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SKY CALENDAR MARCH 2023

Planetarium business office: (517) 355-4676 http://twitter.com/AbramsSkyNotes An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.

Evening Planets: The two brightest planets, Jupiter and Venus, pass each other in the west by just a half a degree on the first day of the month. Watch the gap between the pair grow to almost 30° by the month's end. Mars can be found high overhead. The red planet passes between the tips of the horns of Taurus the Bull on March 11, when it will be just over 3.2 deg from Beta and nearly 4.7 deg from Zeta. Mars continues to move farther away from the Earth. At the start of the month, Mars is 107.3 million miles away. At month's end, Mars is 135.2 million miles away. Its brightness dims from 0.5 to 1.0 magnitude during the month of March. Mercury is at superior conjunction with the Sun March17. Mercury moves into the evening sky late in the month. The quick moving planet appears very low in the west, early in the twilight. Next month, Mercury will be easier to spot. Venus passes the faint planet Uranus March 30. Keen observers might be able to spot 5.8 magnitude Uranus with a small telescope or binoculars under ideal viewing conditions. **Morning Planets:**

Saturn enters the morning twilight midmonth. Look for Saturn low in the ESE late in the month. The Vernal **Equinox** takes place March 20 at 5:24 p.m. EDT. This is the moment the Sun crosses the equator heading north, marking the start of spring for the northern hemisphere.

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http://abramsplanetarium.org/ **MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY WEDNESDAY** Mar 4-7. Wed 1 O · Wed Mar 1, Thurs Mar 2. Mon Mar 6. Fri Mar 3. Sat Mar 4. one hour after sunset one hou one hour after sunset one hour after sunset one hour after sunset one hour after sunset Venus Castor after sunset Venus Venus Venus **Pollux** Sat 4 GEMINI • Thurs 2 Jupiter S_{ICKLE} Jupiter Jupiter **Jupiter** Ju-Ve 0.5° Ju-Ve 1.0° Ju-Ve 1.9° Ju-Ve 2.8° min dist Ju-Ve 4.8° Mar 1 & 2, **CANIS** one hour MINOR. Sunday 5 after Regulus sunset Procyon • LEO Alpha Lib Denebola • Thurs Mar 9, Tues Mar 7, Mar 5-8, BetaTauri Fri 10 one hour Wed 8 one hour | Full Moon Sunday 12 Mars * 3.1° after sunset **Sat 11** before 7:40 a.m. EST Mon 6 VIRGO O min dist LIBRA sunrise Spica LEO . Sigma Zeta Tauri Thurs 9 Mar 9-12, Denebola Pleiades **TAURUS** Tues 7 Mon 6 one hour Tues Mar 14, Betelgeuse before SICKLE Tues 7 O F Last Quarter sunrise Moon Sunday 5 Aldebaran · Hyades **CORVUS** Regulus • 10:08 p.m. EDT ORION Theta Sunday Mar 12, 2:00 a .m. WNW Eta **CENTAURUS** Daylight Saving Time Begins Orion's WSW SW SSW Mar 13-16. Tues Mar 14, Delta Sco one hour before sunrise one hour after sunset Tues Mar 21, Wed Mar 16, Fri Mar 17, Antares **Epsilon** Sat Mar 18, Alpha Cap Peg New Moon 40 minutes one hour 40 minutes Venus **Wed 15** Mon 13 before sunrise after 1:23 p.m. EDT before sunrise Tues 14 Beta Cap Venus 0 sunset **AQUARIUS** TEAPOT **SCORPIUS** 16° **AQUARIUS** Tues Mar 28, Last easy Thurs 16 First Quarter Scorpion's Delta Cap Old Moon **CAPRICORNUS Jupiter** Saturn Moon Jupiter **SAGITTARIUS** 10:32 p.m. EDT ESE ESE. Saturn SSE Sat Mar 25, Thurs → Moon Uranus •Aldebaran Venus Sunday Mar 19, March 10-22. The sky is dark and Wed Hamal 30 mir Mar 23, **Pleiades** Hamal moonless at end of evening twilight. 30 minutes Uranus Mar 22, after sunset 40 min Try looking for the Zodiacal Light. before sunrise 40 min Venus after Moon ARIES **ARIES** Hamal Hamal **AQUARIUS** after Venus sunset Venus Mon Mar 20. Sat Mar 25 sunset **TAURUS CAPRICORNUS** Vernal Equinox 5:24 p.m. EDT Moon two hours **ARIES ARIES** Fri Mar 24, after sunset Saturn Old Mar 27-29, Pollux • one hour The Young Moon Moon Young one hour after marks the start Uranus + ESE Moon after sunset of Ramadan. sunset Jupiter Mon Mar 27, **Wed 29** Mercury 30 minutes Jupiter -1.5 mag Venus after sunset Tues 28 Jupiter Ju-Me 1.3° Wed Mar 29 Thurs Mar 30 Venus **GEMINI** Venus min dist two hours two hours Uranus Mars after sunset after sunset Mar 30 & 31, 2 hrs after sunset Mercury Ur-Ve 1.5° Uranus Thurs 30 Ur-Ve 1.2° Jupiter min dist Mon 27 🕗 . WNW WNW Pollux Regulus Fri 31 Beehive BetaTaur

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