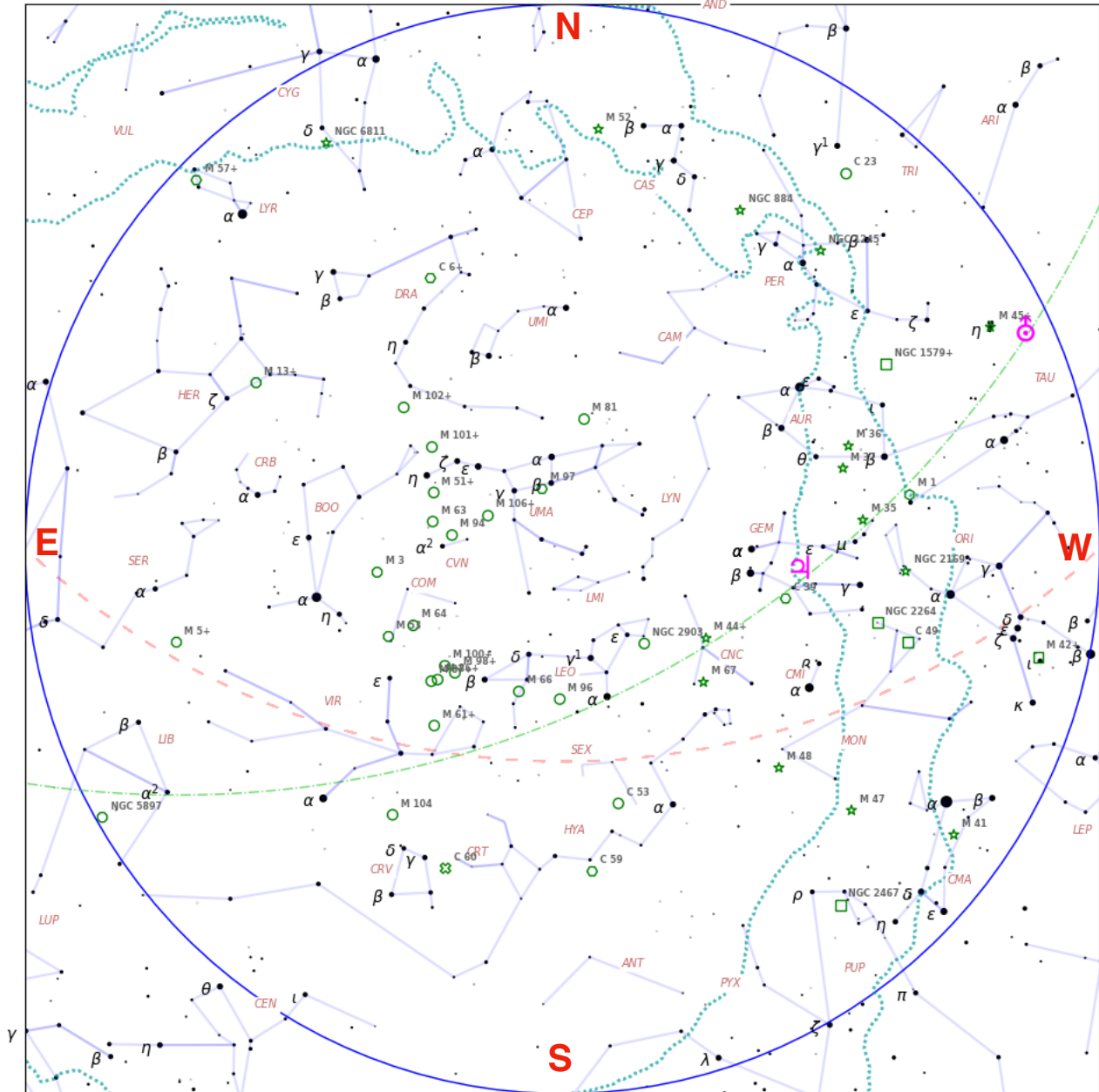


# APRIL 2026



**The Northern Berkshire  
Astronomical Society**

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Meets the first Wednesday of every month, at the  
North Adams Public Library at 6 PM.

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74 Church St. North Adams MA

**It's Galaxy Season!**

The Big Dipper is overhead, Leo is below, and the bright stars Arcturus and Spica shine in the East and South. We're looking "out" of the Galactic Plane, and the galaxies of the Coma and Virgo cluster are back to observe!

## Constellations

ANT - Antlia - *the Air Pump*  
 ARI - Aries - *the Ram*  
 AUR - Auriga - *the Charioteer*  
 BOO - Boötes - *the Herdsman*  
 CAM - Camelopardalis - *the Giraffe*  
 CAS - Cassiopeia - *the Queen of Ethiopia*  
 CEN - Centaurus - *the Centaur*  
 CEP - Cepheus - *the King of Ethiopia*  
 CMA - Canis Major - *the Greater Dog*  
 CMI - Canis Minor - *the Lesser Dog*  
 CNC - Cancer - *the Crab*  
 COM - Coma Berenices - *Berenices' Hair*  
 CRB - Corona Borealis - *the Northern Crown*  
 CRT - Crater - *the Cup*  
 CRV - Corvus - *the Crow*  
 CVN - Canes Venatici - *the Hunting Dogs*  
 CYG - Cygnus - *the Swan*  
 DRA - Draco - *the Dragon*  
 GEM - Gemini - *the Twins*  
 HER - Hercules - *Hercules*  
 HYA - Hydra - *the Water Snake*  
 LEO - Leo - *the Lion*  
 LEP - Lepus - *the Hare*  
 LIB - Libra - *the Scales*  
 LMI - Leo Minor - *the Lesser Lion*  
 LUP - Lupus - *the Wolf*  
 LYN - Lynx - *the Lynx*  
 LYR - Lyra - *the Harp*  
 MON - Monoceros - *the Unicorn*  
 ORI - Orion - *the Hunter*  
 PER - Perseus - *the Hero*  
 PUP - Puppis - *the Stern (of Argo)*  
 PYX - Pyxis - *the Mariner's Compass*  
 SER - Serpens - *the Serpent*  
 SEX - Sextans - *the Sextant*  
 TAU - Taurus - *the Bull*  
 TRI - Triangulum - *the Triangle*  
 UMA - Ursa Major - *the Great Bear*  
 UMI - Ursa Minor - *the Lesser Bear*  
 VIR - Virgo - *the Virgin*  
 VUL - Vulpecula - *the Little Fox*

## How to Use the Chart

South is at the bottom, if you hold the chart “up” against the sky, facing South, then East will be to your left and West to the right. (Or if you hold the map upside-down and face North, East will be to the right, West to the left.)

On the chart, the orange dashed line shows the celestial Equator; the green dashed-dotted line the Ecliptic. The Milky Way is outlined with a blue dotted line.

Date	Time
Apr 1	11:00 PM (EDT)
Apr 8	10:30 PM
Apr 15	10:00 PM
Apr 22	9:30 PM
Apr 29	9:00 PM

Because of the Earth’s motion around the Sun, the time for this chart changes slowly over time, roughly 1/2 hour earlier every week:

## Planets

**Mercury** and **Mars** are close to the Sun this month.

**Venus** returns to the evening sky, though setting shortly after twilight, but climbing higher every week into the Summer.

**Jupiter** in Gemini, close to the meridian in the evening hours, and setting in the early AM.

**Saturn** and **Neptune** are in Pisces, and now behind the Sun.

**Uranus** is in Taurus, near the Pleiades - setting around 10:30 PM.