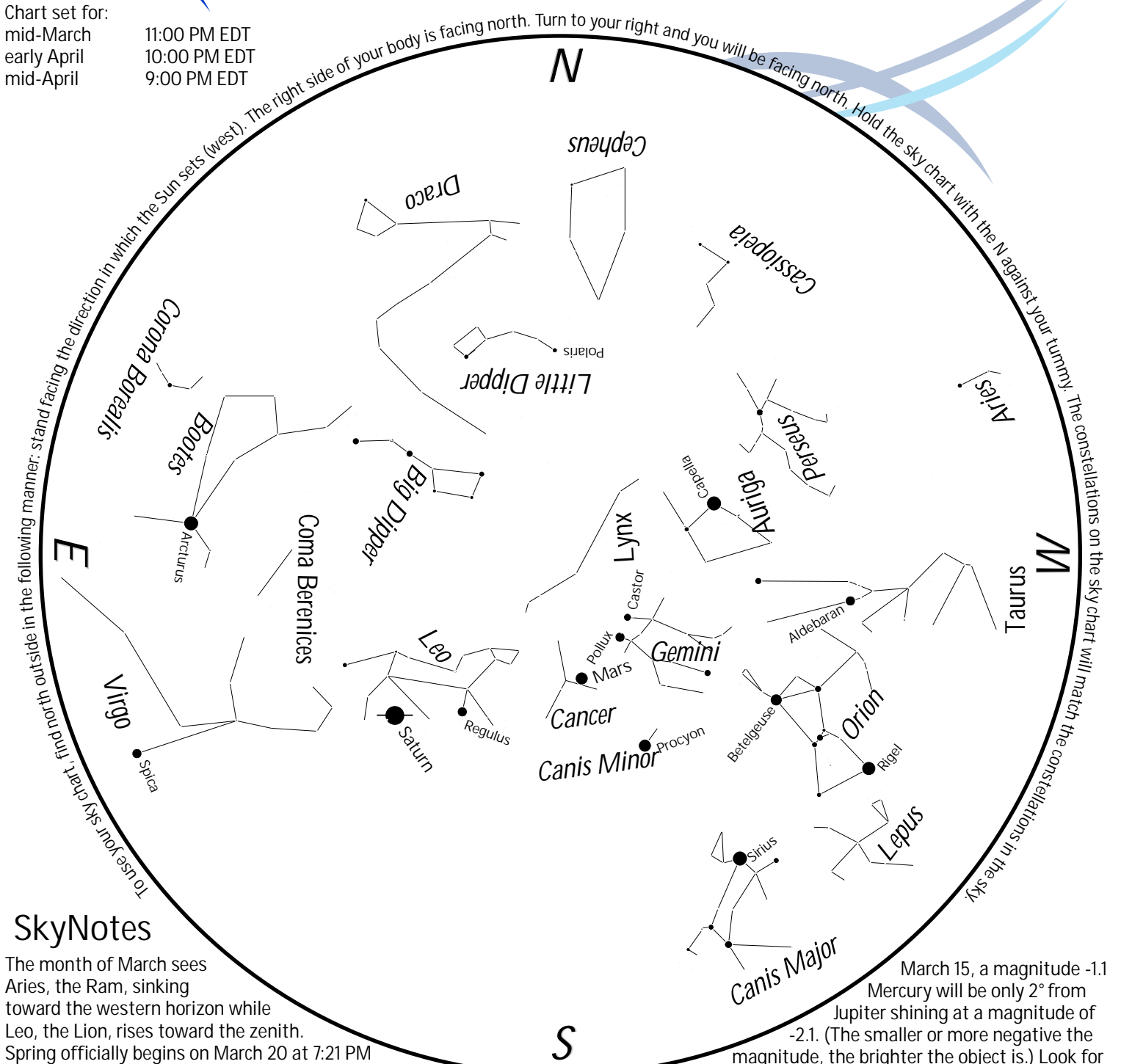


McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center

Chart set for:
 mid-March 11:00 PM EDT
 early April 10:00 PM EDT
 mid-April 9:00 PM EDT



SkyNotes

The month of March sees Aries, the Ram, sinking toward the western horizon while Leo, the Lion, rises toward the zenith. Spring officially begins on March 20 at 7:21 PM EDT with the Vernal Equinox. At this time, the Sun crosses the celestial equator and enters the northern celestial hemisphere. The familiar spring constellations of Boötes, Virgo and Leo will be making their way higher into the night sky. Find them by using the Big Dipper: follow the arc that the handle of the Big Dipper creates to the bright star Arcturus in Boötes, the Herdsman. Speed along the same path to Spica in Virgo, the Maiden. Leo, the Lion, can be found by looking for a backwards question mark or "sickle" to the west of Virgo.

Jupiter can be seen in the early evening sky for most of March but by the end of the month it will disappear in the Sun's glow. On

March 15, a magnitude -1.1 Mercury will be only 2° from Jupiter shining at a magnitude of -2.1. (The smaller or more negative the magnitude, the brighter the object is.) Look for them low to the horizon in the western sky just after sunset. On March 22 Mercury will be at its greatest eastern elongation, the farthest it gets from the Sun in the early evening sky. Look for it in the west 30 minutes after sunset from March 15-29. Venus can be seen in the early morning sky in March but by the end of April it will be rising only an hour before the Sun.

In April, Saturn will take over the evening sky as it reaches its opposition on April 2, when the planet is opposite the Sun in the sky and can be seen all night. As the Sun sets in the west, Saturn will rise in the east in the constellation of Virgo, the Maiden.



McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center

March

1 Tue	Moon 1.6° from Venus in the early morning sky.
4 Fri	FREE SkyWatch with the New Hampshire Astronomical Society. Bring your own telescope or look through one of ours. Begins at 7 PM, outside the Discovery Center, weather permitting.
15 Tue	Mercury 2° from Jupiter in the early evening sky.
19 Sat	Full Moon. The full moon of March is traditionally known as the Worm Moon.
20 Sun	Vernal Equinox. Spring will officially begin at 7:21 PM EDT.
22 Tue	Mercury at greatest eastern elongation. This is the farthest that Mercury gets from the Sun in the early evening sky.

April

1 Fri	FREE SkyWatch with the New Hampshire Astronomical Society. Bring your own telescope or look through one of ours. Begins at dusk, outside the Discovery Center, weather permitting.
2 Sat	Saturn at opposition in the constellation of Virgo, the Maiden. Saturn will be opposite the Sun in the sky. As the Sun sets in the west, Saturn will be rising in the east and can be seen all night.
7 Thu	Moon 1.9° from the Pleiades star cluster in the constellation of Taurus, the Bull.
17 Sun	Full Moon. The full moon of April is traditionally known as the Pink Moon.
19 Tue	Mercury 0.6° from Mars in the early morning sky.

Super Stellar Fridays
at 7 PM

There is a fun cosmic event at the Discovery Center every Friday night! Call or check out starhop.com for more details.

SKYWATCH at 7 PM in March, dusk in April
Star gazing fun with telescopes and binoculars!
Use ours or bring your own. Join staff and members of the NH Astronomical Society outside on the first Friday night of the month. We will point you in the right direction to see planets, star clusters and galaxies. All ages welcome.

- ★ FREE ★ Weather permitting
- ★ Reservations not necessary



**NEW HAMPSHIRE
ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

The New Hampshire Astronomical Society is dedicated to promoting public awareness of astronomy and uniting people with a common interest in astronomy. Each month the NHAS and the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center host a public SkyWatch. We share our 'scopes and show the sky to all that come.

No special skills or even a telescope are needed to join the New Hampshire Astronomical Society. Whether you are a novice or a seasoned astronomer, NHAS has something for you! For more information, send your name, address and phone # to: New Hampshire Astronomical Society PO Box 1001 Manchester, NH 03105-1001. Visit us at www.nhastro.com.