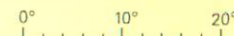


# SKY CALENDAR JUNE 2018

An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.



**Evening Planets: Venus and Jupiter** span 119° on June 1. By June 30, the two brightest planets span 84°. Look N of west for Venus. Venus sets two and a half hours after sunset at mid-month. Watch Venus pass the Beehive star cluster on June 19. Watch as Jupiter moves retrograde past the star ZubeneIgenubi (Alpha in Libra) on June 3. Mercury makes an evening apparition in the last two weeks of June and first three weeks of July.

**Morning Planets: Saturn** reaches opposition June 27. Mars continues to brighten as we move closer to the red planet. At the start of June, Mars is -1.2 mag. By the end of the month, Mars shines at -2.2 mag. Its distance from Earth at the end of June is 41.9 million miles.

**Asteroid 4 Vesta**, discovered in 1807, has a very favorable opposition in June 2018, easy for binoculars, and within reach of unaided eye in very dark clear skies. A Vesta finder chart for May-June-July 2018 at [www.nakedeyeplanets.com/vesta-2018.htm](http://www.nakedeyeplanets.com/vesta-2018.htm) includes all but one of the eight stars of the Teapot asterism in Sagittarius. On the night of June 4, find 2.8-mag. Lambda Sagittarii, top of the Teapot, and 3.8-mag. Mu, just over 5° to Lambda's NNW. A line from Lambda to Mu, extended half its length past Mu, will locate Vesta, then of mag. 5.6. Vesta is retrograding, shifting toward the west-southwest by about one-quarter of a degree daily for the rest of June. For a few nights around opposition on June 19, Vesta glows at mag. 5.3, about as bright as it ever gets! By June 28, Vesta, faded slightly to mag. 5.5, passes within 1.3° north of 4.9-mag. 58 Ophiuchi. On different nights, take photos of the Teapot with stars above it and to its upper right to easily record the changing position of this bright asteroid.

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# June Evening Skies

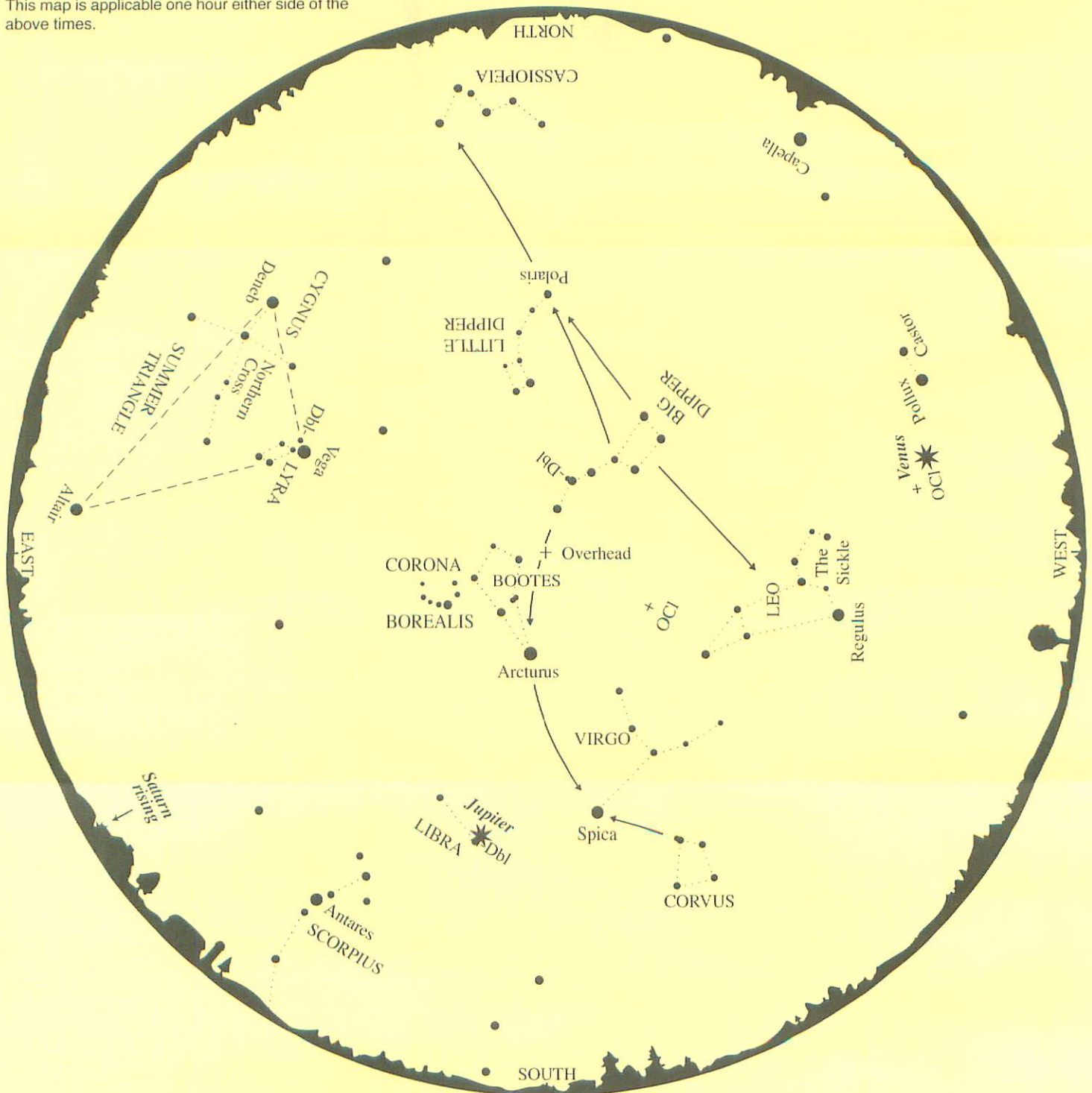
This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local daylight times:

Late May	11 p.m.
Early June	10 p.m.
Late June	9 p.m.

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

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The planets Venus, Jupiter, and Saturn are plotted for mid-June 2018. Twelve objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Venus, Jupiter, Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Saturn, Altair, Antares, Spica, Pollux, Deneb, 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 double

in Libra (near Jupiter) is more challenging. Much more difficult is the double star near Vega in Lyra. The open or galactic star cluster (OC) known as the "Beehive," can be located between the Gemini twins (Pollux, Castor) and Leo. Coma Berenices, "The hair of Berenice," is another open cluster (OC), between Leo and Bootes. Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch