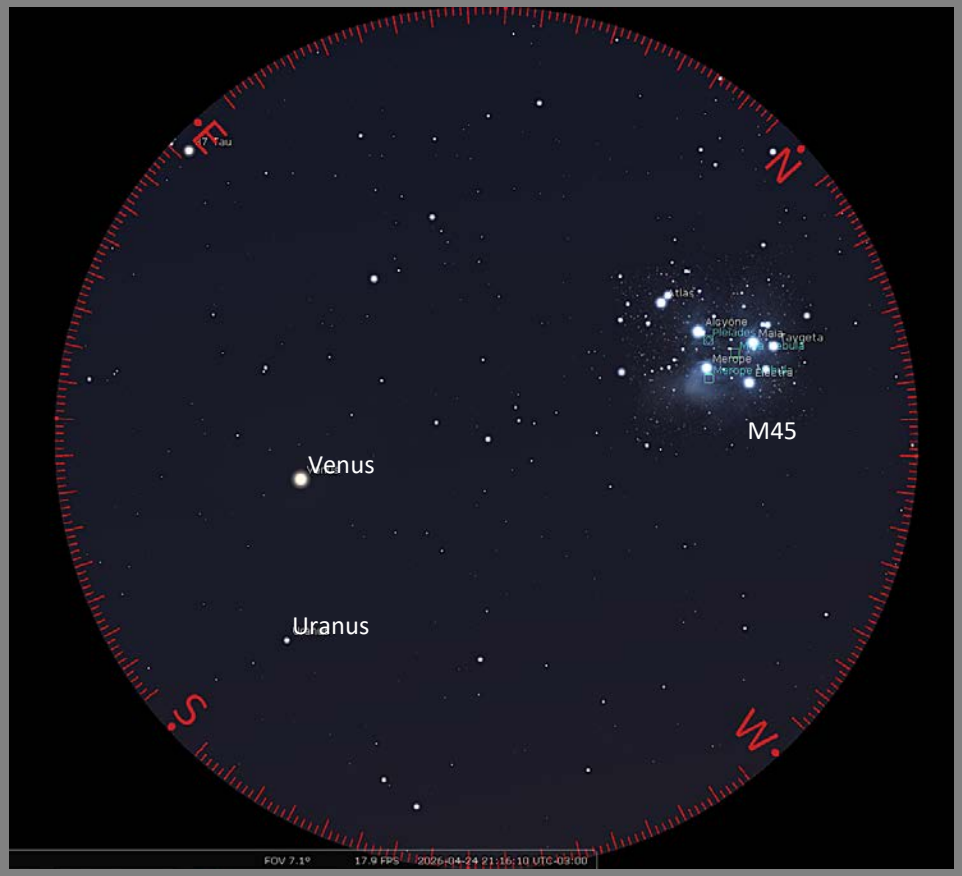
Mars - visible very low in the pre-dawn sky (mag. 1.2) by the end of Apr

Jupiter -visible high in the E (mag. -2.1) after sunset
-near the waxing crescent Moon on Apr22

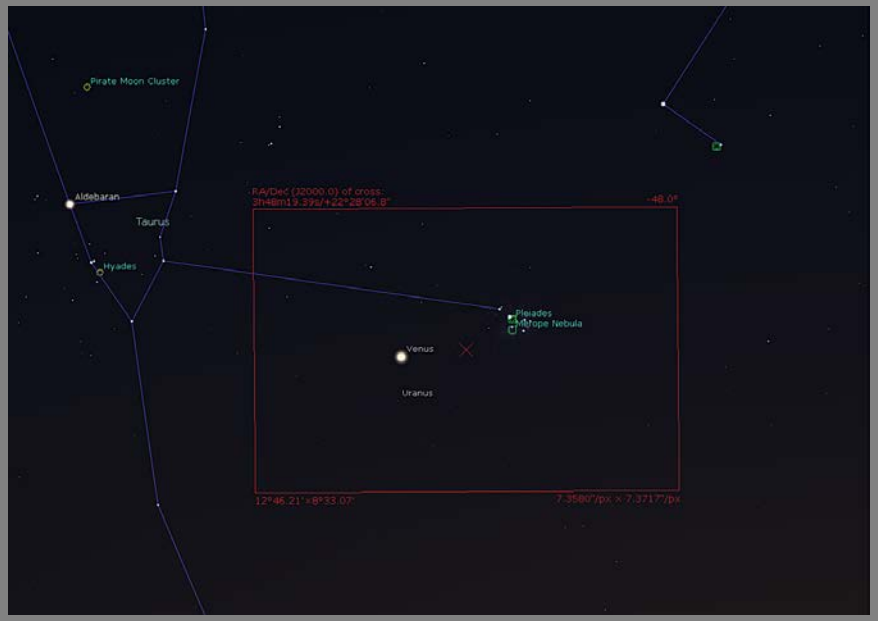
Saturn -visible very low in the pre-dawn sky (mag. 0.9) by the end of Apr
-conjunction with Venus on March 7 and 8

Uranus -visible in Taurus after sunset (mag. 5.8) but too low to observe by the end of Apr

Neptune-hidden in pre-dawn twilight

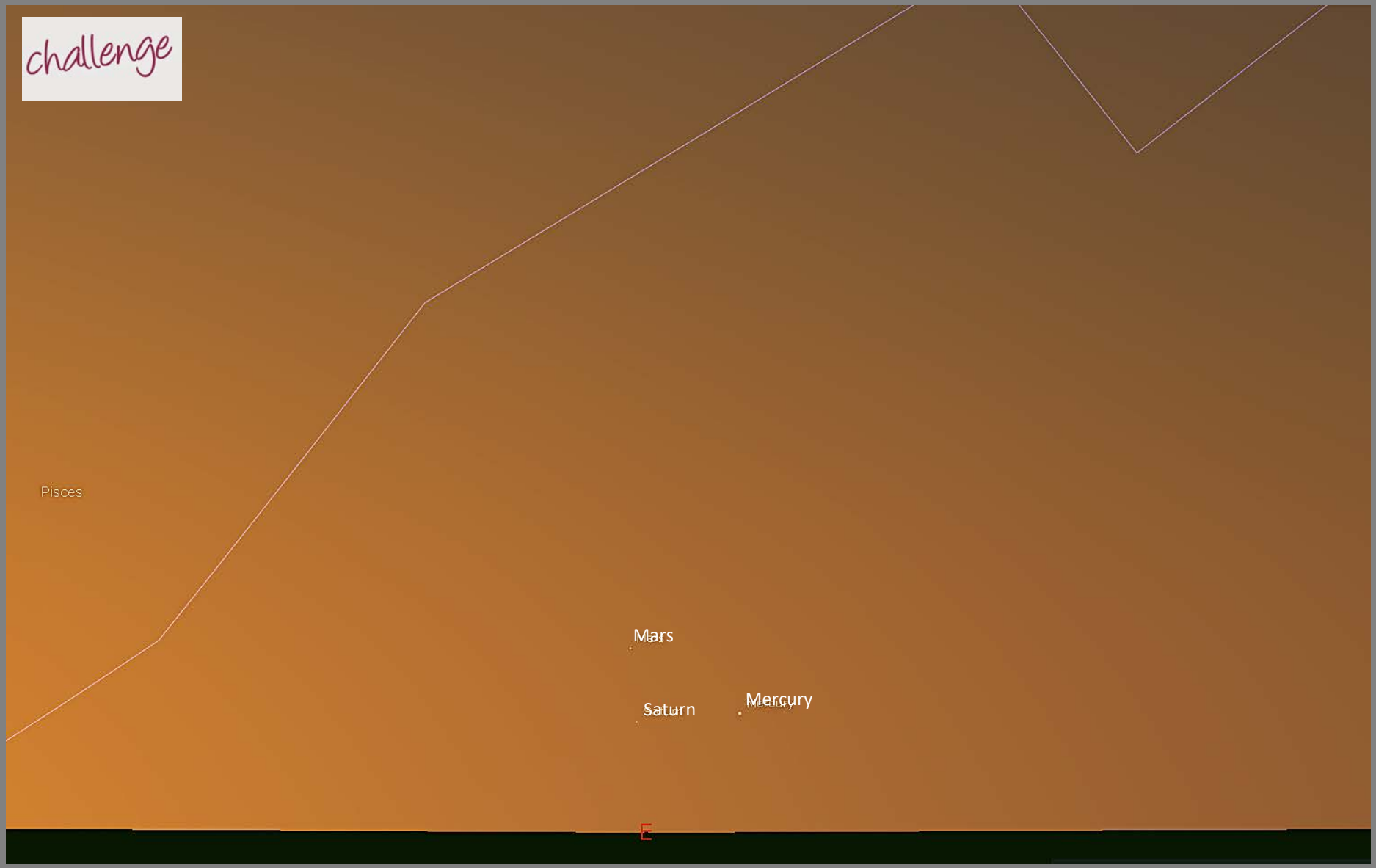


Apr 24 @ 9:15 p.m.
7x50 binoculars FOV 7.1°



SV535 (128mm FL) + camera
with APS-C sensor

challenge

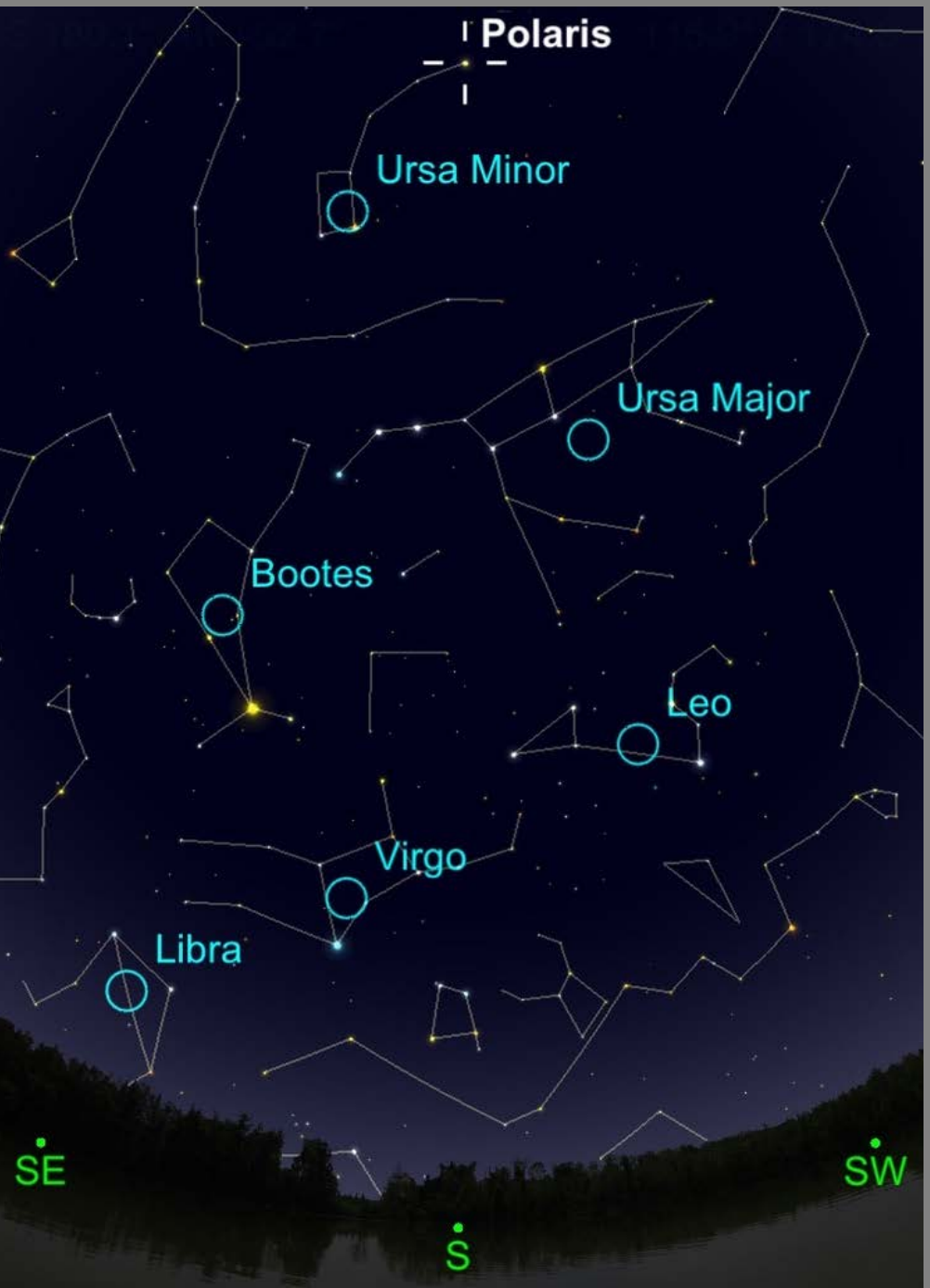


Multiple Planet Conjunction on Apr 30 @ 9:15 p.m.

The Lyrid Meteor Shower

-Lyrid radiant is in Lyra; predicted peak on April 22 at 2 am AST
-expect 10-15 meteors per hour at the peak, although there may be bursts of up to 100 meteors per hour and fireballs are possible
-best time to view is after midnight (moonset is before midnight)
-comet C/1861 G1 (Thatcher) is the parent object

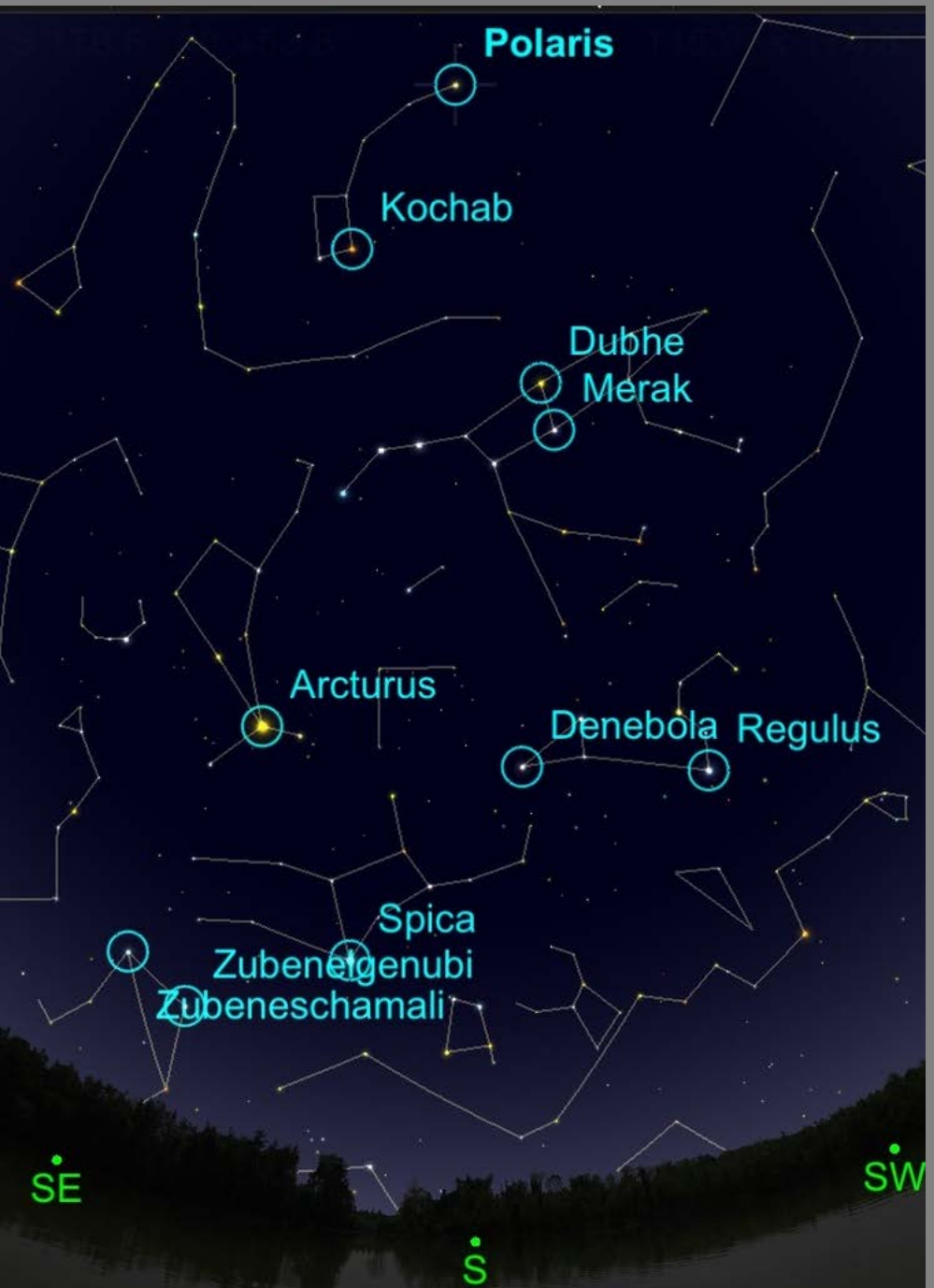
Halifax, NS 22 Apr 2026 @ 10:30 pm



Explore the Universe:

Spring Constellations

Halifax, NS 22 Apr 2026 @ 10:30 pm



Explore the Universe:

Spring Stars

Ranking:

#3 Arcturus

#14 Spica

#22 Regulus

#37 Dubhe

#48 Polaris

- Denebola

- Zubenelgenubi

- Zubeneschamali

Halifax, NS

22 Apr 2026 @ 10:30 pm

Explore the Universe:

Spring Deep-Sky

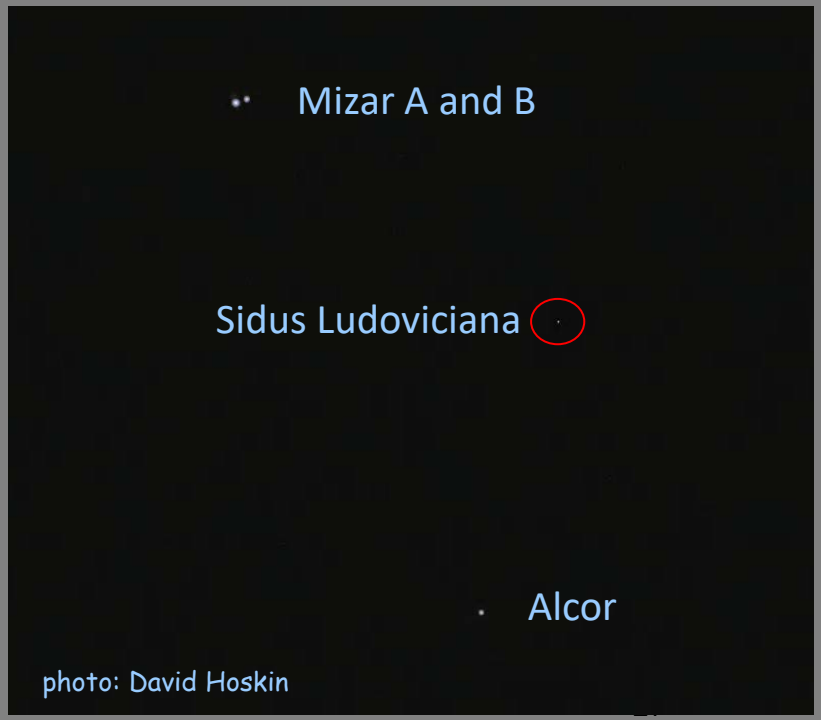
Coma Star Cluster (Melotte 111, Collinder 256)

Look south of the 4.4 mag. star γ Coma Berenices

(view in binoculars in dark sky)

Explore the Universe: Double and Multiple Stars

- Mizar, the 2nd mag. middle star in the Big Dipper's handle, is a visual double star. It may not be gravitationally bound with 4th mag. Alcor
- a telescope reveals a close-in companion of Mizar
- Mizar A and B, as well as Alcor, are unresolved double stars; in total, a 6-star system
- 8th mag. Sidus Ludoviciana lies between Mizar and Alcor



Questions?

photo: David Hoskin