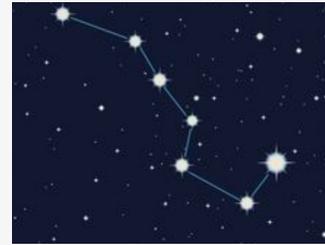


# STARRY SCOOP

Editor: Kaitlynn Goulette



## WHAT'S UP

The purpose of the Starry Scoop is to communicate current astronomy and space events. It will include night sky and solar observing information. If you want to share your sky observations with me or if you want to get a digital copy please contact me at [starryscoop@gmail.com](mailto:starryscoop@gmail.com)

This month in the Western sky, the mighty Orion hunts Taurus the bull. Don't forget to look for the Pleiades, a charming cluster on the bull's back viewable with the naked eye. The Pleiades will look like a fuzzy patch to the naked eye.

In the South, high in the sky, you will see Leo the lion chasing Cancer the crab, which tells us that Spring is here. Can you see the faint Beehive cluster in Cancer? The Beehive is featured as our object of the month.

As you look to the East, you will spot the brilliant star Arcturus. It is the brightest and Southernmost star in the constellation Boötes, as seen in the star map.

Every morning before sunrise, Mars, Saturn, and Jupiter are lined up in the Southeast. They will appear to be the brightest "stars" in the sky. From the 14th to the 16th the moon will be passing through these "wanderers". (Wanderers is what the ancients called planets.) Be sure to notice the difference in the planets' colors, especially the ruddy color of Mars.

Located in the North, Comet Atlas is still hopeful to become one of the brightest objects in the sky.

## APRIL'S SKY

**1: First Quarter Moon**

**8: Full Moon**

**14: Third Quarter Moon**

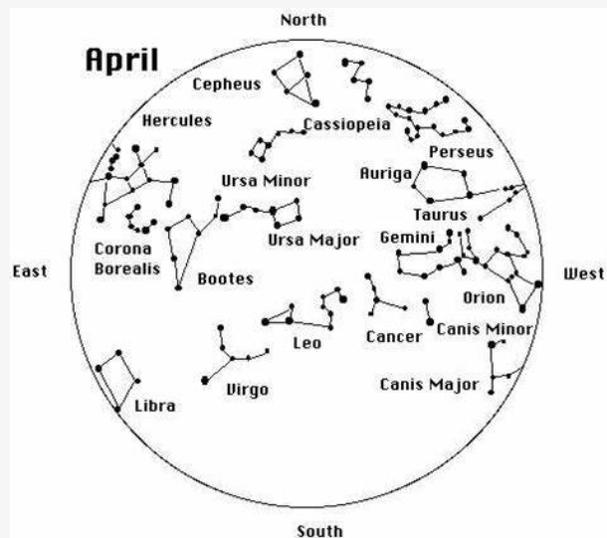
**14-16: Moon and 3 Planets. (The Moon will be passing a group of 3 bright planets early in the morning)**

**19-26: International Dark Sky Week. (This week we will be celebrating the night sky. To best see it, turn off those outdoor lights and look up!)**

**21-22: Peak of the Lyrid Meteor Shower. (This is an average meteor shower usually making 20 meteors per hour radiating from the constellation Lyra. Best seen in a dark place after midnight.)**

**23: New Moon**

**30: First Quarter Moon**



Hold star map above your head and align with compass points.

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN WESTERN MA.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 all public gatherings and astronomy events have been canceled. Hopefully, Covid-19 and the restrictions along with it will be over soon.

## OBSERVATIONS

Lately, observing has been a blast! Every clear morning before sunrise, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars are dancing across my backyard sky. I've both observed them and taken some beautiful photographs when the waning crescent moon was passing by.

In the evenings, I've done some astrophotography and viewing of the Winter Hexagon region, which will soon be gone. It's my favorite area of the night sky to observe because of the vast number of things to see.

My good astronomy friend Richard Sanderson, STARS Club president, has also been doing some observing and astrophotography. He observed and photographed Venus and the 1st Quarter Moon. Rich's favorite telescope is his AstroPhysics 6-inch F/12 refracting telescope. He also watched the International Space Station (ISS) fly across the sky!

Feel free to share your observations and pictures of the sky with the [starryscoop@gmail.com](mailto:starryscoop@gmail.com). Clear Skies!

## OBJECT OF THE MONTH

The object of the month is the Beehive Cluster, in Cancer the crab. This is an open cluster within our Milky Way galaxy. It got its name from looking like a swarm of bees. You may be able to pick it up with your naked eye, but my preference is using a pair of binoculars. This cluster fills the central portion of the constellation Cancer. Keep in mind that it's very faint and not easy to see with your naked eye. Good luck!



The Beehive Cluster  
Photo Credit: NASA



1st Quarter Moon  
Photo by Richard Sanderson