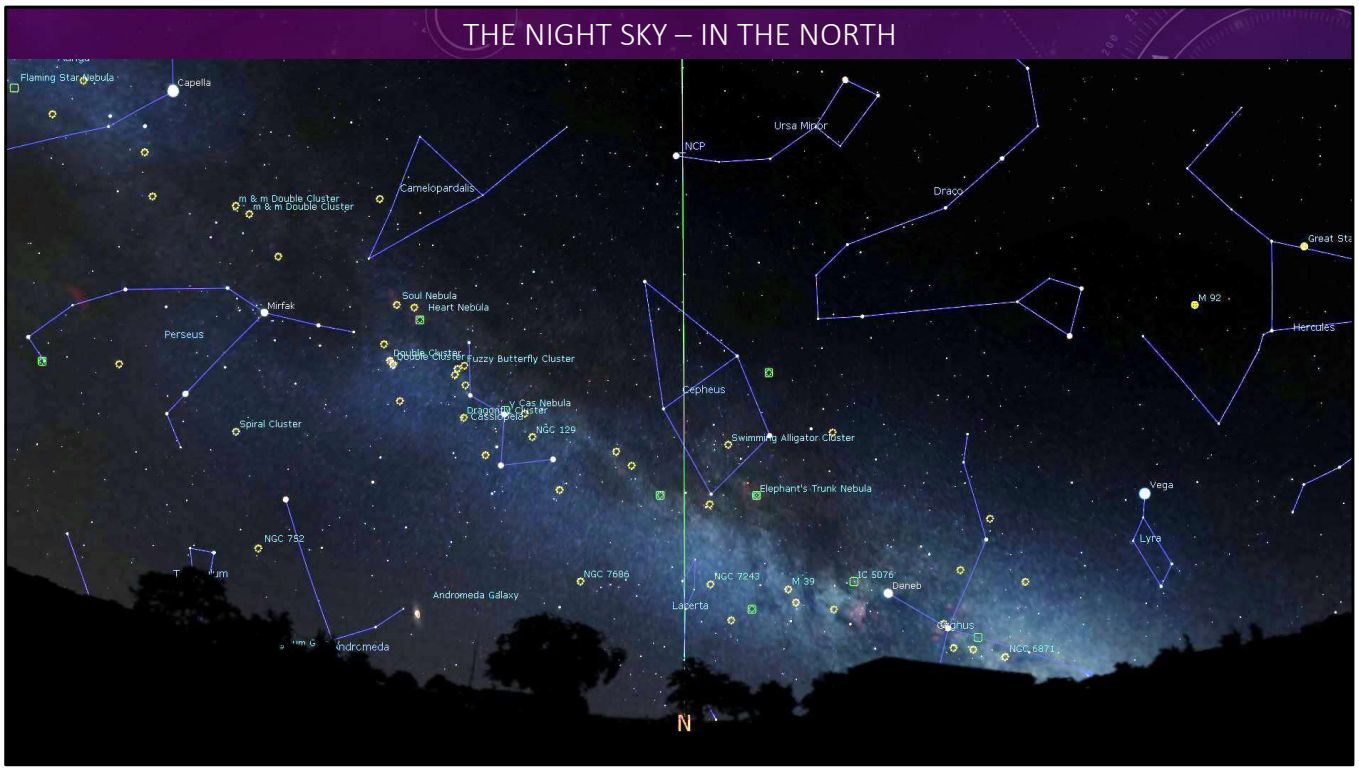
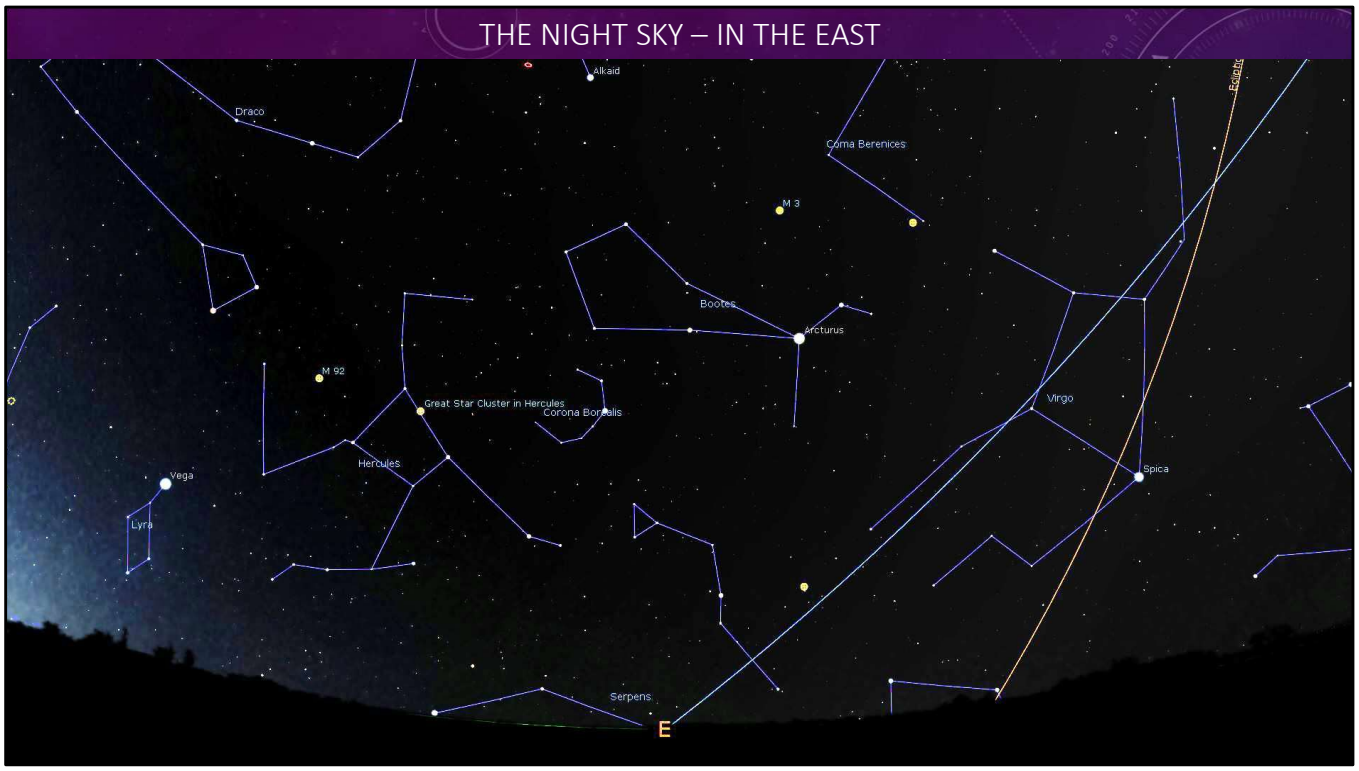
RUGBY & DISTRICT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

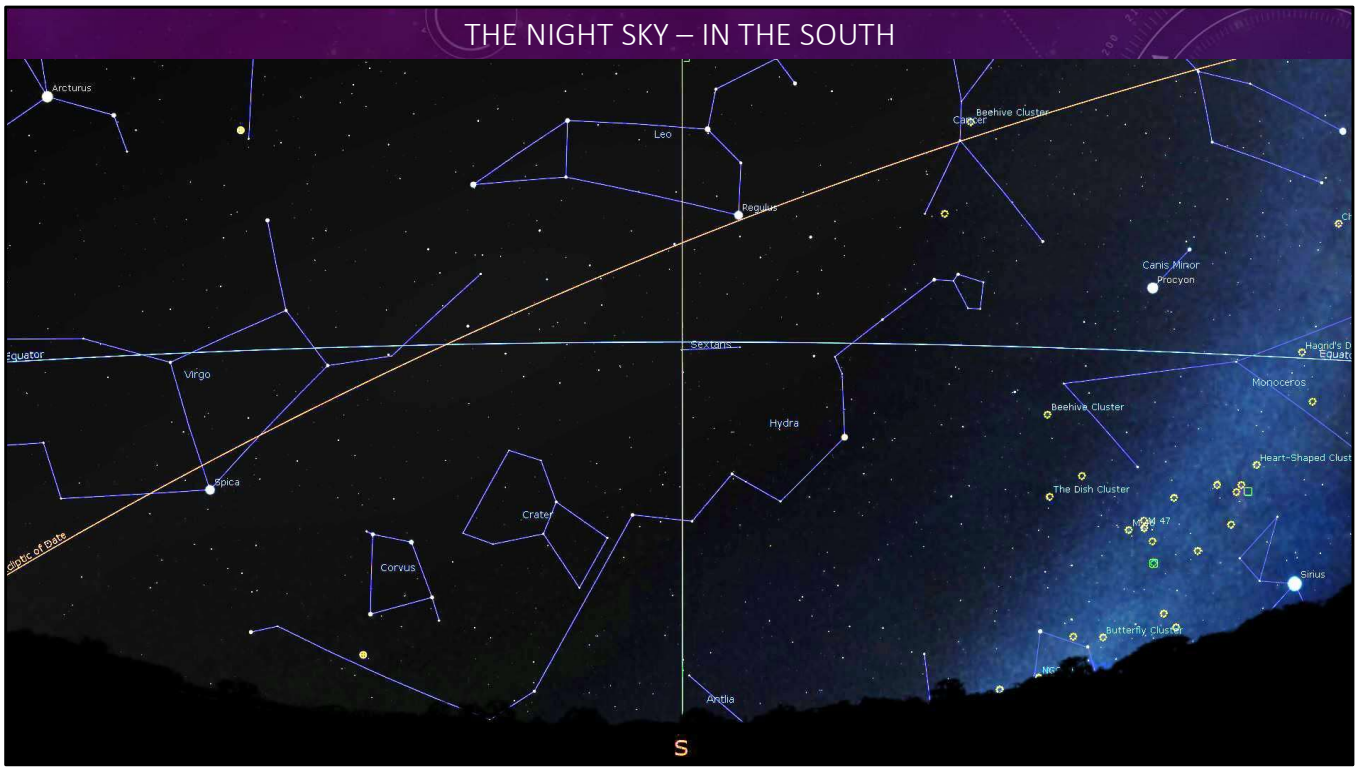
SKY NOTES, MARCH 2020



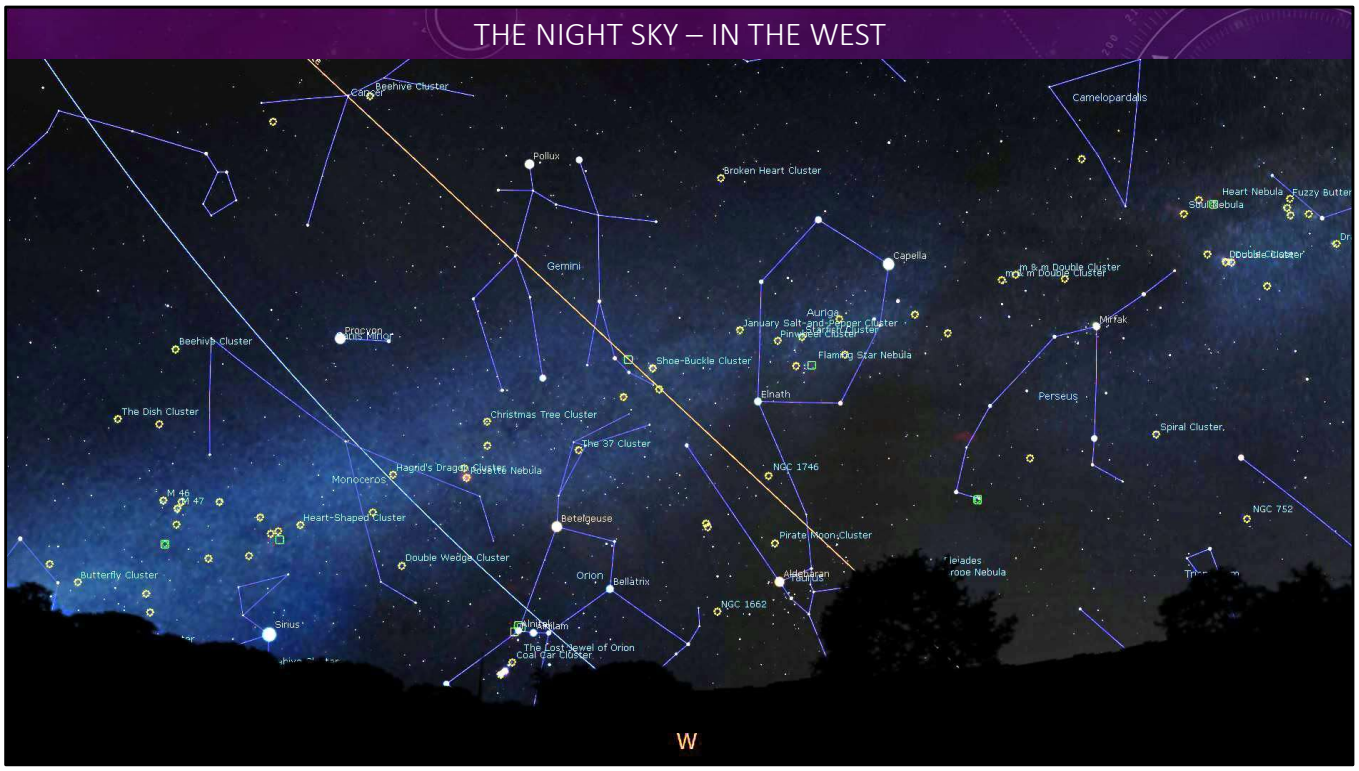
In the north, the milky way skirts the horizon, with Cepheus immediately above. Cassiopeia is to the west and Ursa Minor and Draco to the east.



In the east, Hercules is prominent along with Bootes and Virgo. Coma Berenices is well risen (lots of galaxies here) and the globular clusters M3, M13 and M92 well placed for observation.

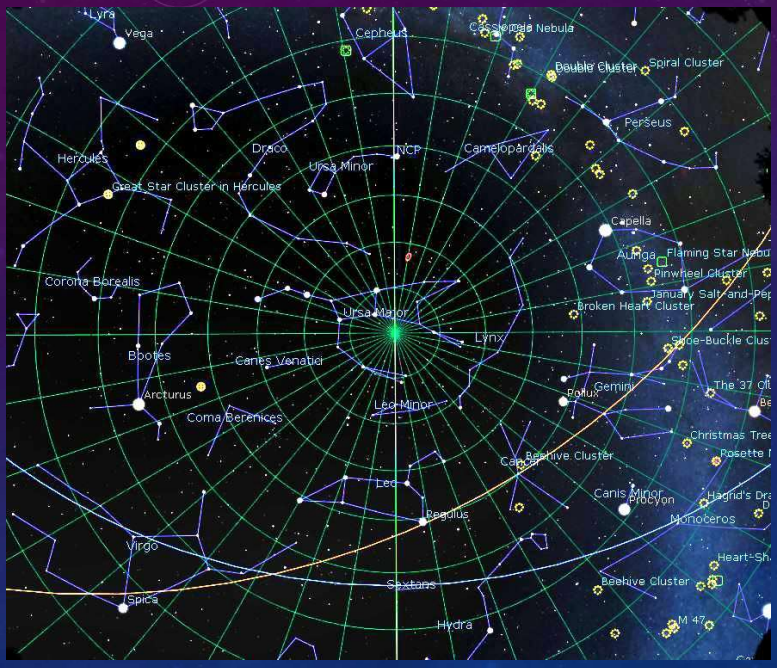


In the south Leo is on the meridian with Virgo to it's left and Cancer to it's right. Below Leo, Hydra, Corvus and Crater occupy the horizon.



In the west Orion is heading for setting along with Taurus although these constellations are still well placed earlier in the evening. Auriga is still fairly high in the west as is Perseus. The milky way arcs above this horizon from south to north.

THE NIGHT SKY – OVERHEAD



Overhead the zenith is still surrounded by Ursa Major and Lynx,

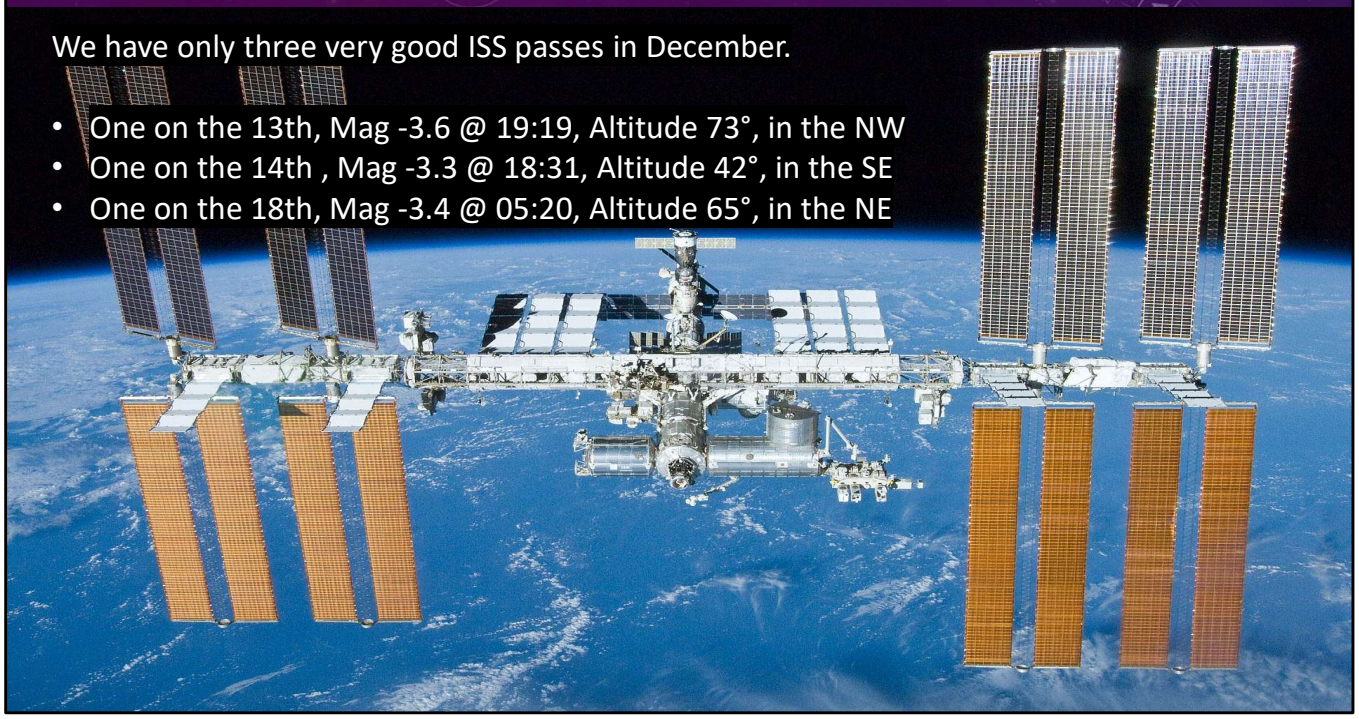
MARCH'S EVENTS – SUNRISE & SUNSET

2019	Sunrise/Sunset		Astronomical Twilight		Nautical Twilight		Civil Twilight	
Mar	Sunrise	Sunset	Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
1	06:53	17:44	05:00	19:38	05:39	18:58	06:19	18:18
5	06:44	17:51	04:51	19:45	05:30	19:05	06:10	18:25
10	06:32	18:00	04:39	19:54	05:19	19:14	05:58	18:34
15	06:21	18:09	04:26	20:04	05:07	19:23	05:47	18:43
20	06:09	18:18	04:13	20:15	04:55	19:32	05:35	18:52
25	05:57	18:27	04:00	20:25	04:43	19:42	05:23	19:01
30	05:46	18:36	03:46	20:36	04:30	19:52	05:11	19:10
Note: hours shift because clocks change forward 1 hour.								
31	06:43	19:37	04:43	21:39	05:27	20:54	06:09	20:12

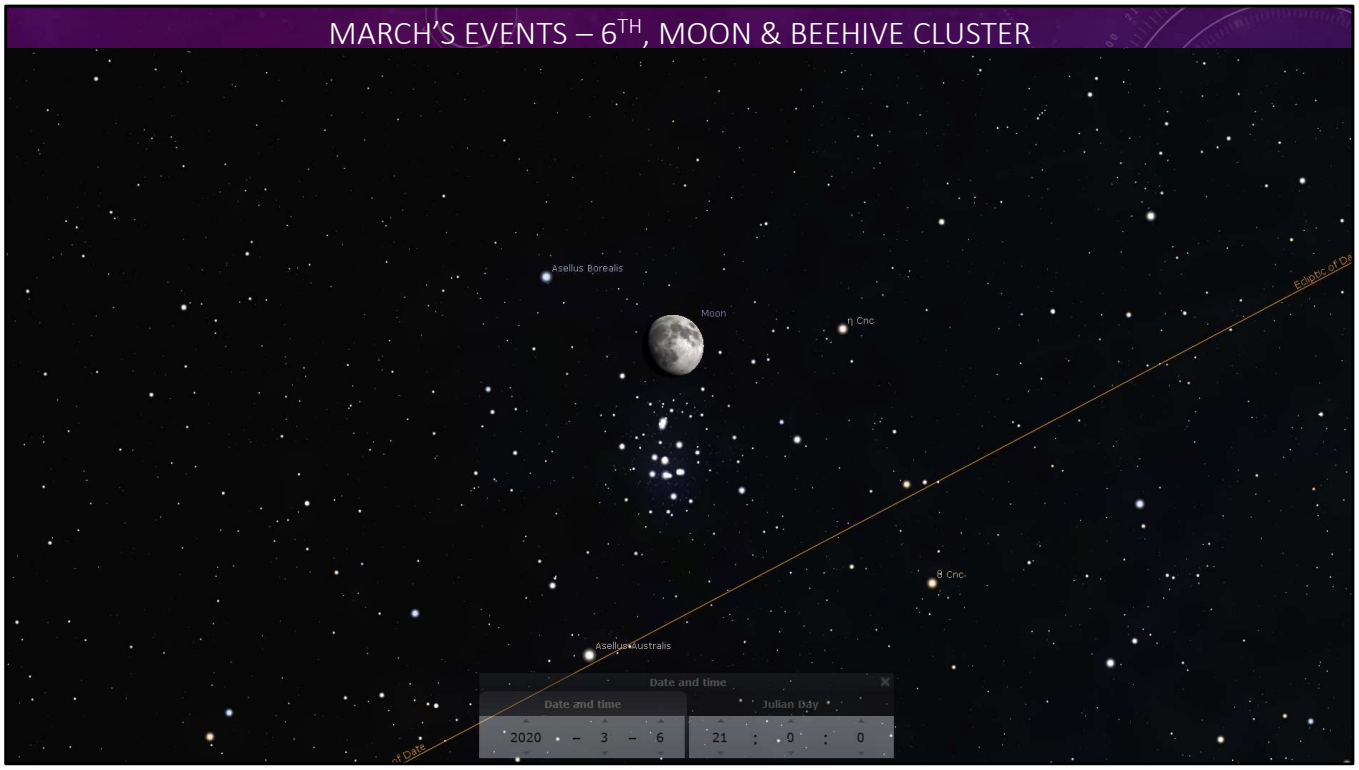
MARCH'S EVENTS – ISS

We have only three very good ISS passes in December.

- One on the 13th, Mag -3.6 @ 19:19, Altitude 73°, in the NW
- One on the 14th , Mag -3.3 @ 18:31, Altitude 42°, in the SE
- One on the 18th, Mag -3.4 @ 05:20, Altitude 65°, in the NE

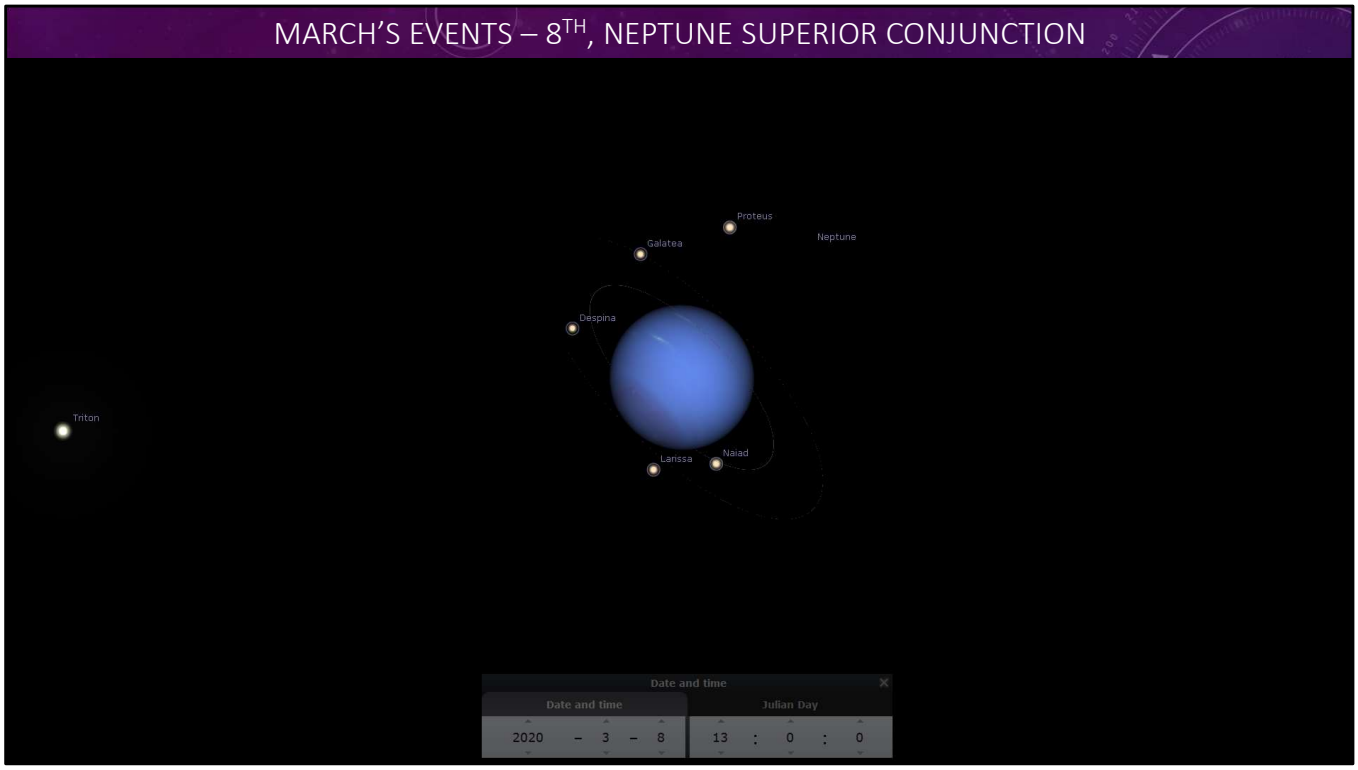


MARCH'S EVENTS – 6TH, MOON & BEEHIVE CLUSTER



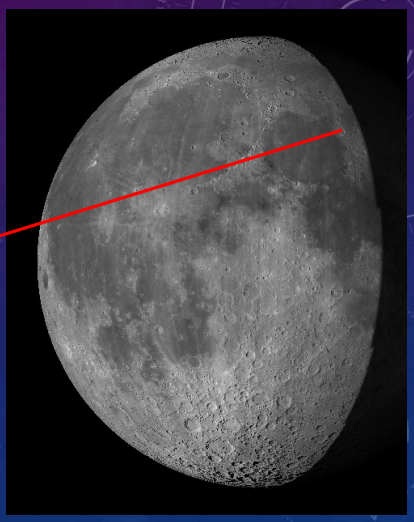
On the 6th at about 9:00 pm the moon is very close to the Beehive Cluster in Cancer. The glare from a nearly full moon will not help, but this should be a good view through binoculars and it also serves to show how large some of these deep sky objects are.

MARCH'S EVENTS – 8TH, NEPTUNE SUPERIOR CONJUNCTION



Not for viewing, obviously, but Neptune passes less than a degree below the Sun at this conjunction.

MARCH'S EVENTS – 13TH/14TH, OBSERVING AT BARBY



For observing at Barby on the 13th or 14th

There is one spectacular crater that you should observe – Posidonius.

This is a walled plain on the edge of Mare Serenitatis. It is 95 km in diameter and is blessed with a spectacular series of rilles on the crater floor. A series of graben like rilles criss-cross the central area of the crater but the star of this show is the sinuous rille to the west of the crater winding it's way around the edge.

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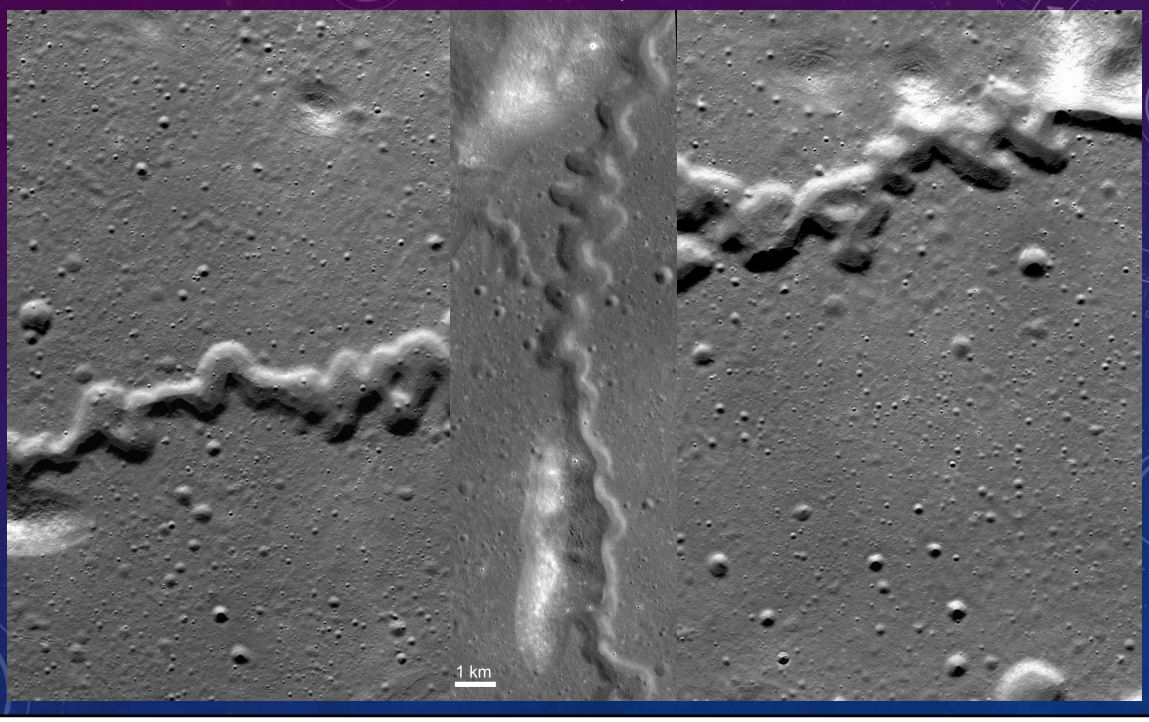

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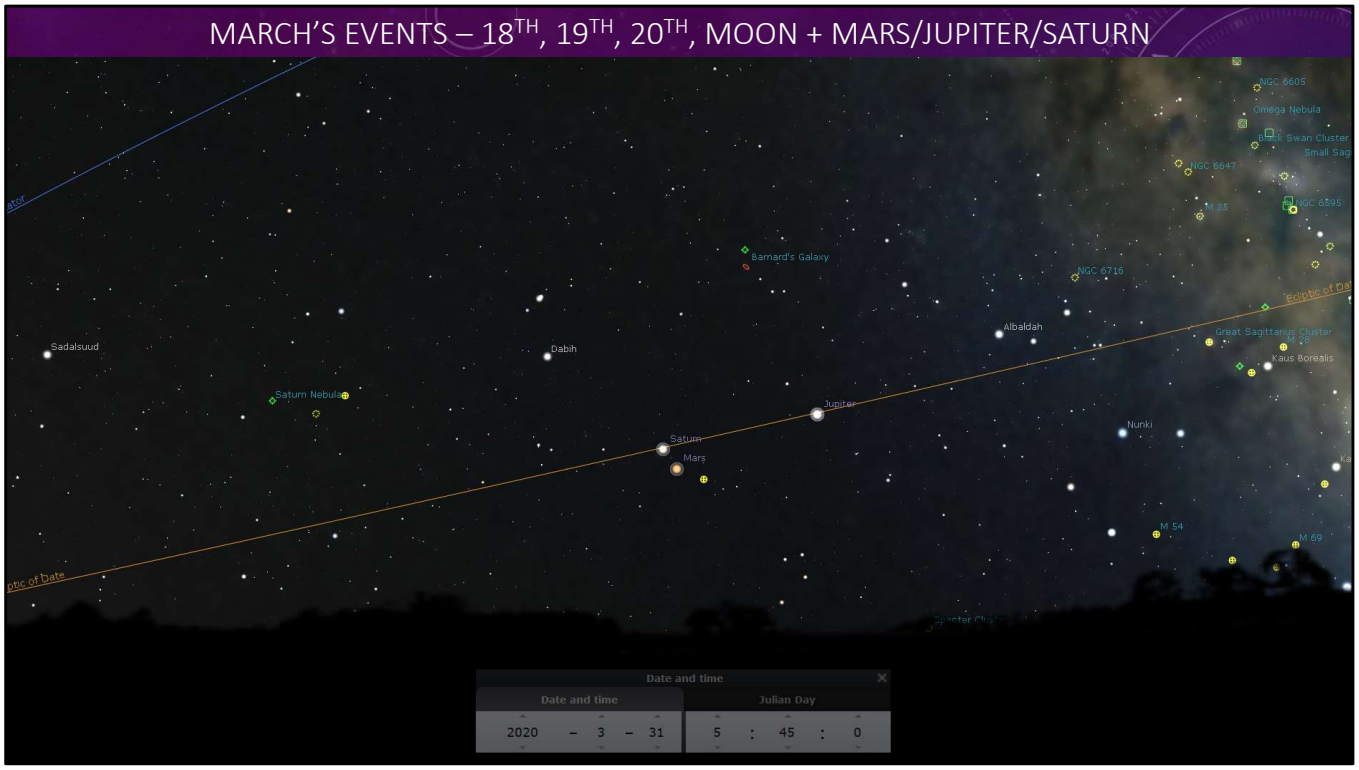
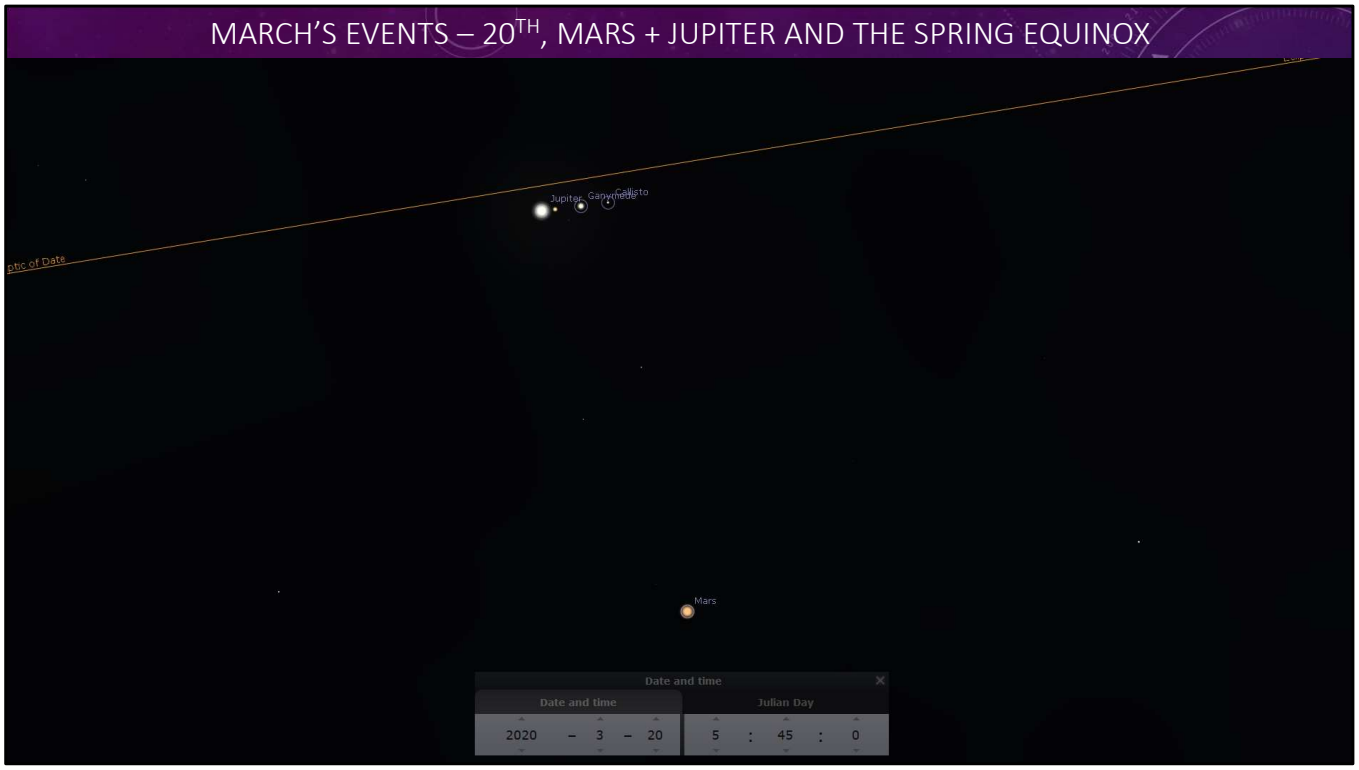
MARCH'S EVENTS – 18TH, 19TH, 20TH, MOON + MARS/JUPITER/SATURN



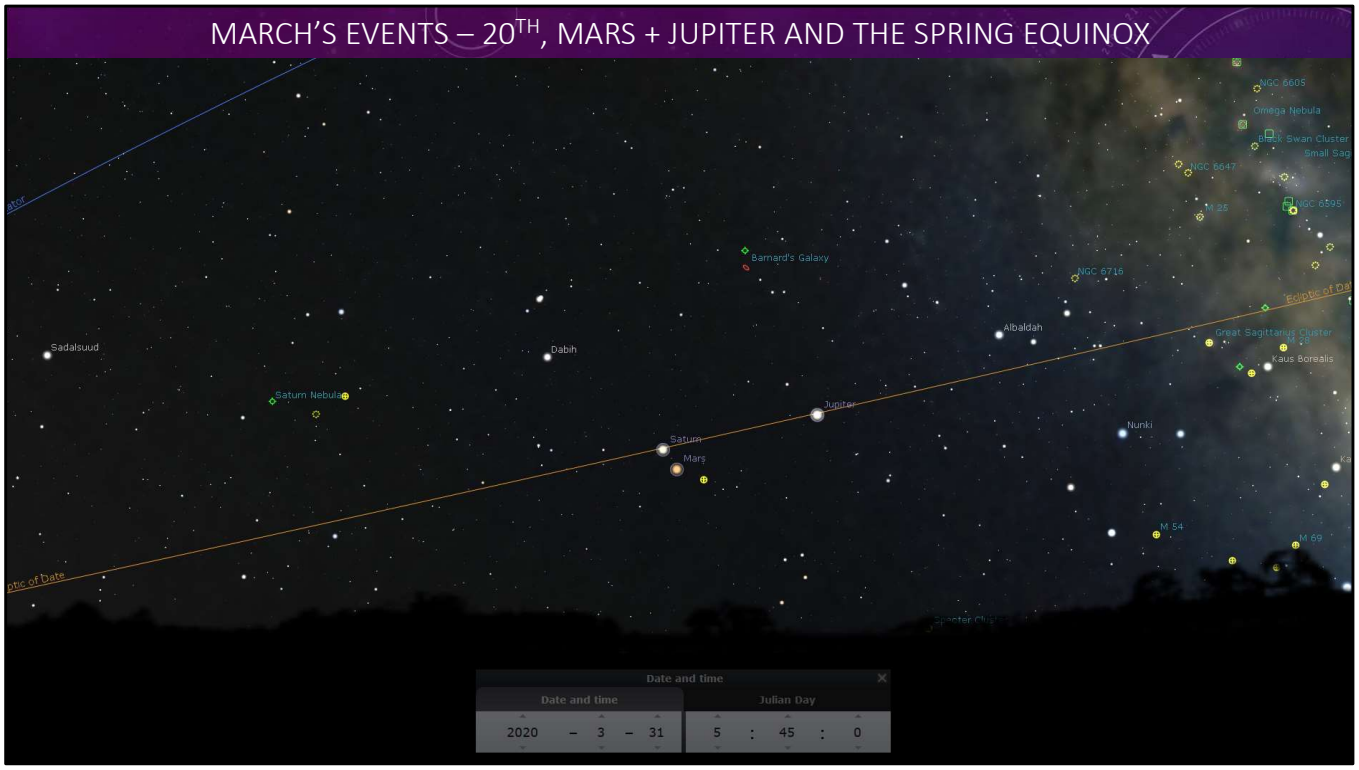
And in the early morning hours on the 18th and 19th, the moon passes Mars, Jupiter and Saturn as it heads towards new moon.

MARCH'S EVENTS – 20TH, MARS + JUPITER AND THE SPRING EQUINOX



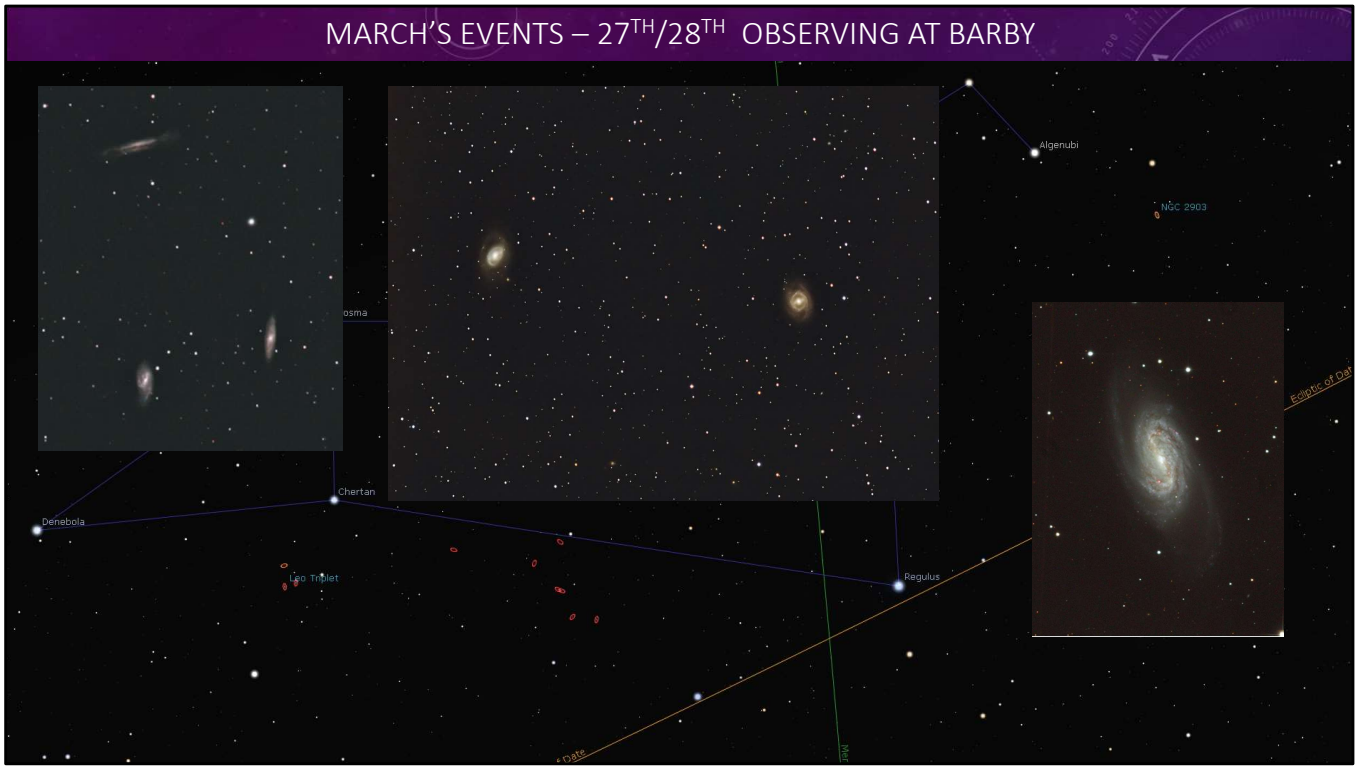
And in the early morning hours on the 20th, Jupiter and Mars should both be visible in binoculars (same field of view). Also the spring equinox takes place on the 20th.

MARCH'S EVENTS – 20TH, MARS + JUPITER AND THE SPRING EQUINOX



And in the early morning hours on the 31st, Saturn and Mars should both be visible in binoculars (same field of view).

MARCH'S EVENTS – 27TH/28TH OBSERVING AT BARBY



Some suggestions for observing at Barby.

MARCH'S EVENTS – COMET C/2017 T2 (PANSTARRS)

★ **C/2017 T2 (PanSTARRS)**

Now it is 9.6 mag (Jan. 5, Juan Jose Gonzalez). It brightens up to 8 mag in spring, and it is observable in good condition in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere, it is not observable until July.

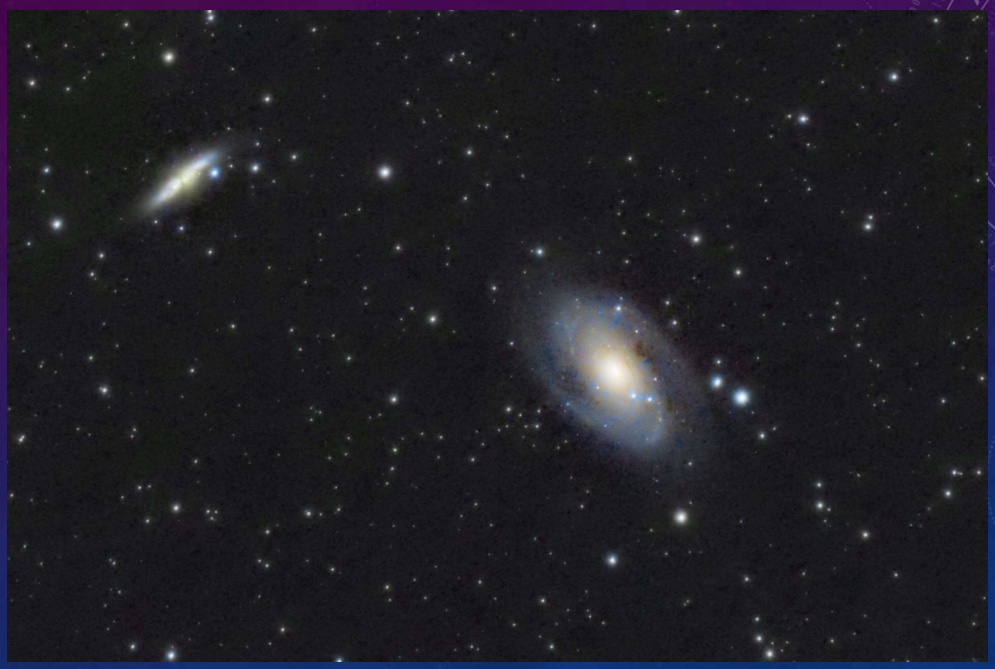
Date(TT)	R.A. (2000)	Decl.	Delta	r	Elong.	m1	Best Time(A, h)
Jan. 11	2 56.43	56 28.1	1.541	2.210	120	9.2	19:35 (180, 68)
Jan. 18	2 39.55	57 2.8	1.565	2.151	113	9.1	18:51 (180, 68)

In March and through April this comet passes through Cassiopeia. It is about Magnitude 9 and brightening so should also be observable on our observing nights.

MEMBERS IMAGES – GEOFFREY JOHNSTONE COMET C/2017 T2 (PANSTARRS)

10 stacked images with my 200 mm LX200 and DSLR. The megastar shot shows the 12 mag star it was sitting on top of.

MEMBERS IMAGES – ALAN HUGHES, M81 & M82



2. M81 (Bode's Galaxy) and M82 (Cigar Galaxy) in Ursa Major. Photo taken 6th Feb - 183 x 1 min exposures @ ISO 800.

MEMBERS IMAGES – ALAN HUGHES, FLAMING STAR NEBULA

Flaming Star Nebula (IC 405) with Tadpole Nebula(IC 410) below, in Auriga. Photo taken 20th January - 126 x 1 min exposures @ ISO 800.

The End, Thankyou