



www.holland-saaa.org

The Shoreline
Observer
March 2026

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CLUB NOTES

Dear members,

Spring is upon us with March 1st starting the meteorological spring and March 8 the start of daylight savings time.

I received a good response on our Survey feedback request.

15 people responded which is 30% of our membership.

Thank you very much for the feedback, suggestions and ideas.

We will discuss this during the next board meeting and inform you about actions.

March is for SAAA an active month and hopefully some clear sky Friday's for public observing.

On March 12 SAAA has its next membership meeting where we will have a presentation from Frank Roldan about Jupiter and its moons.

Frank Roldan will present on the same topic at the Hemlock Nature Center on March 14 at 7 pm.

March 7 at 11 am Peter Burkey gives a presentation on "Women in Astronomy" at the White River Township Hall in Montague.

Barry Schoenfelner will present on March 23 at the Norton Shore Branch of the Muskegon Library about "How to find things in the night sky".

An active month for our club and like nature we are slowly coming back out of our frozen state.

Wishing you warmth and clear skies,

Karl Rijkse
President SAAA

**Friendly
Reminder**

**Daylight Savings
Time begins
March 8th**

**SPRING
FORWARD**

Women in Astronomy

Saturday, March 7 · 11:00am – 12:00pm

Muskegon Area District Library Montague Branch, 8778
Ferry St # 2, Montague, MI 49437, USA

Who named Jupiter's Largest Moons

Saturday, March 14 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

Hemlock Crossing, 8115 W Olive Rd, West Olive, MI 49460, USA

Presenter: Frank Roldan

Who came up with the names we use for the largest moons of Jupiter? It may not be who you think!

Finding Things in the Sky

Monday, March 23 · 6:00 – 7:00pm

Muskegon Area District Library Norton Shores Branch,
705 Seminole Rd, Norton Shores, MI 49441, USA

Barry Schoenfelner will show how to use star charts and other devices for finding celestial objects.

March 2026 Dates and Times

SUN Mar 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
	Lunar Eclipse will occur early morning on the 3rd in MI (see pg 3)				● 7pm Public C	● 11am Womer
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				● 7pm Club M	● 7pm Public C	● 7pm Who na ● 8pm Public C
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
					● 7pm Public C	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	● 6pm Finding				● 7pm Public C	
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
					● 8pm Public C	● 11am Spring

For More Information on any event, please go to www.holland-saaa.org

March '26 Muskegon Club

Our next scheduled event is Tuesday, March 3, 2026 5:00 A.M. Open House @ M.A.S. Observatory. (if cloudy, the open house is canceled)

Astronomy Riddle

What Star am I?
I “dog” the brightest star in the night sky
this gets you close or we’re in trouble.
I’m part of a “southern triangle”
above the southern horizon I sparkle.
At least I outshine my immediate neighbors
in addition I’m a double.

Answer: Adhara (Epsilon Canis Majoris)

Question for Members

Dear members, As we grow, and learn together...

What would you like to see in our newsletter?

Would you be willing to submit something monthly,
or every other month?

Do you take astrological photographs?
Might you submit to include on Facebook,
and in our newsletter?

We are always looking for ideas and suggestions. Please contact our editor
Barb Brown at barbwbrown@hotmail.com
she’d love to hear from you!

March 3rd Lunar Eclipse

Full moon occurs March 3 5:38 am CST. That’s 35 minutes after totality begins.

Penumbral eclipse begins 2:43 am on March 3.

Partial eclipse begins 3:49 am CST on March 3.

Totality begins (moon engulfed in Earth’s shadow) begins 5:03 am CST on March 3.

Maximum eclipse is 5:33 am CST on March 3.

Totality ends 6:02 am CST March 3.

Partial eclipse ends 7:17 am CST March 3.

Penumbral eclipse ends 8:23 am CST March 3.

Duration of totality is about 59 minutes.

Lunar eclipses are safe to view with the unaided eye. Binoculars and telescopes – and a dark sky – enhance the view, but aren’t required.

NIGHT SKY

NETWORK: 2025

Volunteer Pin

Recipients

NSN Pins were given out to our members at our February Club

meeting who volunteered 15 hours* or more. They are given to members:

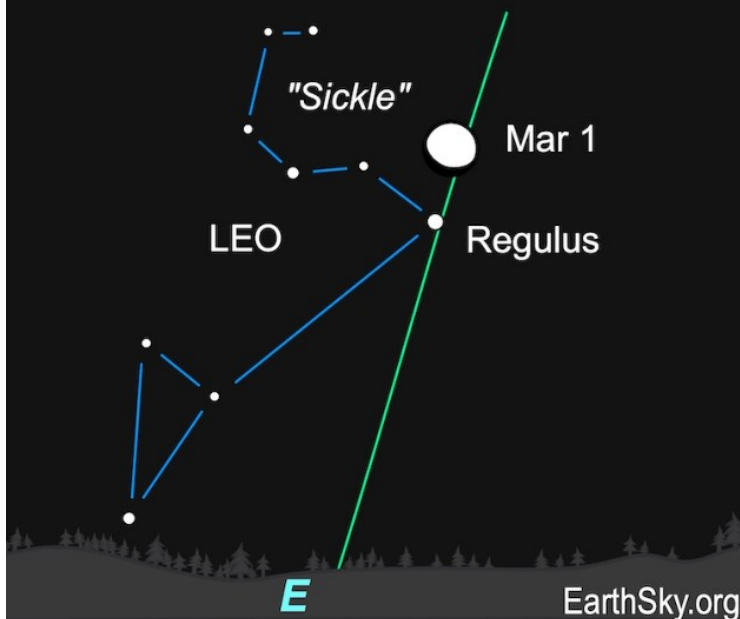
Casey Bartman
Barbara Brown
Peter Burkey
James Dawsey
David Lesh
Michael Long
Travis McGeehan
Armando Mercado

George Miller
James Reier
Harold Reitsema
Karl Rijkse
Frank Roldan
Barry Schoenfelner
Robert Turnbull

*15 hours has been used by the NSN and by our club for some time.

What's in the Sky this Month: March

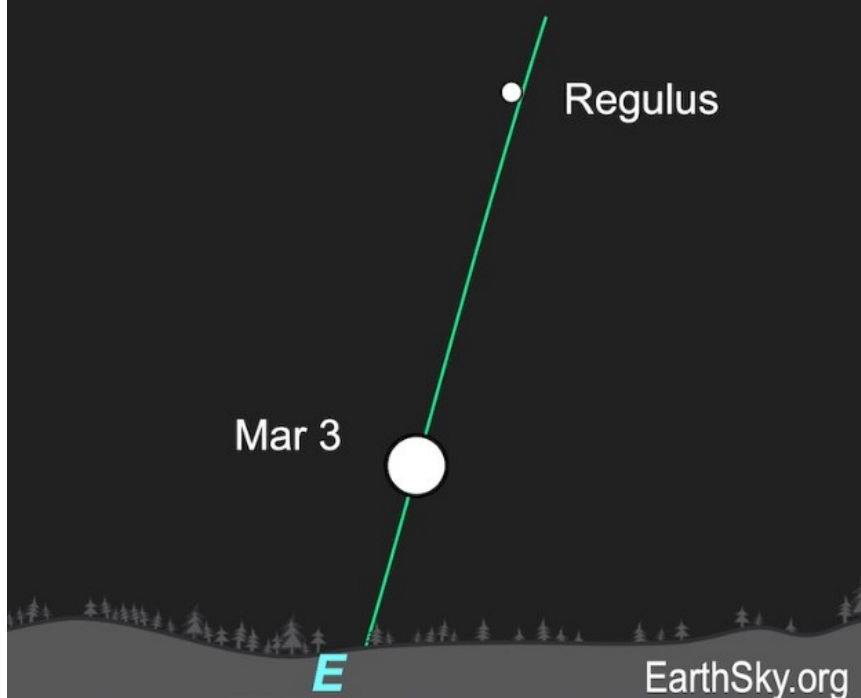
March 2026 Evenings Looking East



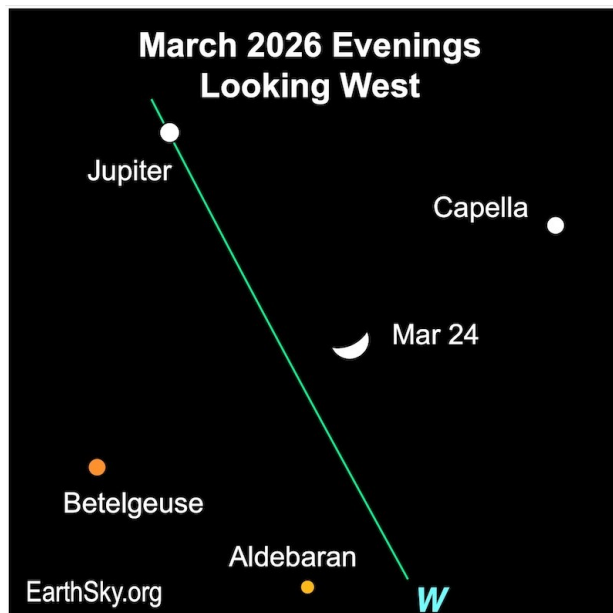
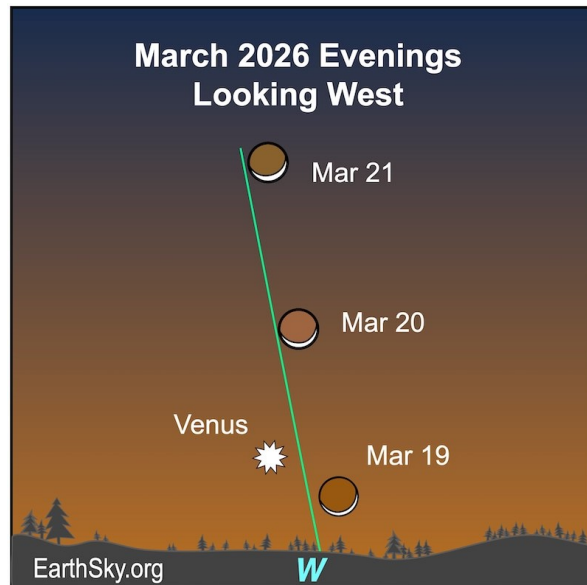
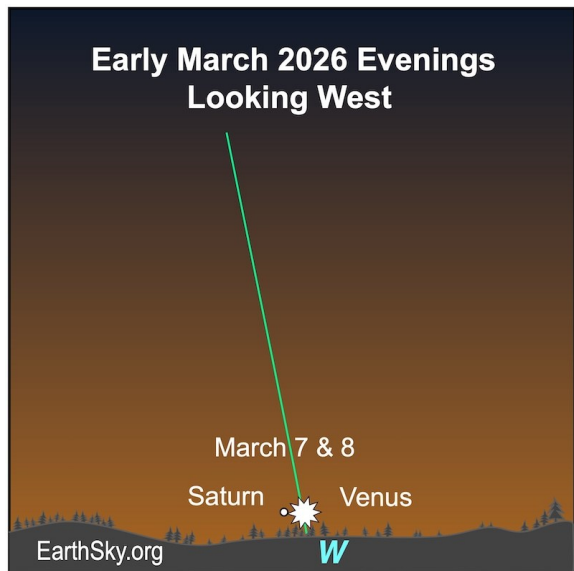
As the waxing gibbous moon rises after sunset on March 1, it will be quite close to Regulus, the brightest star in Leo the Lion. Regulus marks the bright dot at the bottom of the backward question mark that forms Leo's Sickle. It represents the lion's head and shoulders. They'll be visible through dawn the next morning.

On the early evening of March 3, the recently eclipsed moon – just 14 hours after reaching its fullest phase – will lie between the bright star Regulus and the horizon. They'll be visible through sunrise the next morning.

March 2026 Evenings Looking East



What's in the Sky this Month, continued...



This Month in Astronomy History

This month in history: March

March 2: Pioneer 10 launched - 1972

March 6: Kepler Observatory launched - 2009

March 14: Albert Einstein born - 1879; Gene Cernan born - 1934

March 18: Soviet rocket explosion at launch pad kills 50 workers - 1980

March 22: Comet Hale-Bopp passes closest to Earth - 1997

March 31: Mariner 10 makes first flyby of Mercury - 1974



Kids Corner

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/> A place where kids and grown-ups have fun with technology.

NASA Climate Kids: It's all about climate.

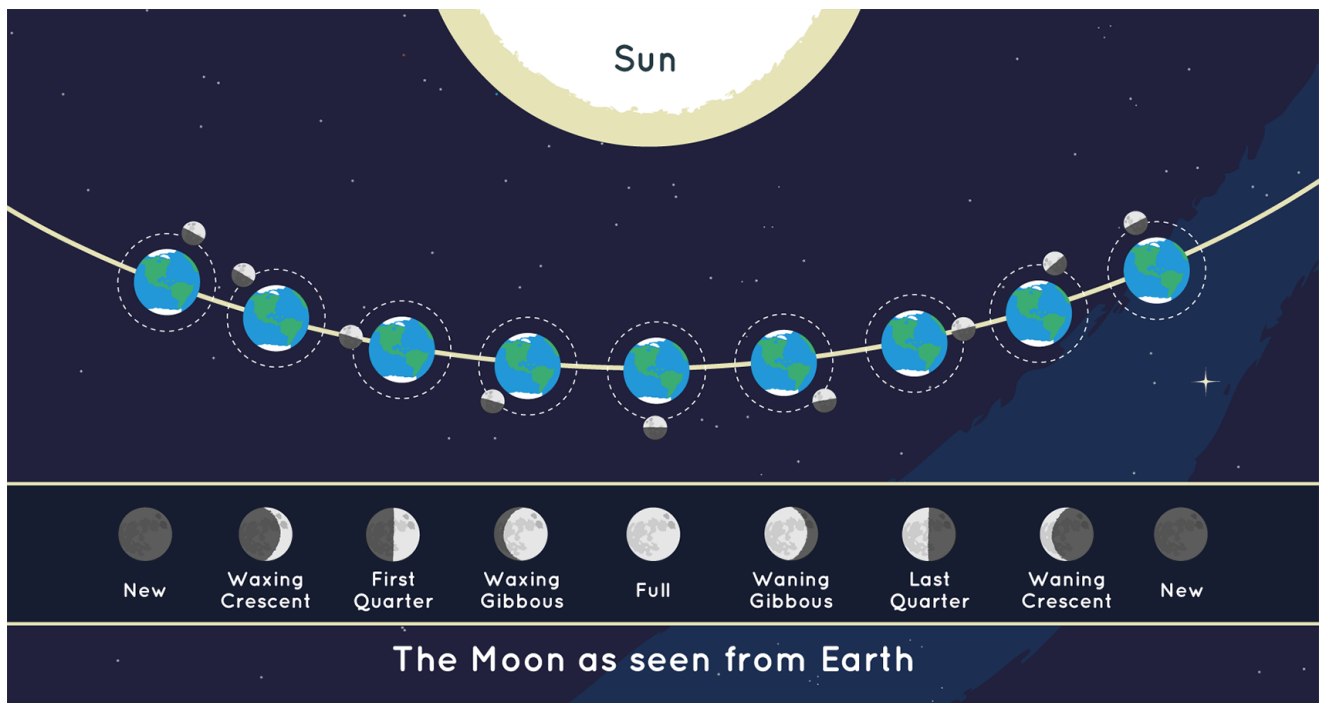
<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>



SciJinks: It's all about weather! <https://scijinks.gov/>

Kid's Corner Extra!

Why Does Our Moon Look Different (from spaceplace.nasa.gov)



Short answer: We have a slightly different view of the Moon each night. We describe how our Moon looks with the eight (8) Moon phases, or shapes:

Why does this happen? The shape of the Moon isn't changing throughout the month. However, our view of the Moon does change.

The Moon does not produce its own light. There is only one source of light in our solar system, and that is the Sun. Without the Sun, our Moon would be completely dark. What you may have heard referred to as "moonlight" is actually just sunlight reflecting off of the Moon's surface.

The Sun's light comes from one direction, and it always illuminates, or lights up, one half of the Moon – the side of the Moon that is facing the Sun. The other side of the Moon is dark.

-  New
-  Waxing Crescent
-  First Quarter
-  Waxing Gibbous
-  Full
-  Waning Gibbous
-  Third Quarter
-  Waning Crescent

Club Members' Photos



(Left) Club Member Casey Bartman shared his photo of Witch Head nebula in Orion NGC1909.

And, shared...

(Below) The transit of Ganymede's shadow over Jupiter a couple weeks ago.





Selling Equipment?

If you want to sell your telescope or other astronomy equipment, we will provide space on this page of our newsletter.

Any member interested in selling their astronomy equipment to other members can do this via the Newsletter. SAAA will not be otherwise involved or responsible for any bidding/selling transactions. The member should list the asking price, provide a picture and a phone number for direct contact. Please send to Barb/Editor (barbwbrown@hotmail.com) seven (7) days before the end of any month in order to be included in the next month's issue.

Keyholder Schedule

Members may contact the designated keyholder to schedule (48 hour notice) a private tour of our Planetarium. Use our membership information to obtain the keyholder's phone or email.

Mar 1-7	Barry Schoenfelner
Mar 8-14	David Lesh
Mar 15-21	Michael Long
Mar 22-28	James Reier
Mar 29– Apr 4	Karl Rijkse



NASA's Photo of the Day!

<https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> features the NASA photo of the day.

Have you missed a copy, or lost one, or just want to browse old issues of Astronomical League's *Reflector*?
Astronomical League's quarterly *Reflector* magazine:

<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>

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*Editor is appointed by the SAAA board. Email: barbwbrown@hotmail.com
Previous Issues of our newsletters are found on our website at: Holland-saaa.org*

*Not sure received your copy of *Reflector*, or, looking for a past issue?
Digital copies of the Astronomical League's quarterly *Reflector* magazine can be found at:*

<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>