

Snake River Skies

The Monthly Newsletter of the Magic Valley Astronomical Society.

April 2026

Membership Meeting

April 11th at the Herrett Center,
College of Southern Idaho main
campus at 7:00pm

Centennial Observatory

See Inside for Details

Faulkner Planetarium

See Inside for Details

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Magic Valley Astronomical Society
is a member of the Astronomical
League



M-51 imaged by
Rick Widmer & Ken Thomason
Herrett Telescope - Shotwell
Camera

Visit our Website
www.mvastro.org

April 2026

Hi everyone: Hopefully, the weather will become more stable and less cloudy, 80 degrees and cloudy but no snow has been nice. Back to my favorite topic, Astronomy. A lot of fun and exciting things happening this month. First, our Saturday April 11th at 7pm at the Herrett Center Library meeting program will be Dr. Candace Wright will be talking about "A complete review of all gravitational wave detections, sources, and what we hope to yet detect." Second our first star party will be April 18th – North of the Twin Falls airport.

- By Dr. Jay A. Hartwell VP

In this issue you'll find what to see in the night sky this month...

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Monthly Event Calendar - April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
		<p>Also on the first of April</p> <p>The Sombrero Galaxy is well placed</p>	<p>April Fool's Day</p> <p>Full Pink Moon</p> 		<p>Mercury at dichotomy</p> <p>Mercury at greatest elongation west</p>	<p>Mercury at aphelion</p> <p>The Moon at aphelion</p> <p>Messier 94 is well placed</p>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter		<p>The Moon at apogee</p>	<p>Conjunction of Venus and Ceres</p> <p>Follow the link for safety info.</p>	<p>Moon at Last Quarter</p> 		<p>MVAS General Mtg. 7:00p at the Herrett Center.</p> <p>Centennial Observatory Star Party</p>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	<p>Conjunction of Mars and Neptune</p> <p>136199 Eris at solar conjunction On the 14th</p>	<p>The Moon at perihelion</p> <p>The Whirlpool Galaxy is well placed</p>		<p>On the 17th</p> <p>Messier 3 is well placed</p>	<p>New Moon</p> 	<p>MVAS Monthly Star Party North of the Twin Falls Airport ????</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>Conjunction of the Moon and Venus</p> <p>Close approach of the Moon and M45</p>		<p>Lyrid meteor shower 2026</p> <p>Conjunction of the Moon and Jupiter</p> <p>Close approach of the Moon and Jupiter</p>	<p>Earth Day</p> 	<p>Moon First Quarter</p> 	<p>Close approach of the Moon and M44</p>	<p>Lunar occultation of Regulus</p>
26	27	28	29	30		
				<p>On the 23rd</p> <p>136108 Haumea at opposition</p> <p>Messier 101 is well placed</p>		

Night Sky this Month – April 2026

Venus and the crescent Moon put on a fine show in the western sky after dawn this month, while Jupiter lingers in Gemini and remains splendid in a telescope. A gaggle of planets lie low over the eastern horizon before sunrise. And a meteor shower – the Lyrids – makes its annual appear with the Moon mostly out of the way. Here’s what to see in the night sky this [month](#). Using this link you get better images and more info.

The Kreutz sungrazer Comet C/2026 A1 (MAPS) commences its close approach to the sun in the first days of April. Will it survive and grow bright enough to see without optical aid? Or will it disintegrate and fade away? No one knows for sure. But Bob King at *Sky&Telescope* summarizes the comet’s current trajectory and lets you know when and where to look for it in the next few days [in a comprehensive article at this link](#).

Auriga has moved west of the zenith this month, but [let’s take a tour of the best sights in this ancient constellation](#) with a pair of binoculars or your favorite smart telescope.

Maria Popova at [The Marginalian](#) tells the story of the lunar and stellar cartographer Johannes Hevelius who lost most of his life’s work in a tragic fire, but who manages to (almost) finish his ground breaking star catalog towards the end of his days.

As a follow up to his video on his favorite refractors, Ed Ting explains [what reflector he would own if he could own only one reflector](#). (Note: This is a good video)

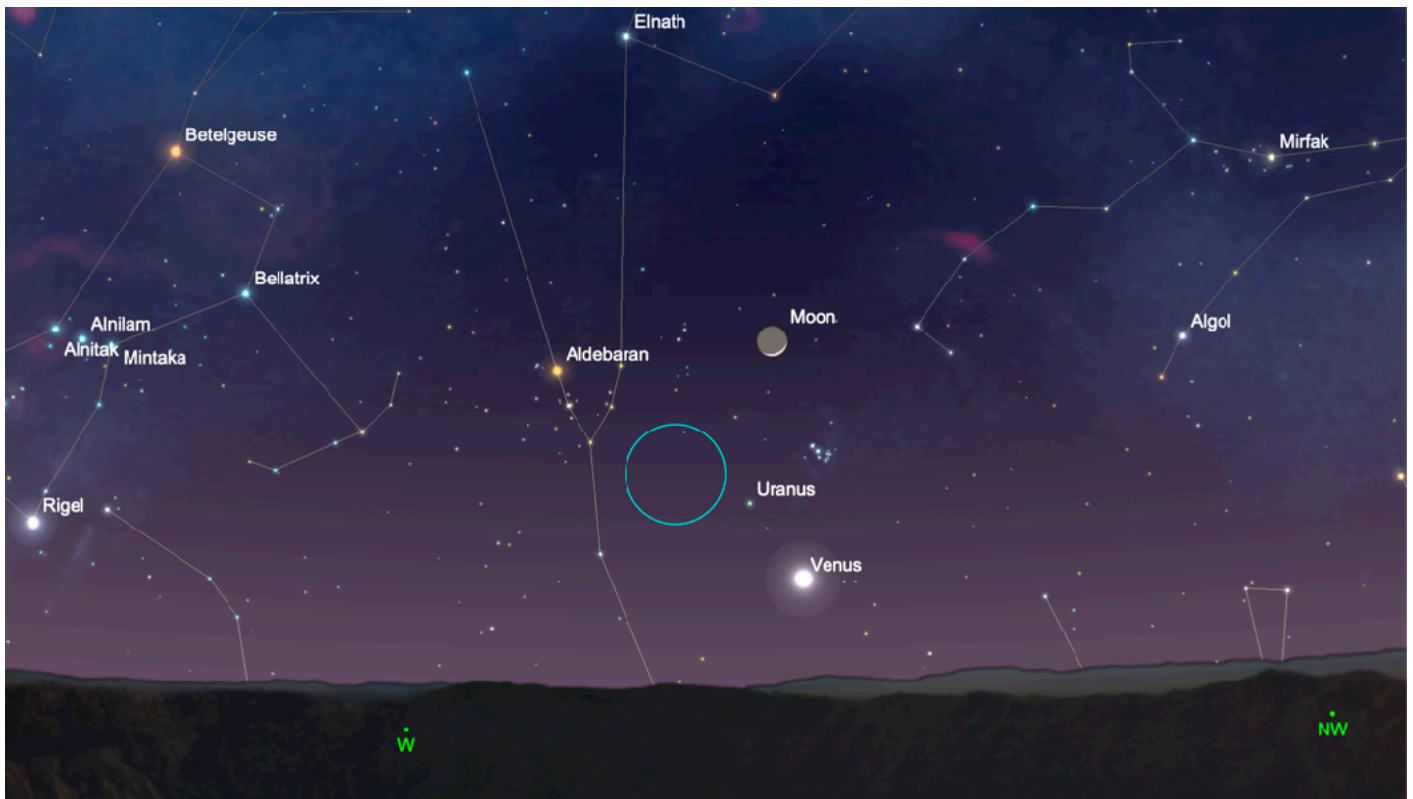
The quote of the month: “Set your course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship.” - Omar Bradley

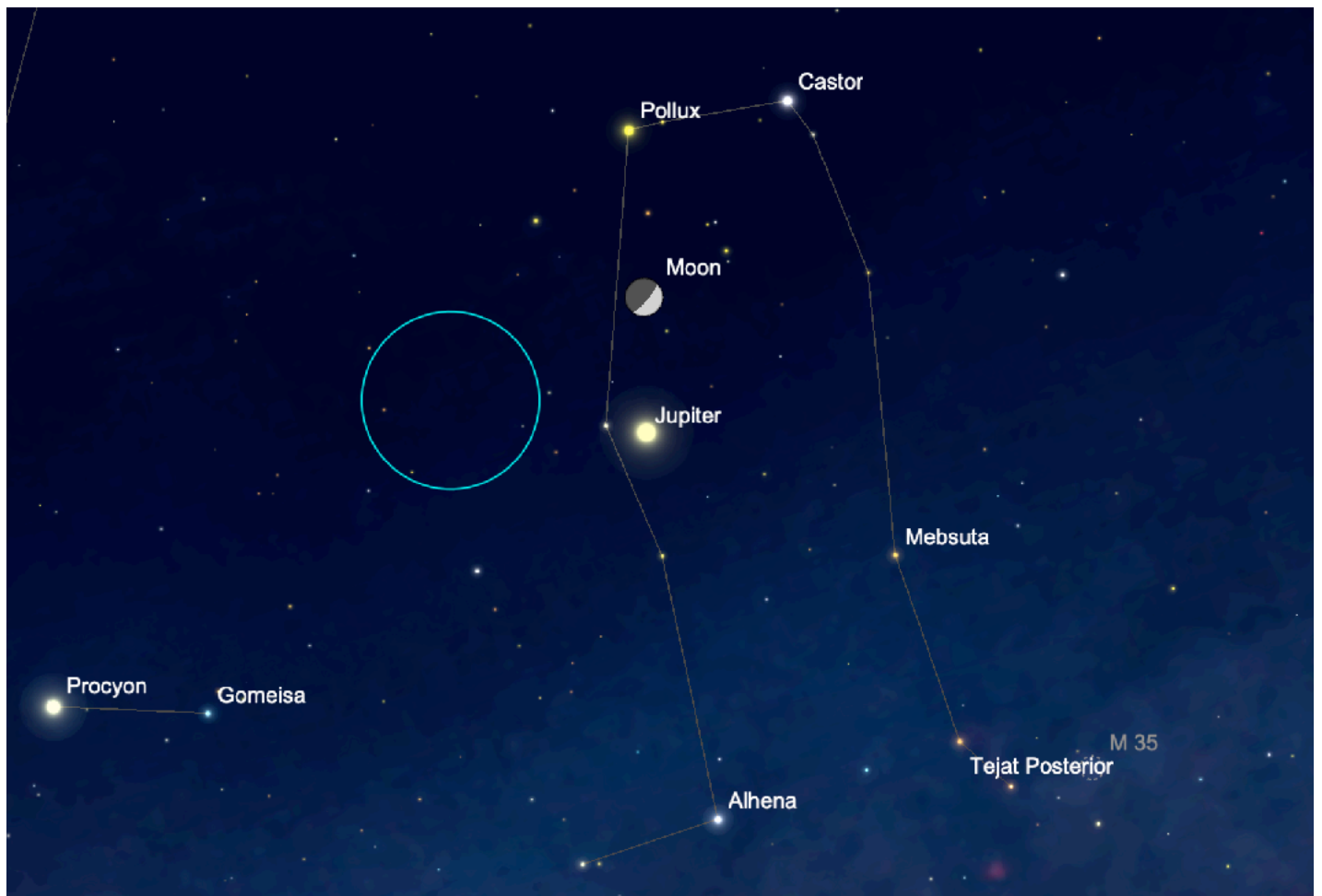
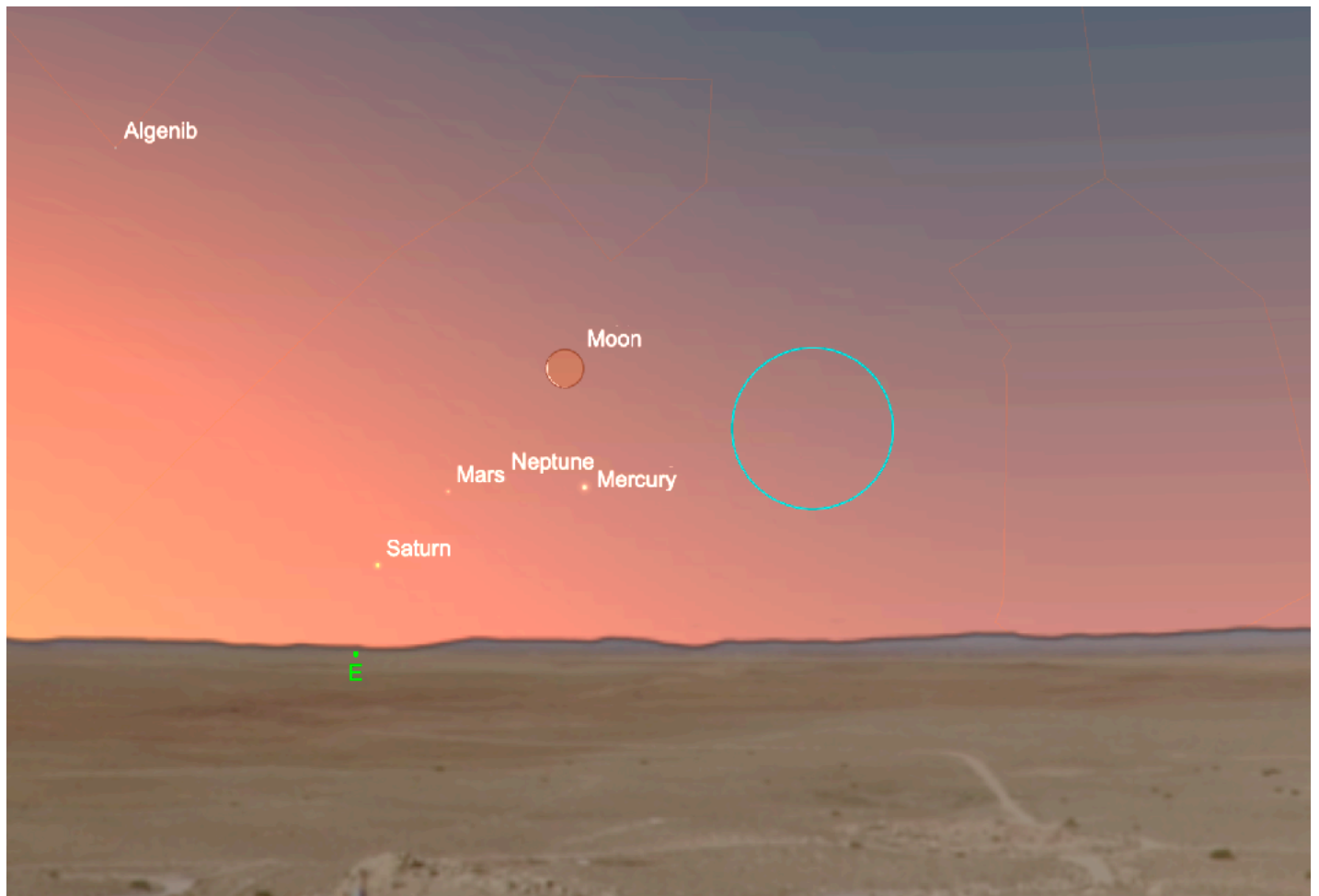
1 April Full Moon, 8:12pm MDT. This is the full ‘Pink Moon’, so named not because the Moon turns pink but because this is the season of flower blossoms. April’s Full Moon heralded the appearance of the “moss pink” (*Phlox subulata*), also called wild ground phlox or creeping phlox—one of the first spring wildflowers. With spring thaws come the Algonquin **Breaking Ice Moon** and the Dakota **Moon When the Streams are Again Navigable**. When spring growth appears, so does the **Budding Moon of Plants and Shrubs** (Tlingit) and **Moon of the Red Grass Appearing** (Oglala). Animals returning to the area inspired the Lakota name **Moon When the Ducks Come Back**. Certain Dakota peoples chose the name **Moon When the Geese Lay Eggs**. More calendar information below in the Night Sky this Month.

2 April. Watch the ‘Pink Moon’ rise near first-magnitude Spica in the southeastern sky after sunset.

6 April. The waning gibbous Moon rises in the late evening with Antares in the southeast.

10 April. Last Quarter Moon, 10:51 MDT.





The Moon, Pleiades, and Venus over the west-northwestern horizon after sunset on April 19, 2026.
Images on the previous page

Previous page: Top Image: The Moon, Pleiades, and Venus over the west-northwestern horizon after sunset on April 19, 2026.
Bottom Image: Jupiter and the gibbous Moon in Gemini on April 22, 2026.

15 April. If you're up early and you have an unobstructed view of the eastern horizon, grab your binoculars and look for Mercury, Mars, and a fading crescent Moon just over the horizon. Saturn and Neptune also lie in the area but are likely not visible in the brightening morning sky. The planets move about over the next week or so. This vista is a challenge for northern observers, but southern-hemisphere observers see the Moon and planets higher above the horizon during this apparition. **NOTE: Be careful when looking toward the Sun, never point Binoculars or Telescopes directly at the Sun without proper Solar Filters.**

17 April. New Moon, 5:51am MDT, Lunation 1278. Around the New Moon on **April 17**, keep an eye out for a subtle but beautiful effect known as earthshine. This phenomenon gives the unlit part of the Moon facing Earth a ghostly glow. [Earthshine](#) occurs when sunlight reflects off Earth and **illuminates the unlit portion of the Moon's disk**. It's best seen a few days before and after a New Moon. Have a look for the lunar glow on the mornings of April 13–14, shortly before sunrise, and the nights of April 20–21, just after sunset.

18 April. Look for a wafer-thin Moon about 5° from bright Venus low in the west-northwestern sky after sunset. You may need binoculars to pull the Moon out of the twilight.

19 April. Look for the Moon again this evening, a little thicker now, along with Venus and the Pleiades about halfway between the two.

22 April. As the Moon continues along the ecliptic, tonight it lies in Gemini near Jupiter and the star Pollux. Tonight, magnitude -2.1 Jupiter lies just over a degree northwest of the star Wasat (Delta Gem). Over the next week, the planet moves closer to Wasat and passes about 35' north of the star on April 30. The planet, its moons, and the star can fit into the same field of view in a telescope.

22-23 April. The Lyrid meteor shower peaks in the early-morning hours. This is the first significant meteor shower since the Quadrantids in early January. The Lyrids display some 15-20 meteors per hour in good conditions and trace their apparent paths back to a point between the constellations Hercules and Lyra, both of which rise in the east around midnight. The first-quarter Moon mostly stays out of the way this year. The Lyrids arise as the Earth passes through the path of Comet Thatcher (C/1861 G1). While the shower peaks this night and morning (April 22-23), it runs from April 14-30, approximately. You can see the Lyrids anywhere in the sky – just look up and be patient.

23 April. Venus and the Pleiades have moved a little closer now, about 3.5° apart, in the west-northwestern sky. Again, binoculars enhance the view.

24 April. First Quarter Moon, 8:32pm MDT

24 April. With a telescope, look for Uranus about 0.8° south of Venus in the western sky after sunset. Still at magnitude -3.9, Venus presents a disc nearly 90% illuminated and 11" across.

25 April. The gibbous Moon passes near the star Regulus tonight and occults the star for observers in some of the Americas, especially the U.S., southwestern Canada, Central America, and northern South America. [Timing for various locations at this link](#). For westerly observers in the Americas, the occultation occurs during the day, but you can still see the event with the help of a telescope.



Example of Earthshine on the Moon

Herrett Center for Arts and Science

Centennial Observatory



Upcoming Events

All events are weather permitting

Monthly Free Star Party	Centennial Observatory	Saturday, April 11, 2026	8:45-10:45 p.m.	Free
International Astronomy Day Solar Viewing	Centennial Observatory	Saturday, April 25, 2026	11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Free
International Astronomy Day Star Party	Centennial Observatory	Saturday, April 25, 2026	9:00-11:00 p.m.	Free

Faulkner Planetarium

[Now Showing](#)

Find Current Shows following the (ages 18-59): \$7.50 Seniors (ages 60+): \$6.50 Children (ages 2-17): \$5.50 CSI students (w/ activity card): \$5.50 Children under age 2: FREE. Buy your tickets [online](#). *50% discount for Planetary

- Assistive listening
- Open captioning shows.
- No food, drink, or late entry.
- Dark conditions and intense for younger children.



link above. Admission: Adults (ages 18-59): \$7.50 Seniors (ages 60+): \$6.50 Children (ages 2-17): \$5.50 CSI students (w/ activity card): \$5.50 Children under age 2: FREE. Buy your [tickets](#) online.

Society members and families. devices available upon request. available upon request for some

entry. audio/visual effects may be too intense for younger children.

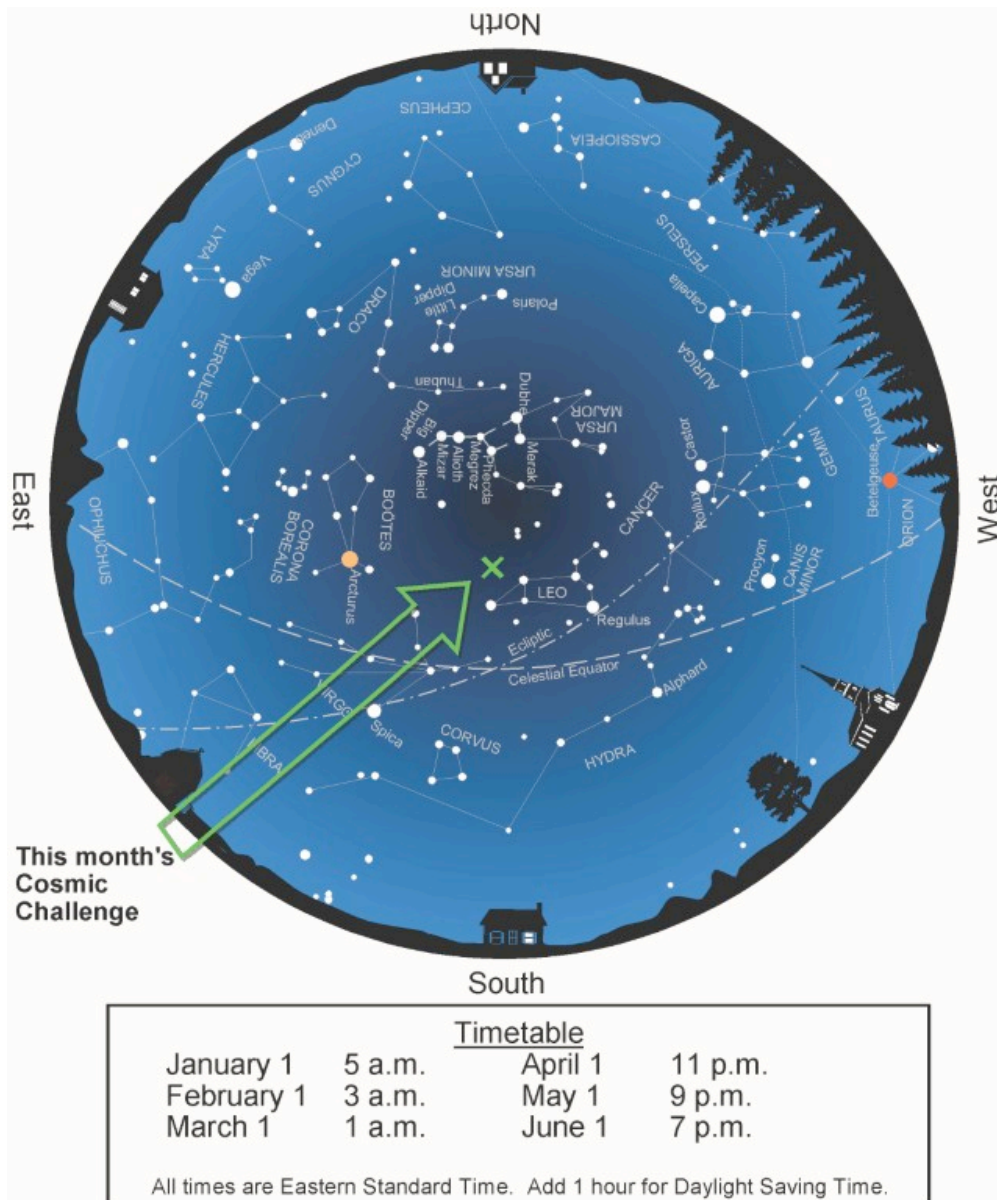
Phil Harrington's Cosmic Challenge



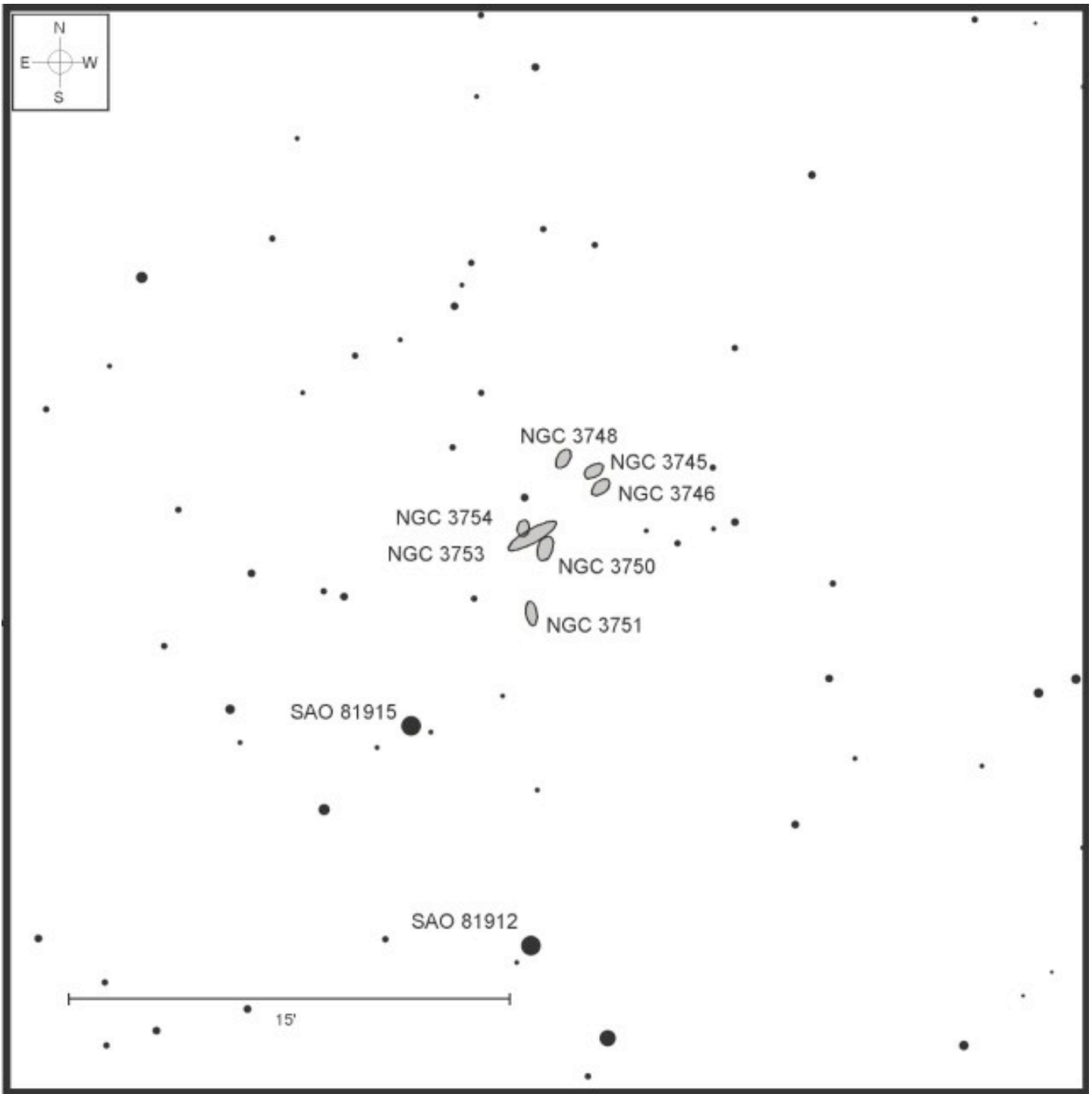
This month's suggested aperture range:
 15-inch (38-cm) and larger telescopes
 Featured telescope - 18" JMI Telescope

Target	Type	RA	DEC	Constellation	Magnitude	Size
Copeland's Septet	Galaxy group	11h 37.9m	+21° 58.9'	Leo	13.9 to 15.2	5'

On a cold February night in 1874, [Ralph Copeland](#) aimed the world's largest telescope toward a faint patch of sky in Leo and uncovered a remarkable sight: seven tiny galaxies packed into a space no larger than 5 arcminutes across. The discovery, made with [Lord Rosse's](#) 72-inch [Leviathan of Parsonstown](#) at Birr Castle in Ireland, should have secured Copeland's place in astronomical history. Instead, a simple mistake in his recorded positions caused the entire group, later known as **Copeland's Septet**, to disappear from the sky for decades, puzzling astronomers and observers alike.



Above: Evening star map, adapted from [Star Watch](#).



Above: Finder chart, adapted from [Cosmic Challenge](#).

The mystery of the Septet gone astray was subsequently solved, but some observing handbooks from as recently as the mid-20th century still noted it as "missing." It was rediscovered in time for Paul Hickson to include it as HCG 57 in his 1982 catalog of 100 [compact galaxy groups](#). The table on the next page lists the seven members.

Copeland's Septet

(also known as Hickson Compact Group 57 and Arp 320)

Galaxy	HCG Designation*	RA	Dec	Magnitude	Size	Galaxy Type
NGC 3745	HCG 57G	11h 37.7m	+22° 01.3'	15.2	0.4'x0.2'	Lenticular (E-S0)
NGC 3746	HCG 57B	11h 37.7m	+22° 01.0'	14.2	1.1'x0.5'	Barred Spiral (SBab)
NGC 3748	HCG 57E	11h 37.8m	+22° 01.6'	14.8	0.7'x0.4'	Lenticular (S0)
NGC 3750	HCG 57C	11h 37.9m	+21° 58.4'	13.9	0.8'x0.7'	Elliptical (E-S0)
NGC 3751	HCG 57F	11h 37.9m	+21° 56.2'	13.9	0.8'x0.5'	Elliptical (E4)
NGC 3753	HCG 57A	11h 37.9m	+21° 58.9'	13.6	1.7'x0.5'	Spiral (Sb)
NGC 3754	HCG 57D	11h 37.9m	+21° 59.1'	14.3	0.4'x0.3'	Barred Spiral (SBc)

*Hickson assigned letters (A, B, C, D, E, F, G) based on brightness and position within the group.

Later studies showed that only six of the objects are actually distant galaxies forming a true physical group about 380-400 million light-years distant, while the seventh member (NGC 3745) is a much closer foreground galaxy at "only" about 60 million light-years away. It just happens to lie along the same line of sight.

Over the past two decades, astronomers have studied Copeland's Septet to understand how galaxy collisions affect gas and star formation. A key paper, [Strong Far-Infrared Cooling Lines, Peculiar CO Kinematics, and Possible Star-Formation Suppression in Hickson Compact Group 57](#) (Alatalo et al. 2014), used Herschel and millimeter-wave observations to reveal turbulent molecular gas and unusually strong infrared cooling lines in galaxies HCG 57A and HCG 57D, likely produced by a recent off-center collision between group members. A later study, [HCG 57: Evidence for Shock-Heated Intergalactic Gas from X-rays and Optical Emission Line Spectroscopy](#) (O'Sullivan et al. 2024), detected hot shocked gas linking the galaxies, confirming that energetic interactions are actively reshaping the group.



Above: Copeland's Septet, from the [DESI Legacy Imaging Surveys](#).
Credit: DESI Legacy Imaging Surveys/LBNL/DOE & KPNO/CTIO/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA.

To find Copeland's Septet for yourself, begin at 5th-magnitude 92 Leonis, found about 5½° north from Denebola [Beta (β) Leonis]. From there, shift 45 arcminutes farther northwest to a pair of 7th-magnitude stars.

Copeland's Septet lies another 9' to their northwest and should be in the same field of view. Use about 100x to find the field and then increase the magnification as needed to identify individual galaxies. I've had the greatest success around 200x.

My first encounter came in 1988 through my old 13.1-inch (33.2-cm) reflector. NGC 3753 impressed me as the brightest of the group, although at almost 14th magnitude, that is a relative term. My notes recall an elongated object punctuated by a brighter core. A smaller, fainter galaxy just to its northeast, NGC 3754, went undetected in my 13.1-inch. I finally nabbed it years later with my 18-inch (45.7-cm) reflector. NGC 3750, just 7' southwest of NGC 3753, was also visible faintly as a tiny patch of light less than 1 arc-minute across.



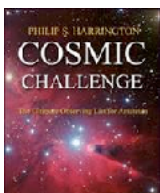
Above: Copeland's Septet taken through the author's [Celestron Origin Home Observatory](#) astrograph. Click [here](#) for a full size image and exposure details on the author's Astrobin page.

If you thought NGC 3750 and 3753 were demanding, then you're going to have an even tougher time with NGCs 3745, 3746, and 3748. This galactic trio lies about 3' further northwest and is set in an elongated triangle. The brightest of the three, NGC 3746, shines weakly at magnitude 14.2, while NGC 3748 comes in at magnitude 14.8 and NGC 3745 at magnitude 15.2. Even my 18-inch has trouble spotting those last two, but supernova hunters take note. NGC 3746 played host to two faint supernovae in 2002 and 2005 (SN 2002ar and SN 2005ba, respectively). When will it spawn another?

The seventh galaxy in the septet, NGC 3751, lies alone, 3' south of NGC 3753. It looks about as bright as NGC 3748, but a bit smaller.

I'd enjoy hearing about your successes and attempts. Be sure to post your experiences in this month's discussion forum. And do you have a favorite challenge object that you'd like to share with the rest of us?

About the Author:



Phil Harrington is a contributing editor to [Astronomy](#) magazine and is the author of 9 books on astronomy. Visit www.philharrington.net to learn more. [Phil Harrington's Cosmic Challenge](#) is copyright 2026 by Philip S. Harrington. All rights reserved. No reproduction, in whole or in part, beyond single copies for use by an individual, is permitted without written permission of the copyright holder. This newsletter editor has received the authors permission to use this article.

What's Up, Doc? †

Dr. Aaron B. Clevenson, Director, Insuperity Observatory
April 2026

This document tells you what objects are visible this next month for many of the Astronomical League Clubs. If you are working on an advanced club, then I assume that you are tracking where your objects are all the time. I have concentrated on the common and starter level clubs. This information is based on 9 PM Mountain Daylight Time for Twin Falls, Idaho

Naked-Eye Clubs

Meteors – any night, any time, anywhere, the darker the sky the better.

<u>Shower</u>	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Type</u>
Lyrids	4/14 to 4/30	4/23 0100 UTC	Class 1
Eta Aquarids	4/15 to 5/27	5/6	Class 1
Pi Puppids	4/16 to 4/30	4/24 0600 UTC	Class 3
Delta Pavonids	3/11 to 4/16	3/31	Class 4
April Epsilon Delphinids	3/31 to 4/20	4/9	Class 4
Alpha Virginids	4/6 to 5/1	4/18	Class 4
Kappa Serpentids	4/11 to 4/22	4/16	Class 4
h-Virginids	4/24 to 5/4	5/1	Class 4

Key to Meteor Classes:

Class 1 – Major Meteor Showers

Class 3 – Variable Meteor Showers

Class 2 – Minor Meteor Showers

Class 4 – Weak Meteor Showers

Constellations, Northern Skies – any night, any time, anywhere, the darker the sky the better.

Last Chance this cycle: Cassiopeia, Andromeda, Traingulum, Aries, Caelum.

Transit Ursa Major, Lynx, Leo Minor, Cancer, Leo, Hydra, Sextans, Pyxis, Antlia, Vela.

New arrivals: Bootes, Virgo, Corvus.

Binocular Clubs

Binocular Messier – Monthly highlights include:

Easy – 3, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 67, 93, 103.

Medium – 40, 49, 53, 63, 64, 78, 79, 81, 82, 94.

Hard – 1, 51, 65, 66, 68, 97, 101, 104, 106.

Big Binoculars – 58, 59, 60, 61, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 95, 96, 99, 100, 102, 105, 108, 109.

Deep Sky Binocular – Monthly highlights include (by Astronomical League numbers): 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42.

Other Clubs

Messier In addition to those listed under Binocular Messier, check out: 43, 76, 91, 98.

Caldwell 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 31, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, 71, 74, 79.

Double Star (by Astronomical League numbers): 5, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 92, 95, 98, 99, 100.

Other Clubs (of the Solar System)

Planetary – These are the tasks that can be done this month: The Sun is in Pisces and sets at **20:29** (8:29pm) mid-month. Mercury, Mars, Saturn, Neptune, and Pluto will not be visible during the evening hours. They are all too close to the sun for morning stars.

Sun – Any clear day is a good time to get those sunspots. But things have been rather sparse.

Moon

The Maria requirement can be done any time the moon is visible. Look before 4/10 and after 4/24 for the fullest views. The Highlands requirement can be done at the same time. The Crater Ages requirement is best done on 4/23 and 4/24. The Scarps requirement is best done on 4/25. Occultations occur all the time, the bright ones can be found on the internet. Objects disappear on the East side of the moon.

Asteroids Course Plotting and Measuring Movement requirements can be done at any time on any asteroid. See above to identify the bright ones this month.

Venus is in Aries and sets at **22:09** (10:09pm) mid-month. Ceres is in Pisces and sets at **22:44** (10:44pm) mid-month. Jupiter is in Gemini and up all evening mid-month. Uranus is in Taurus and sets at **23:15** (11:15pm) mid-month.

Ceres is in Pisces and sets at **22:44** (10:44pm) mid-month.

Jupiter is in Gemini and up all evening mid-month.

Uranus is in Taurus and sets at **23:15** (11:15pm) mid-month.

Lunar

Key timings are indicated below:

New, 4/17 4 days, 4/21 7 days, 4/24 10 days, 4/27 14 days, 4/1 Old moon in new moons arms – before **05:51** (5:51am) on 4/20, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr > New) New moon in old moons arms – after **05:51** (5:51am) on 4/14, ~10 % illuminated. (72 hr < New) Waxing Crescent – before **05:51** (5:51am) on 4/19, ~4 % illuminated. (40 hr > New) Waning Crescent – after **05:51** (5:51am) on 4/15, ~4 % illuminated. (48 hr < New)

Major Events in April: Not previously listed

- 4-1 Makemake at Opposition
- 4-5 Jupiter at Eastern Quadrature
- 4-13 Mars/Jupiter Conjunction (20')
- 4-14 Eris at Conjunction
- 4-20 Mercury/Saturn Conjunction (30')
- 4-11 Haumea at Opposition
- 4-23 Lyrid Meteors
- 4-23 Venus/Uranus Conjunction (46')

Although these Observing Programs are detailed in the “**What’s Up Doc?**” handout, you can get information on many of their objects of the other AL Observing Programs by using the “**What’s Up Tonight, Doc?**” spreadsheet. To get your copy, talk to the Doc, Aaron Clevenson, by sending an email to aaron@clevenson.org. † - “What’s Up Doc?” is used with permission from Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

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Insperty Observatory, 2505 S. Houston Avenue, Humble, TX: www.humbleisd.net/observatory

Websites and Other Helpful Astronomy Links.

Information on passes of the ISS, the USAF's X-37B, the HST, the BlueWalker 3, and other satellites can be found at <http://www.heavens-above.com/>

Visit <https://saberdoesthe...does-the-stars/> for tips on spotting extreme crescent Moons and <https://curtrenz.com/moon.html> for Full Moon and other lunar data.

Go to <https://skyandtelesc...ads/MoonMap.pdf> and <https://celestron-si...RReeves-web.pdf> and <https://nightsky.jpl...ObserveMoon.pdf> for simple lunar maps. Click on <https://astrostrona.pl/moon-map/> for an excellent online lunar map. Visit <http://www.ap-i.net/avl/en/start> to download the free Virtual Moon Atlas. Consult <http://time.unitariu...moon/where.html> for current information on the Moon and <https://www.fourmila.../lunarform.html> for information on various lunar features. See <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/4955> a lunar phase and libration calculator and <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/5187/>

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera (LROC) quick map. <https://www.universa...ise-and-sunset/>

For more on the planets and how to locate them, browse <http://www.nakedeyeplanets.com/>

Summaries on the planets for each month can be found at <https://earthsky.org/astronomy-essentials/>

The graphic at <https://www.timeandd...lanets/distance> displays the apparent and comparative sizes of the planets, along with their magnitudes and distances, for a given date and time.

The rise and set times and locations of the planets can be determined by clicking on <https://www.timeandd...stronomy/night/>

Click on <https://www.curtrenz.../asteroids.html> for information on asteroid occultations taking place this month.

Visit <http://cometchasing.skyhound.com/> and <http://www.aerith.ne...tfuture-n.html> and <https://cobs.si/> for additional information on comets visible this month.

A list of the closest approaches of comets to the Earth is posted at <http://www.cometogra.../nearcomet.html>

A wealth of current information on solar system celestial bodies is posted at <http://www.curtrenz.com/astronomy.html> and <http://nineplanets.org/>

Information on the celestial events transpiring each week can be found at <https://stardate.org/nightsky> and <http://astronomy.com/skythisweek> and <http://www.skyandtel...ky-at-a-glance/>

Free star maps for any month may be downloaded at <http://www.skymaps.com/downloads.html> and <https://www.telescop...thly-Star-Chart> and <http://www.kenpress.com/index.html>

Data on current supernovae can be found at <http://www.rochester...y.org/snimages/>

Finder charts for the Messier objects and other deep-sky objects are posted at <https://freestarcharts.com/messier> and <https://freestarcharts.com/ngc-ic> and http://www.cambridge..._april-june.htm

Telrad finder charts for the Messier Catalog are posted at <http://www.custerobs...cs/messier2.pdf> and <http://www.star-shin...ssierTelrad.htm>

Telrad finder charts for the SAC's 110 Best of the NGC are available at <https://www.saguaroa...k110BestNGC.pdf>

Information pertaining to observing some of the more prominent Messier galaxies can be found at <http://www.cloudynig...ur-astronomers/>

Author Phil Harrington offers an excellent freeware planetarium program for binocular observers known as TUBA (Touring the Universe through Binoculars Atlas), which also includes information on purchasing binoculars, at <http://www.philharrington.net/tuba.htm>

Stellarium and Cartes du Ciel are two excellent freeware planetarium programs that are available at <http://stellarium.org/> and <https://www.ap-i.net/skychart/en/start>

Deep-sky object list generators can be found at <http://www.virtualcolony.com/sac/> and <https://telescopus.com/> and <http://tonightssky.com/MainPage.php>

Freeware sky atlases can be downloaded at <http://www.deepskywa...-atlas-full.pdf> and <https://www.cloudyni...ar-charts-r1021> and <https://allans-stuff.com/triatlas/>

For current sky charts visit the NASA Night Sky Network <https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/news/212/>

McDonald Observatory famous radio program stardate is now a podcast <https://stardate.org/podcast>

Magic Valley Astronomical Society

550 Sparks St.
Twin Falls, ID

The Magic Valley Astronomical Society (MVAS) was founded in 1976. The Society is a non-profit [501(c) 3] educational and scientific organization dedicated to bringing together people with an interest in astronomy.

In partnership with the Centennial Observatory, Herrett Center, College of Southern Idaho - Twin Falls; we hold regularly scheduled monthly meetings and observation sessions, at which we share information on current astronomical events, tools and techniques for observation, astrophotography, astronomical computer software, and other topics concerning general astronomy. Members enthusiastically share their telescopes and knowledge of the night sky with all who are interested. In addition to our monthly public star parties we hold members only star parties at various locations throughout the Magic Valley.

MVAS promotes the education of astronomy and the exploration of the night sky along with safe solar observing through our public outreach programs. We provide two types of outreach; public star parties and events open to anyone interested in astronomy, and outreach programs for individual groups and organizations (e.g. schools, churches, scout troops, company events, etc.), setting up at your location. All of our outreach programs are provided by MVAS volunteers at no cost. However, MVAS will gladly accept donations. Donations enable us to continue and improve our public outreach programs.

Membership is not just about personal benefits. Your membership dues support the work that the Magic Valley Astronomical Society does in the community to promote the enjoyment and science of astronomy. Speakers, public star parties, classes and support for astronomy in schoolrooms, and outreach programs just to name a few of the programs that your membership dues support.

Annual Membership dues will be:

\$20.00 for individuals, families, and \$10.00 for students.

Contact Treasurer Jim Tubbs for dues information via e-mail: jtubbs015@msn.com

Donations to our club are always welcome and are even tax deductible. Please contact a board member for details.

Lending Telescopes: The society currently has three telescopes for loan and would gladly accept others please contact President Robert Mayer, for more information on these and other benefits.



Telescopes are an individual thing and not practical for public use. However, everyone should have the experience of a good look at the Moon for at least 5 minutes in their life time. It is a dimension and feeling that is unexplainable. Pictures or TV can't give this feeling, awareness, or experience of true dimension. A person will not forget seeing our closest neighbor, the Moon.

Norman Herrett in a letter to Dr. J. L. Taylor, president of the College of Southern Idaho