

M67, Open Cluster, Cancer

Continuing a series of photograph's of the Messier Objects



By Jim Mazur - <http://www.skyledge.net/Messier67.htm>, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=108285022>

Rugby & District Astronomical Society

www.rugbyastro.org.uk

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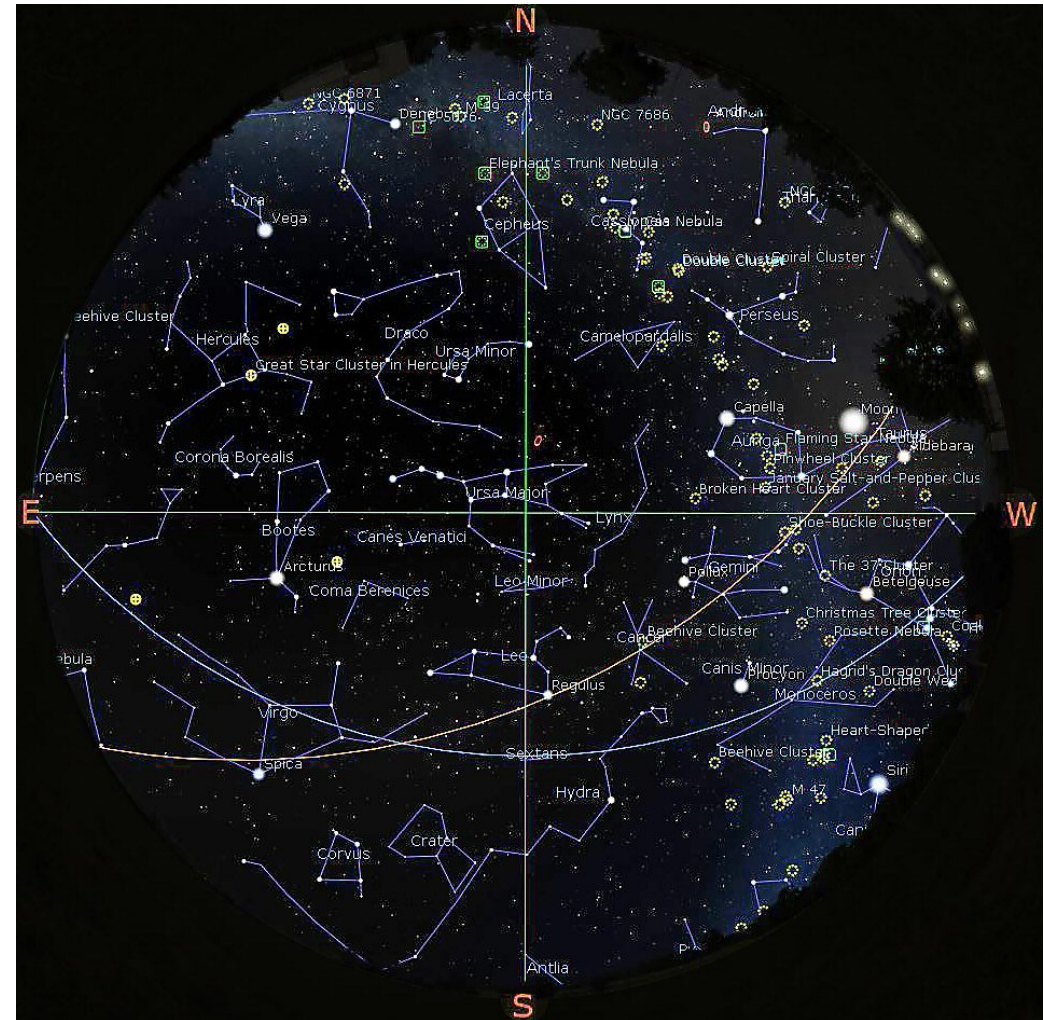
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Rugby & District Astronomical Society

Monthly Sky Notes

No. 171, March 2024, by Chris Longthorn



The night sky at 23:00 U.T.C., March 15th, 2024

Sky Events for March 2024

03 15:24 LAST QUARTER MOON
 08 04:59 Mars 3.5°N of Moon
 08 17:01 Venus 3.3°N of Moon
 10 09:00 NEW MOON
 14 01:02 Jupiter 3.6°S of Moon
 15 02:54 Pleiades 0.4°N of Moon
 15 19:00 Observing at Barby, 36% Moon
 16 19:00 Observing at Barby, 36% Moon
 16 19:57 ISS, 39°, SSE
 17 04:11 FIRST QUARTER MOON
 17 11:00 Neptune in Conjunction with Sun
 17 17:00 Mercury at Perihelion
 17 19:30 AGM and Members Evening
 18 19:55 ISS, 60°, SSE
 19 19:05 ISS, 47°, SSE
 19 20:41 ISS, 53°, WSW
 20 03:07 Vernal Equinox
 20 19:52 ISS, 77°, S
 21 19:02 ISS, 68°, S
 21 20:39 ISS, 62°, WSW
 21 22:00 Venus 0.3°N of Saturn
 22 19:49 ISS, 80°, S
 23 18:59 ISS, 80°, S
 23 20:36 ISS, 53°, SSW
 24 19:46 ISS, 67°, SSW
 24 22:00 Mercury at Greatest Elong: 18.7°E
 25 07:00 FULL MOON
 25 07:13 Pen. Lunar Eclipse; mag=0.956
 26 19:43 ISS, 45°, SSW
 29 19:00 Observing at Barby
 30 19:00 Observing at Barby

February Image of the Month



Received on 4th February, 54x300s light frames, darks, flats and bias frames.

David said—There have been a couple of clear nights since Christmas and I've tried to take advantage of them, in between learning new bits of kit and clouds that seem to appear as soon as it gets dark!

Taken from my garden in Rugby (Bortle 5-6), with my AT65 EDQ Telescope with an ASI2600MC camera, and an Optolong L-Enhance light pollution filter . The telescope was sitting on a ZWO AM5 mount.

*The **Andromeda Galaxy** is a barred spiral galaxy and is the nearest major galaxy to the Milky Way. It was originally named the **Andromeda Nebula** and is catalogued as **Messier 31**, **M31**, and **NGC 224**. Andromeda has a diameter of about 46.56 kiloparsecs (152,000 light-years)^[8] and is approximately 765 kpc (2.5 million light-years) from Earth. The galaxy's name stems from the area of Earth's sky in which it appears, the constellation of Andromeda, which itself is named after the princess who was the wife of Perseus in Greek mythology.*

Object of the Month for March



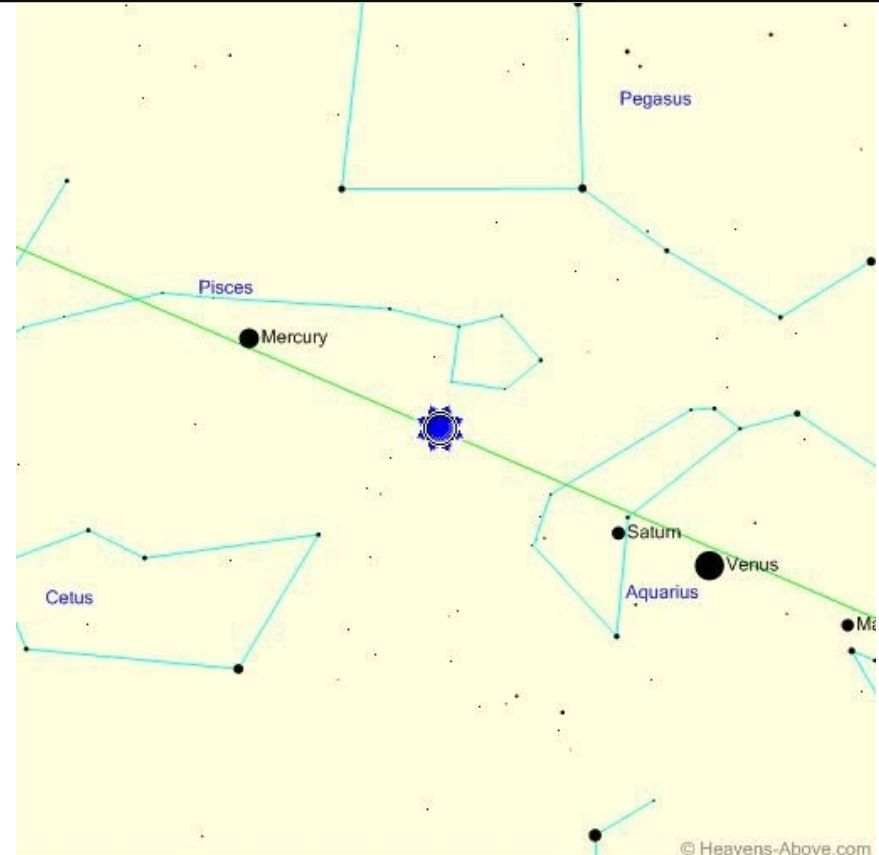
The Leo Triplet (also known as the M66 Group) is a small group of galaxies about 35 million light-years away in the constellation Leo. This galaxy group consists of the spiral galaxies M65, M66, and NGC 3628.

In mid-March at 22:00 U.T. The group is found in the SE (azimuth 140°) at an altitude of about 45°, about 2° below Theta-Leonis (mag 3.33) in the hind quarters of Leo.

The group members are all visible in a small (100-200mm aperture) telescope. NGC 3628 (top) is mag 9.5, M65 (NGC 3523, bottom right) is magnitude 9.3 and M66 (NGC 3627, bottom left) is magnitude 8.9.

The Leo Triplet

The Sun, mid-March



Event	Time	Altitude	Azimuth
Minimum altitude:	00:14	-39.6°	360°
Astronomical twilight begins:	04:24	-18.0°	69°
Nautical twilight begins:	05:05	-12.0°	77°
Civil twilight begins:	05:45	-6.0°	85°
Sunrise:	06:18	-0.8°	92°
Maximum altitude:	12:14	35.8°	180°
Sunset:	18:10	-0.8°	268°
Civil twilight ends:	18:44	-6.0°	275°
Nautical twilight ends:	19:24	-12.0°	283°
Astronomical twilight ends:	20:05	-18.0°	292°

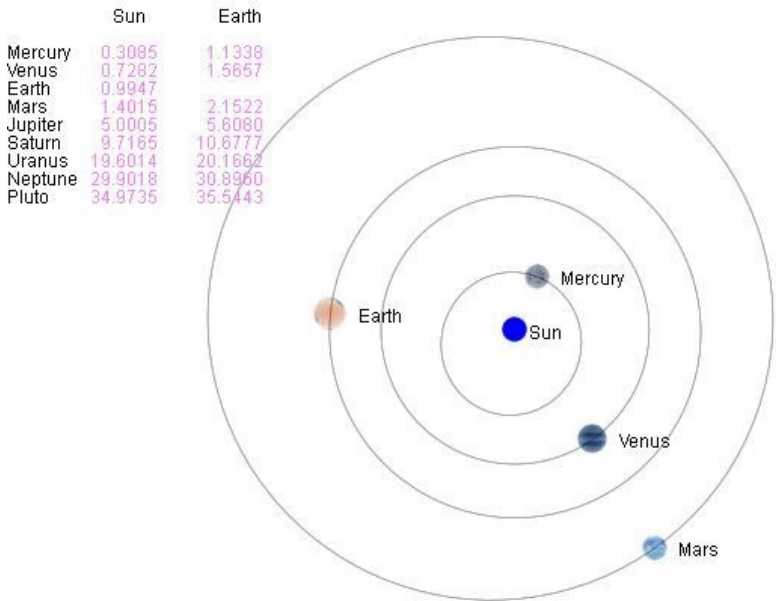
All data courtesy of Heavens-Above (www.heavens-above.com)

The Planets, mid March, 2024

Inner Solar System

2024-03-15 (UTC)

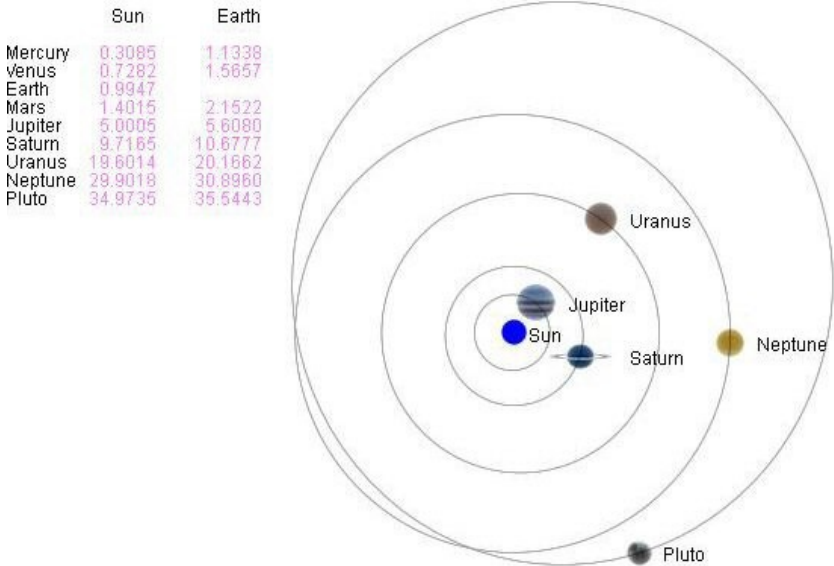
23h00m



Outer Solar System

2024-03-15 (UTC)

23h00m



	Mercury	Venus	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune
Right ascension	0h 37m 17.3s	22h 27m 54.5s	21h 47m 35.8s	2h 46m 9.1s	22h 53m 52.4s	3h 9m 32.1s	23h 50m 49.0s
Declination	4° 39' 42"	-10° 54' 13"	-14° 32' 29"	15° 7' 52"	-8° 48' 18"	17° 24' 16"	-2° 19' 15"
Range (AU)	1.134	1.566	2.152	5.608	10.678	20.166	30.896
Elongation from Sun	14.9°	20.9°	31.3°	48.2°	14.2°	54.2°	1.9°
Brightness	-1	-3.8	1.2	-2	1	5.8	8
Equatorial Diameter	5.93"	10.66"	4.35"	35.15"	15.56"	3.50"	2.21"
Phase Angle	56.0°	29.1°	21.7°	8.5°	1.4°	2.4°	0.1°
Constellation	Pisces	Aquarius	Capricornus	Aries	Aquarius	Aries	Pisces
Meridian transit	13:06	10:57	10:17	15:16	11:25	15:40	12:21
Rises	06:44	05:56	05:37	07:55	06:12	08:05	06:34
Sets	19:30	15:58	14:58	22:37	16:37	23:14	18:08
Altitude	-27.0°	-48.5°	-51.2°	-3.1°	-46.2°	1.9°	-37.3°
Azimuth	324.2°	1.2°	16.9°	299.9°	351.9°	296.5°	334.7°