

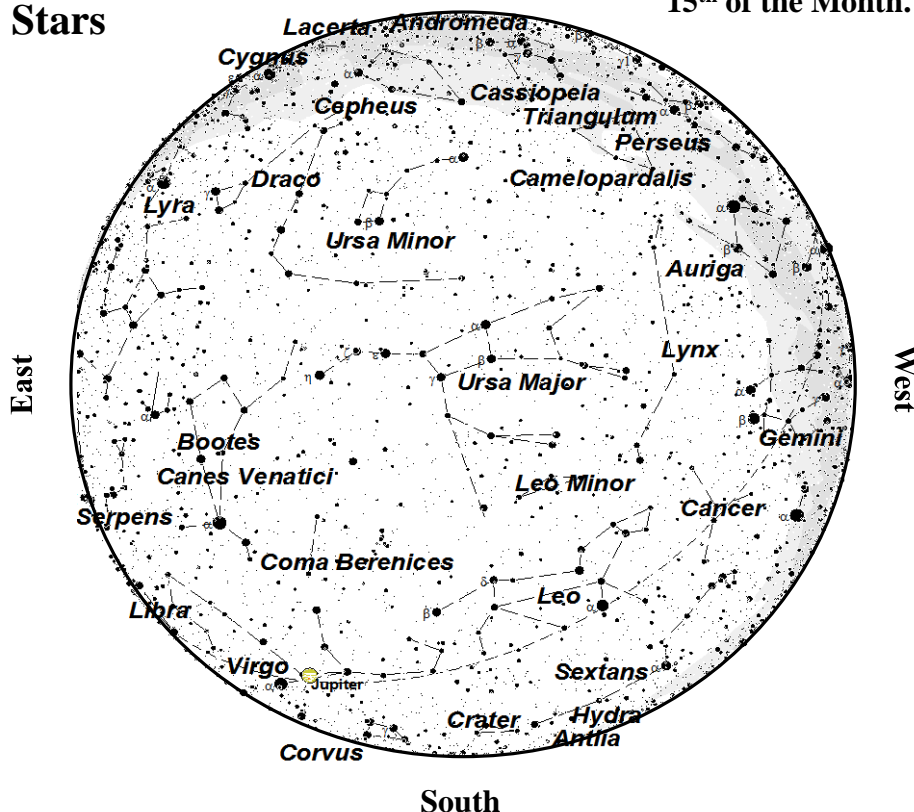
# EAGLES EYE ON THE SKY – APRIL 2017

Dave Eagle's monthly sky guide.

## This Months Stars

North

22:00 hrs  
15<sup>th</sup> of the Month.



Ursa Major lies at the Zenith, The Pointers guiding their way towards Polaris, The Pole Star. High in the south is Leo with it's multitude of galaxies. Below Leo is the sprawling Hydra with the smaller and less distinct constellations of Crater and Sextans riding on its back. Following Leo in the south eastern sky is Virgo with its many galaxies. Be careful getting lost in this area. In the western sky, the bright winter constellations are bidding goodbye for another season, so these are now virtually gone until the autumn. In the eastern sky, Hercules and Lyra are starting to rise. Lighter evenings are now starting to draw in and with the clocks going forward our observing will now require late nights to see things at their best.

## THE MOON

First Qtr. – 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Full – 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Last Qtr. – 19<sup>th</sup>.  
New – 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Crescent Moon visible:

22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> – Eastern morning sky.  
27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Western evening sky.

### The Moon will be close to:

Praesepe open cluster (M44) on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Regulus on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>  
Jupiter on the 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Spica on the 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Antares on the 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Saturn on the 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Venus on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## THE SOLAR SYSTEM

**MERCURY** – Is at greatest eastern elongation of 19° on the 1<sup>st</sup>, but it will be difficult to spot low in the eastern morning sky before sunrise

**VENUS** – Moves into the morning eastern sky as a thin crescent. Is at greatest brightness on the 26<sup>th</sup>, but will be extremely low down in the early morning twilight, rising a short time before sunrise.

**JUPITER** – At opposition on the 7<sup>th</sup>, when it will be at its biggest and brightest, with the gibbous Moon close by. Magnitude -1.9 in Virgo, not far north west of Spica. Watch for the constant jostling of the four Galilean Moons, Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto and great red spot transits.

**SATURN** – Now moving towards Sagittarius it is still low to the eastern horizon just before dawn. It will stay low in the sky for the next few years. With the rings almost at their widest, they still make for a beautiful sight through even a small telescope.

**URANUS & NEPTUNE** – Both too close to the Sun to be seen.

**Virginids** – This meteor show is active between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of the month, maximum of 5 per hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Lyrids** – This meteor shower is active between the 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, maximum of 10 per hour on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Comet 41P/Tuttle–Giacobini–Kresák** – This bright periodic comet moves out of Ursa Major and into Draco this month. Reaches perihelion on the 14<sup>th</sup> when it will be halfway between the bend in the body and the Lozenge in the head of Draco.

**Comet C/2015 V2 (Johnson.)** Moves from the north of Hercules down towards Boötes during the month, brightening as it approaches perihelion in June. Make the most of it before it heads south.

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