

March Evening Skies

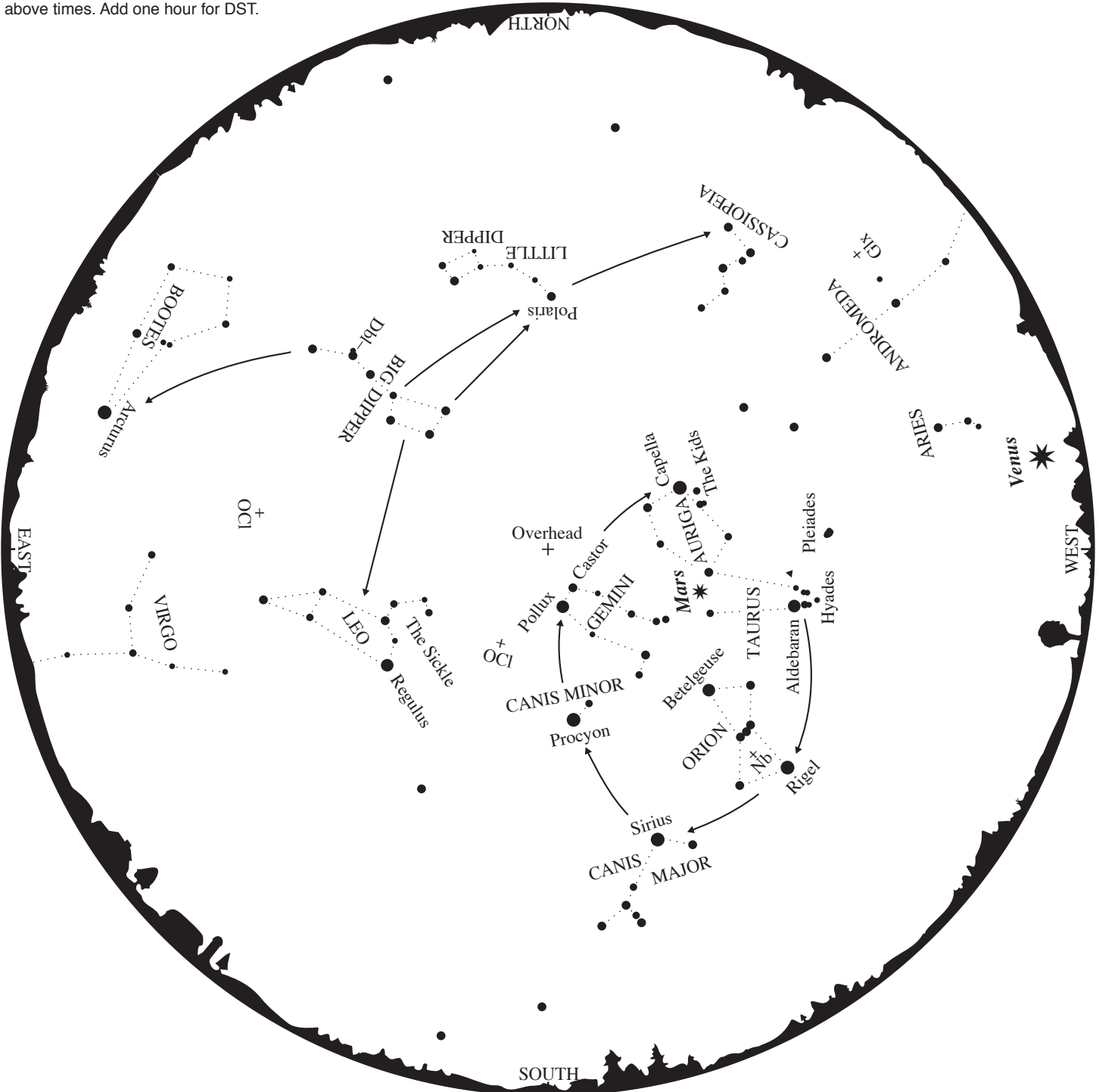
This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local standard times:

Late February	10 p.m.
Early March	9 p.m.
Late March	8 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times. Add one hour for DST.

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The planets Venus and Mars are plotted for mid-March 2023. At chart time 11 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Venus, Sirius, Arcturus, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Mars, Aldebaran, Pollux, and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. The famous Orion Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that

constellation. The open or galactic star cluster (OCI) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. Coma Berenices, "The Hair of Berenice," is another open cluster (OCI), between Leo and Bootes. The position of an external star system, called the Andromeda Galaxy after the constellation in which it appears, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch