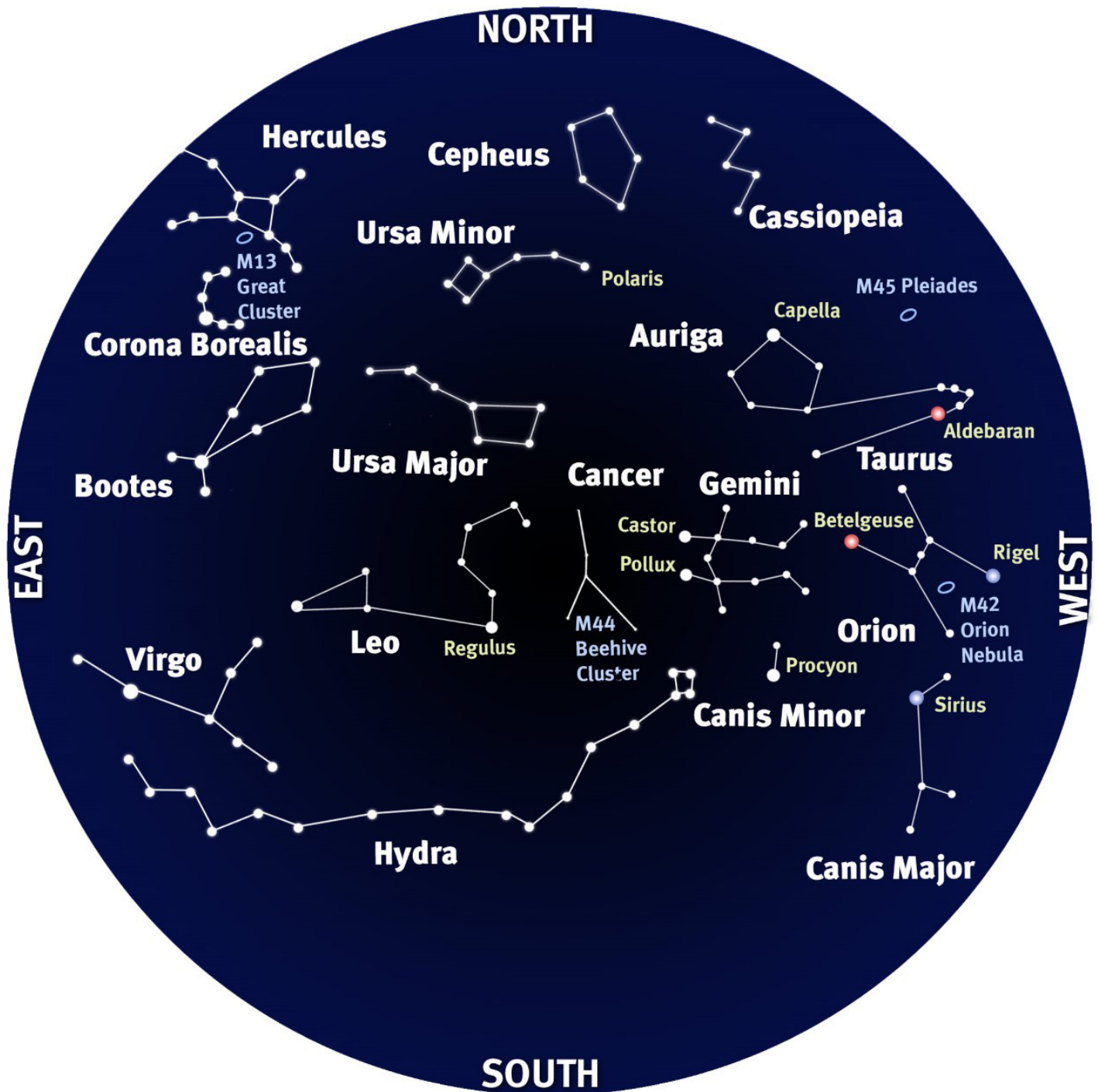


Spring 2022

Buhl Planetarium & Observatory

ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR & STAR CHART



Night sky from Pittsburgh, PA 9 pm EST April 15, 2022 facing South

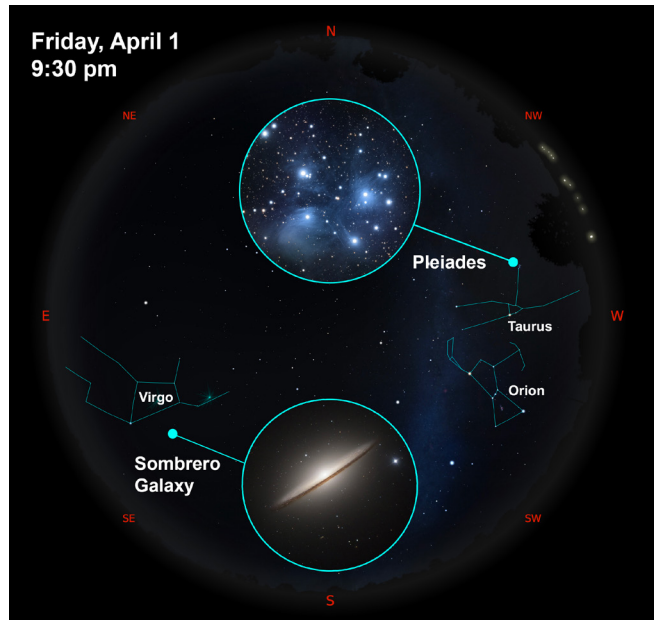
Stay tuned for virtual **SKYWATCH** programs. Presented by



ASTRONOMICAL CALENDAR & STAR CHART

SPRING SKYGAZING: TOP PICKS

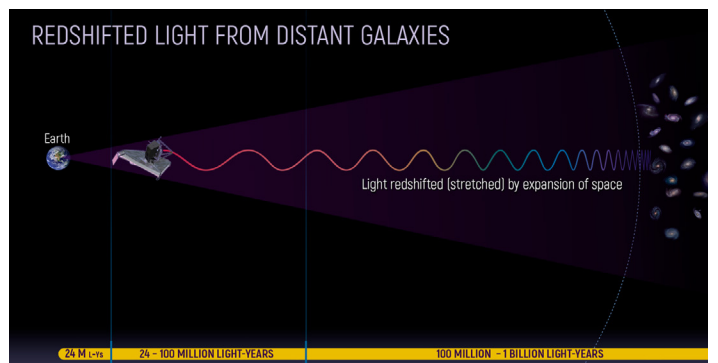
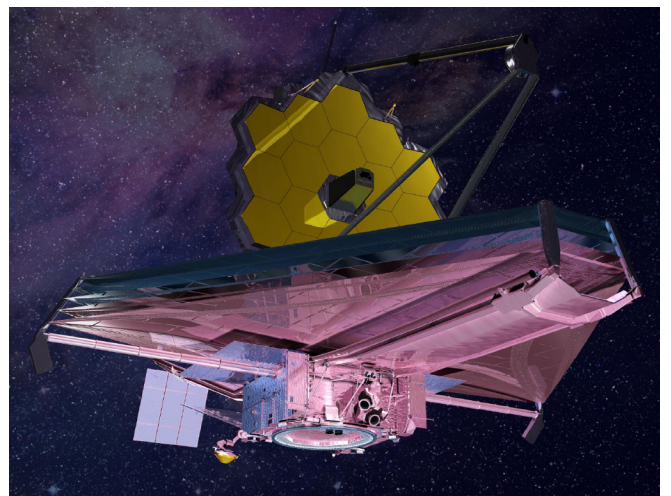
Fri.,	March 18	Full Moon before the Vernal Equinox.
Mon.,	March 28	Morning conjunction of Moon, Venus and Saturn near Capricornus.
Fri.,	April 1	Welcome Leo! Best visibility this month at 9 pm. M104 Sombrero well placed in Virgo, binocular or telescope view.
Fri.,	April 15	M51 Whirlpool Galaxy well placed, binocular or telescope view
Fri.,	April 22	Lyrid meteor shower
Wed.,	April 27	Morning conjunction of Moon, Jupiter and Venus near Pisces.
Sun.,	May 15	Total Lunar Eclipse, visible south just before midnight.
Sun.,	May 22	Morning conjunction of Moon and Saturn near Capricornus.
Tues.,	May 24	Morning conjunction of Moon, Jupiter and Mars near Pisces.



WHAT'S UP?

The annual Messier Marathon!

First started in 1999, the aim is to find as many objects listed in Charles Messier's catalog as you can in one night. It's usually scheduled for the New Moon weekend closest to the spring equinox. Dark nights equal better viewing! Friday, April 1, at 9 pm, look for the soon-to-be-setting familiar Messier 45, the Pleiades star cluster. Binocular and telescope observers stick around for M104, the Sombrero Galaxy, rising under Virgo near 10 pm.

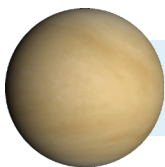


SPACE NEWS:

The James Webb Space Telescope successfully launched December 25, 2021

It sped towards its destination one million miles from Earth. Unlike Hubble's human eye view of our Universe, the James Webb, 100 times more powerful than Hubble, will look toward the beginnings of time with an infrared eye. Light radiated by the earliest glowing objects stretched as the Universe expanded, an effect known as red-shifting, and is detected today in infrared. The revolutionary design of the folding five-layer silver sunshield, and unique gold-plated honeycomb shaped main mirror, allowed this innovative technology to fit inside the launching spacecraft.

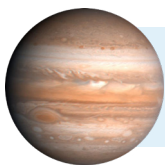
SPRING PLANET VISIBILITIES



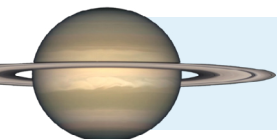
Venus: SE before dawn: March, April, May



Mars: SE before dawn: March, April, May



Jupiter: SE before dawn: Last week of April, May



Saturn: SE before dawn: April and May

MOON PHASES KEY

New Moon ● First Quarter ◐ Full Moon ○ Third Quarter ◑

MOON PHASES

Mar 2: ● 10: ◐ 18: ○ 25: ◑

Apr 1: ● 9: ◐ 16: ○ 23: ◑ 30: ●

May 8: ◐ 16: ○ 22: ◑ 30: ●

STAR CHART FAQ

How do I use the star chart?

Hold it out in front of you with the direction you're facing at the bottom of the chart. It works even better if you hold it above your head and look up at it.

Why are east and west switched?

They are only switched because you're used to looking at maps of the ground. Hold it above your head, and you'll see the directions line up just right.

