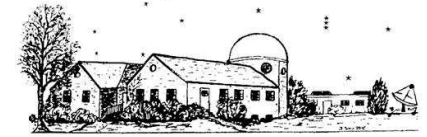


The Spring Sky

IN THE EYEPIECE



AT CUSTER

Compiled by David van Popering

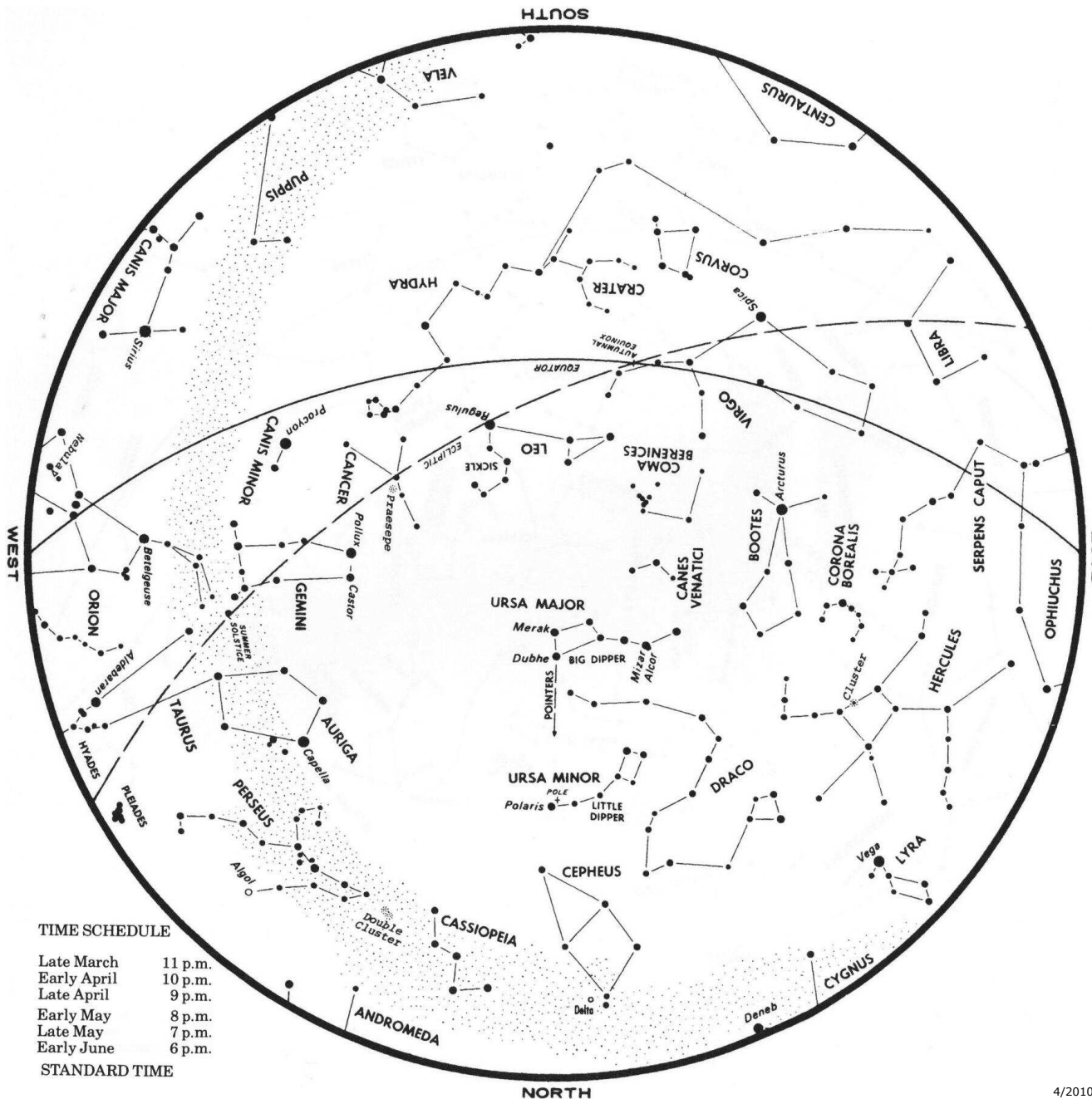
Spring

Open every Saturday

Dusk till Midnight

(631) 765 - 2626

<http://www.custerobservatory.org>



TIME SCHEDULE

Late March	11 p.m.
Early April	10 p.m.
Late April	9 p.m.
Early May	8 p.m.
Late May	7 p.m.
Early June	6 p.m.

STANDARD TIME

M44: Open Cluster in Cancer

- NGC 2632
- *"Beehive Cluster"*
- About 577 light years distant
- Contains at least 5 Red Giants



M67: Open Cluster in Cancer

- NGC 2682
- About 2,700 light years distant
- One of the oldest: about 4 billion years

Galaxies off the *"not far off the nose of Leo"*
NGC 2903, NGC 2905, NGC 2916

Ceres (dwarf planet)

- Smallest dwarf planet in the Solar System
- Largest object in the asteroid belt
- Only dwarf planet in the asteroid belt
- Can be found "Riding the back of Leo"

A Trio of Leo Trios

Galaxy Trio 1: each about 35 million light years

- M65 (NGC 3623)
- M66 (NGC 3627)
- NGC 3628

Galaxy Trio 2: about 70 million light years

- NGC 3681
- NGC 3684
- NGC 3686

Galaxy Trio 3: about 38-41 million light years

- M95, M96, M105

NGC 4361: Planetary nebula in Corvus

- 10th magnitude
- About 4900 light years distant

M104: Spiral Galaxy in Virgo

- NGC 4594
- *"Sombrero Galaxy"*
- About 29 MILLION light years distant
- Found diagonally across/left of Corvus

M64: Spiral Galaxy in Coma Berenices

- NGC 4826
- *"Blackeye Galaxy"*
- 19 MILLION light years distant

M53: Globular Cluster in Coma Berenices

- NGC 5024
- About 58,000 light years distant
- Approaching us about 62 miles per second

M3: Globular Cluster in Canes Venatici

- NGC 5272
- About 33,900 light years distant
- Contains an estimated half million stars
- Extremely rich in variable stars

M13: Globular Cluster in Hercules

- NGC 6205
- 25,000 light years distant
- One of the best known globular clusters
- Composed of several hundred thousand stars

M92 Globular Cluster in Hercules

- NGC 6341
- About 26,000 light years distant
- Approaching us at 70 miles per second

M57: Planetary Nebula in Lyra

- NGC 6720
- *"Ring Nebula"*
- 2,300 light years distant

M29 Open Cluster in Cygnus

- NGC 6913
- Between 4000 and 7000 light years dist

M52: Open Cluster in Cassiopeia

- 5,000 light years distant
- Extend the last leg of the "W" from Schedar to Caph, one more like distance

M103: Open Cluster in Cassiopeia

- Cassiopeia's own little 'Orion's Belt'
- Left/up of Ruchbah (2nd in the W)
- About 8,500 light years distant

M81: Spiral Galaxy in Ursa Major

- NGC 3031, *"Bode's Galaxy"*
- About 12 Million light years
- One of the easiest and most rewarding galaxies to observe for the amateur astronomer

...and about 150,000 light years away we find:

M82: Irregular Galaxy in Ursa Major

- NGC 3034
- *"Cigar Galaxy"*
- About 12 Million light years distant
- Famous for its heavy star-forming activity

M108: Spiral Galaxy in Ursa Major

- 45 million light years distant
- "Left" of Merak (bottom right of dipper)

M109: Spiral Galaxy in Ursa Major

- About 55 million light years distant
- "Left" of Phad (bottom left of dipper)

M101: Spiral Galaxy in Ursa Major

- NGC 5457
- *"Pinwheel Galaxy"*
- About 16 Million light years distant
- Makes a V with Alkaid, Mizar, and M101

M51: Whirlpool Galaxy in Canes Venatici

- NGC 5194
- About 37 million light years distant
- The first galaxy seen with a spiral structure

M63: Spiral Galaxy in Canes Venatici

- NGC 5055
- *"Sunflower Galaxy"*

Follow the trail:

"Right to left": Alkaid (Uma), M51, M63, Cor Caroli

Cor Caroli: Double Star in Canes Venatici

- 110 Light years distant
- Meaning Charles' heart, in honour of Charles I

M94: Spiral Galaxy in Canes Venatici

- NGC 4736
- About 16 million light years distant
- Relatively small galaxy

M106: Spiral Galaxy in Canes Venatici

- NGC 4258
- About 23 million light years distant
- A super nova was detected in August 1981

M3: Globular Cluster in in Canes Venatici

- NGC 5272
- About 33,900 light years distant
- Large number of variable stars

Venus

- Evening sky March through Summer
- 25 million miles from Earth
- No moons

Mars

- Look overhead in Cancer
- 35 million miles from Earth
- 2 moons

Saturn

- In Virgo's arm - below & behind Leo
- 746 million miles from Earth
- 62 moons, 53 are officially named

Jupiter

- Low in the east shortly before sunrise
- 365 million miles from Earth
- 63 moons

Planets

