





Northern Berkshire Astronomical Society

Founded 2023 | North Adams Public Library | North Adams, MA

This Month

Galaxy Season starts!

The Moon

-  - Mar 3
-  - Mar 10
-  - Mar 17
-  - Mar 25 "Worm Moon"

Planets

Mercury, behind the Sun

Venus: Rises just before sunrise

Mars: Rises just before sunrise

Jupiter, Uranus: in Aries

Saturn: behind the Sun

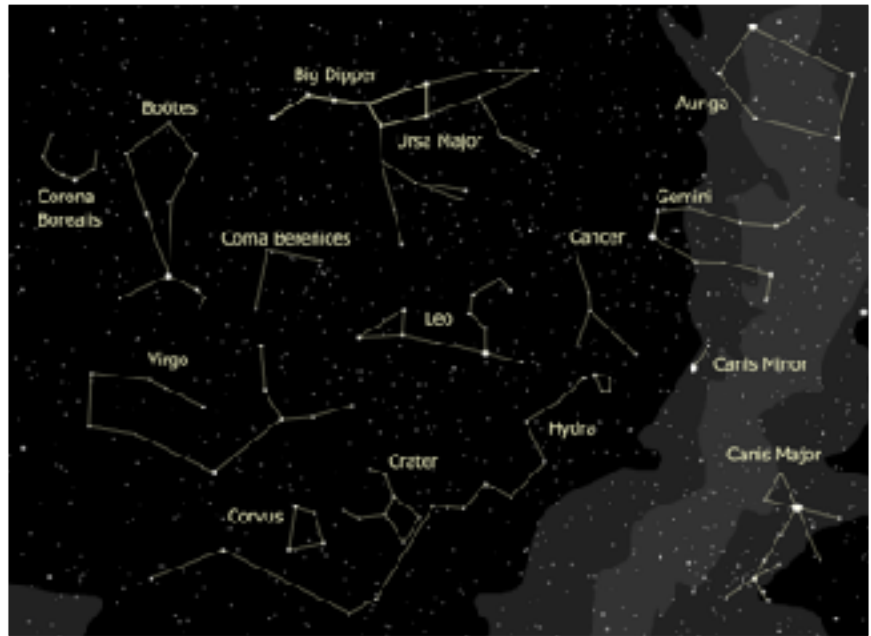
Neptune: behind the Sun

Deep Sky Objects

Easy (binoculars): M 44, M 67, M 48 - challenges M81, M 65/66.

Moderate (small telescopes): Leo Triplet, M 95/96/105. Caldwell 3, NGC 2903.

Challenges: Caldwell 53 and 59, M 97, Copeland's Septet, Leo Quartet



Spring Arrives!

With the Spring Equinox we reach the point where the Sun crosses the Equator and days are now longer than nights. As much as that means less time to observe, we can start to do so with slightly warmer weather. Orion still hangs in the western sky, with our last chance to check out those winter objects.

Meanwhile, other familiar locations return: Ursa Major is climbing to zenith, Leo is rising in the East, and below it, the head of Hydra - the beginning of the largest constellation that extends over a quarter of the sky.

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 10th.

Finally, we're ramping up to the nearly-total solar eclipse on April 8th, with a public lecture covering everything you want to know at our next meeting on April 3rd.



This Month's Image

The Flame Nebula is just to the East of Alnitak (ζ Orionis), the leftmost star in Orion's Belt.

It's an emission nebula, with about 800 newly-formed stars, 6 light years across, and about 1400 light years away.

Interacting

Check out our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nberkastro>

and join us at our next meetings: Mar. 6th and Apr. 3rd at 6 PM at the North Adams Public Library.



Prepare for the 2024 Eclipse with a special presentation at our meeting on April 3rd!

Looking to the NE

Before we dive into the sea of springtime galaxies, there are a few objects to look at in the Western parts of Ursa Major.

Bode's Galaxy

M 81 is one of the brighter galaxies, visible in all telescopes, and binoculars under dark skies.



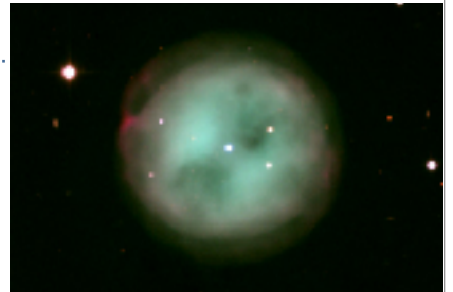
Exploding Cigar

Only $3/4^\circ$ to the E, this very active galaxy is edge-on with lots of structure even noticeable with small telescopes.



Ghostly Owl

M 97 is one of the fainter Messier objects, but can be seen glowing dimly. It has a complex structure giving us its owly visage.



Dragon's Needle

C 3 is in the tail of Draco, typically overlooked. It's an edge-on galaxy at the same distance as M 81 (12 Mly).



Here's a finding chart for all four of these and other interesting objects.