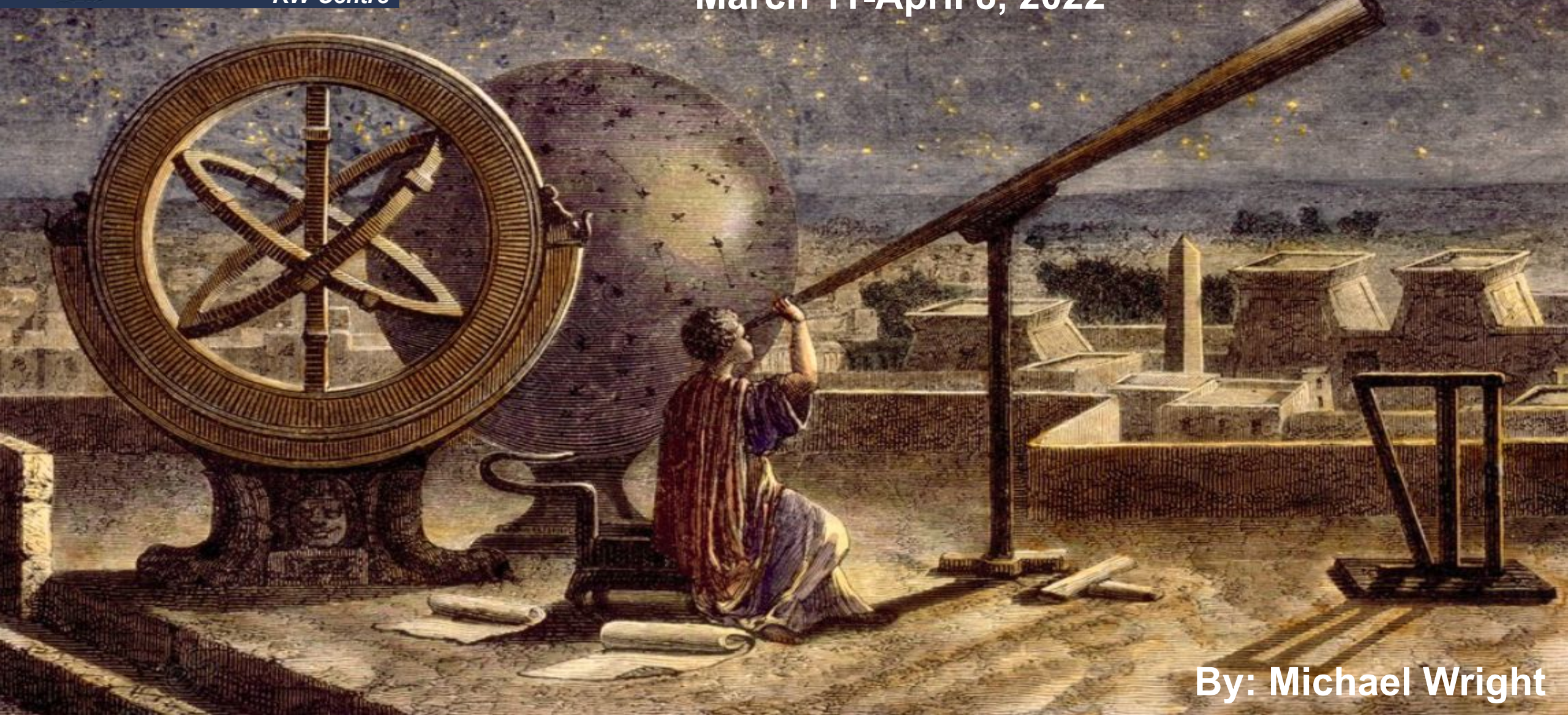




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# What's Up?

March 11-April 8, 2022



By: Michael Wright

# What's Up – Solar System

DATE	SOLAR SYSTEM SKY EVENTS
Mar. 12	Venus passes 4°N of Mars
Mar. 13	Daylight Savings Time Begins - Spring Ahead! (UTC-4 for EDT)
Mar. 18	Full moon in Virgo - The Worm Moon or Sugar Moon
Mar. 20	Spring Equinox at 11:33am EDT
Mar. 20	Zodiacal light. Visible starting this evening and over the next two weeks.
Mar. 20	Venus at greatest elongation W (48°) and Mercury 1.3° S of Jupiter
Mar. 25	Moon at Last Quarter in Sagittarius
Mar. 28	Moon, Venus, Mars and Saturn close together in the morning sky (Nice View#1)
Apr. 01	New Moon in Pisces
Apr. 03	Uranus 2° S of Moon in Evening Sky (daytime near occultation at 1pm EDT)
Apr. 05	Mars and Saturn in same telescopic field in morning sky (Nice View #2)

## Morning Sky

## Most of the Night

## Evening Sky

Mercury – PSC Saturn - CAP  
 Venus - CAP Neptune - AQR  
 Mars – CAP Vesta – CAP  
 Jupiter – AQR Juno - AQR

Ceres - TAU  
 Uranus – ARI  
 Pallas - CET

Planet  
anner

Grey = Close to Sun

# *What's Up – Lunar Librations*



Southern Libration - March 16



Northern Libration - March 29

\*\*Moonrise at 6:23, Sunrise at 7:08



# See the light!

## Zodiacal, that is...

Several club members observed this challenging sight in 2021

**Best dates:** March 20 to April 3 2022  
When moon will not interfere

**Best time:** Astronomical dusk (~8:30 PM)

**Best place:** Far from city lights. The closer to Lake Huron, the better

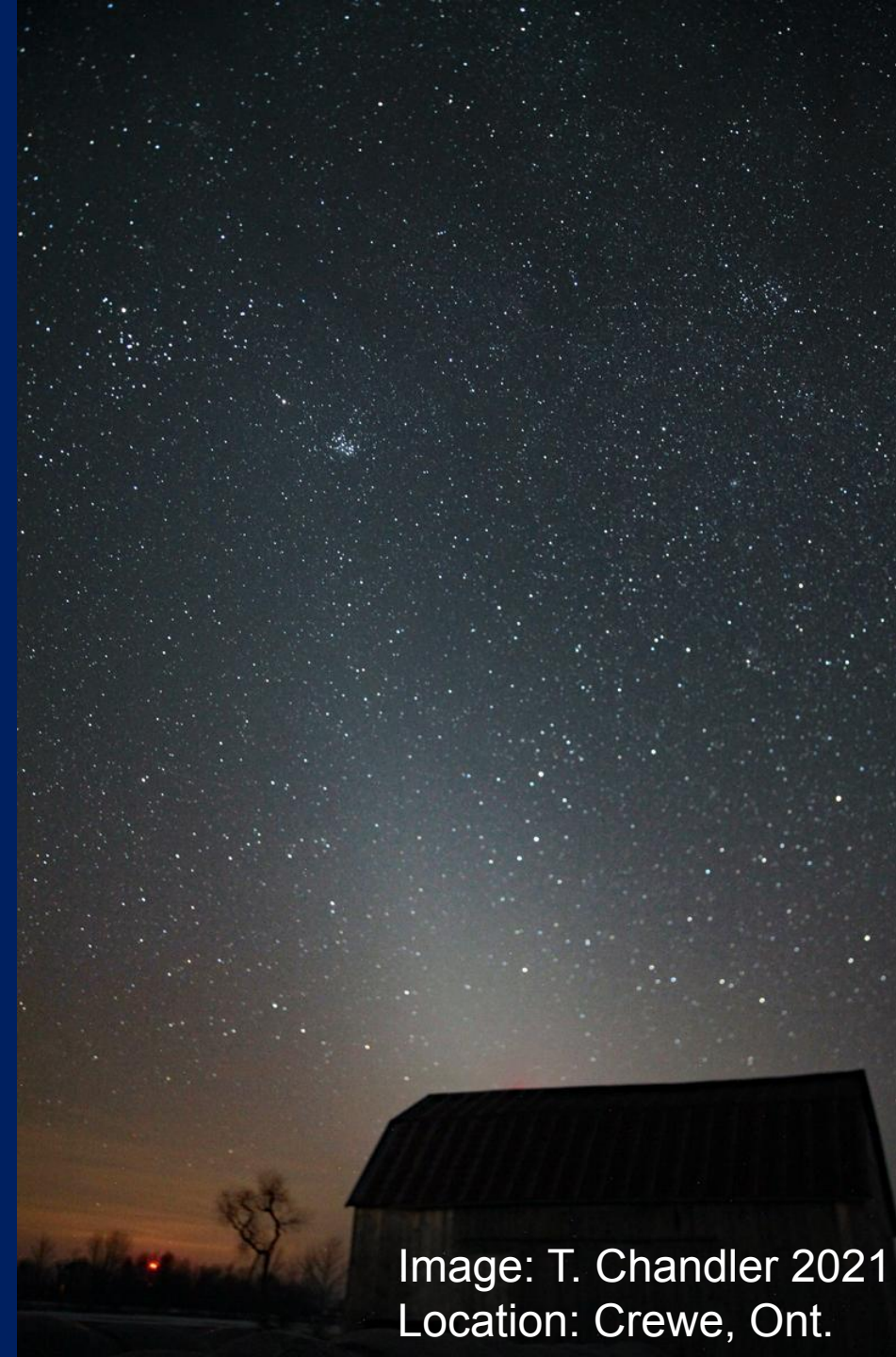


Image: T. Chandler 2021  
Location: Crewe, Ont.



# See the light!

Zodiacal, that is...

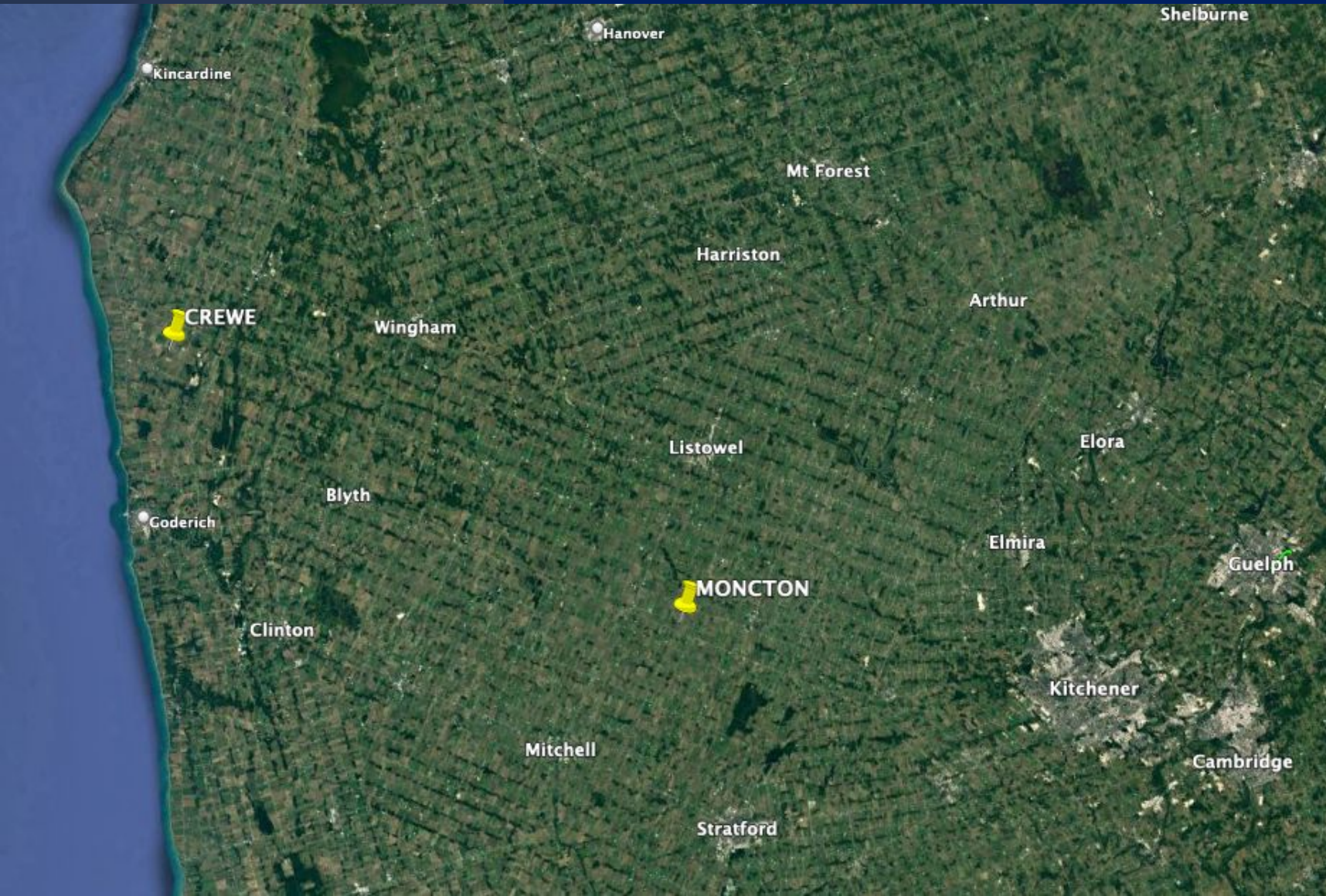
## A COUPLE OF PLACES...

### Monkton:

- Road is seasonal
- May be blocked by snow
- 1 hour from KW

### Crewe:

- Road is ploughed
- Beware of snow squalls
- Many wind turbines (w lights)
- 2 hrs from KW



If skies are clear and moonless, stay tuned for an excursion.



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# Nice Sight No. 1

Mon. Mar. 28

6:30 AM

View to SE

Sunrise: 7:11 AM



*Graphic created with Stellarium*

## Nice Sight No. 2

**Tue. Apr. 5**

**6:00 AM**

**View to SE**

**Sunrise: 6:57 AM**



*Graphic created with Stellarium*

# March Evening Sky Highlights - The Winter Milky Way



SE

S

SW

9pm EDT March 20 2022 Facing South



# Winter Milky Way Open Clusters

Catalogue #	Type	Cons	Details	Difficulty
M35	ocl	Gem	Shoebuckle Cluster - fabulous cluster in all scopes	easy
M41	ocl	CMa	Little Beehive Cluster - bright but coarse	easy
M46	ocl	Pup	Look for planetary nebula NGC 2438 in the cluster	easy
M47	ocl	Pup	Coarse, bright cluster 1.5° W of M46	easy
M48	ocl	Hya	Former 'missing' Messier object; large and sparse open cluster	moderate
M50	ocl	Mon	Heart-Shaped Cluster - use low power	moderate
M93	ocl	Pup	Compact, bright, rich cluster of 80 stars, arrowhead-shaped core	easy
C54/NGC2506	ocl	Mon	Very old cluster, unimpressive in binocs but rich telescopically	moderate
C58/NGC2360	ocl	CMa	Caroline's Cluster - large, very rich, 14' in diameter	easy
C64/NGC2362	ocl	CMa	Tau Canis Majoris Cluster - pretty large, rich	easy
C71/NGC2477	ocl	Pup	Electric Guitar Cluster - superb, bright, rich, 20' but low in sky	difficult
NGC2169	ocl	Ori	The '37' Cluster - stars form the number 37!	moderate
NGC2237-44*	ocl+en	Mon	Satellite Cluster - bright cluster at heart of Rosette Nebula	easy
NGC2264	ocl	Mon	Christmas Tree Cluster - stars outline Christmas Tree shape	easy
NGC2281	ocl	Aur	Broken Heart Cluster - 50 or more stars, best at moderate power	moderate
NGC2301	ocl	Mon	Hagrid's Dragon Cluster - 15' irregular cluster	moderate
NGC2539*	ocl	Pup	The Dish Cluster - 50 stars rich, some see a 'satellite dish' shape	moderate

\* = On RASC Finest NGC List



# What's Up? Resources

**RASC Observer's Handbook - The Sky By Month**

**NASA SVS Moon Viewer: <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/4955>**

**Stellarium: <https://www.stellarium.org>**

**The Sky Live: <https://theskylive.com/>**

**Time and Date: <https://www.timeanddate.com/>**

*Thank you!*