

New Braunfels Astronomy Club

Texas, USA

March 16th 2017

215th Meeting

Larry's

Celestial Calendar & Newsletter

March 17th to April 20th, 2017

237th Edition

Spring!
March 20th, 5:29 am CDT
Jupiter at Opposition
April 7th

Observer's Highlight Calendar for Clear Skies

Month Date Time Event

Month	Date	Time	Event
Mar	20	10:58 am CDT	Last Quarter Moon
Mar	22 & 23	Sunset, then Sunrise TRY THIS	Catch Venus, the "evening" star on the 22 nd , then as the "morning" star on the 23 rd .
Mar	25	Before Sunrise	Venus is at inferior conjunction, showing its thinnest crescent
Mar	27	9:57 pm CDT	New Moon
Apr	3	1:39 pm CDT	First Quarter Moon
Apr	7	5 pm CDT, all night	Jupiter is at opposition, for its best show of 2017
Apr	10	All night	A nearly Full Moon gets close to Jupiter, 2-5° apart
Apr	11	1:08 am CDT	Full Moon
Apr	19	4:57 am CDT	Last Quarter Moon

Solar System Roundup

Comet 41P/Tuttle-Giacobini-Kresak

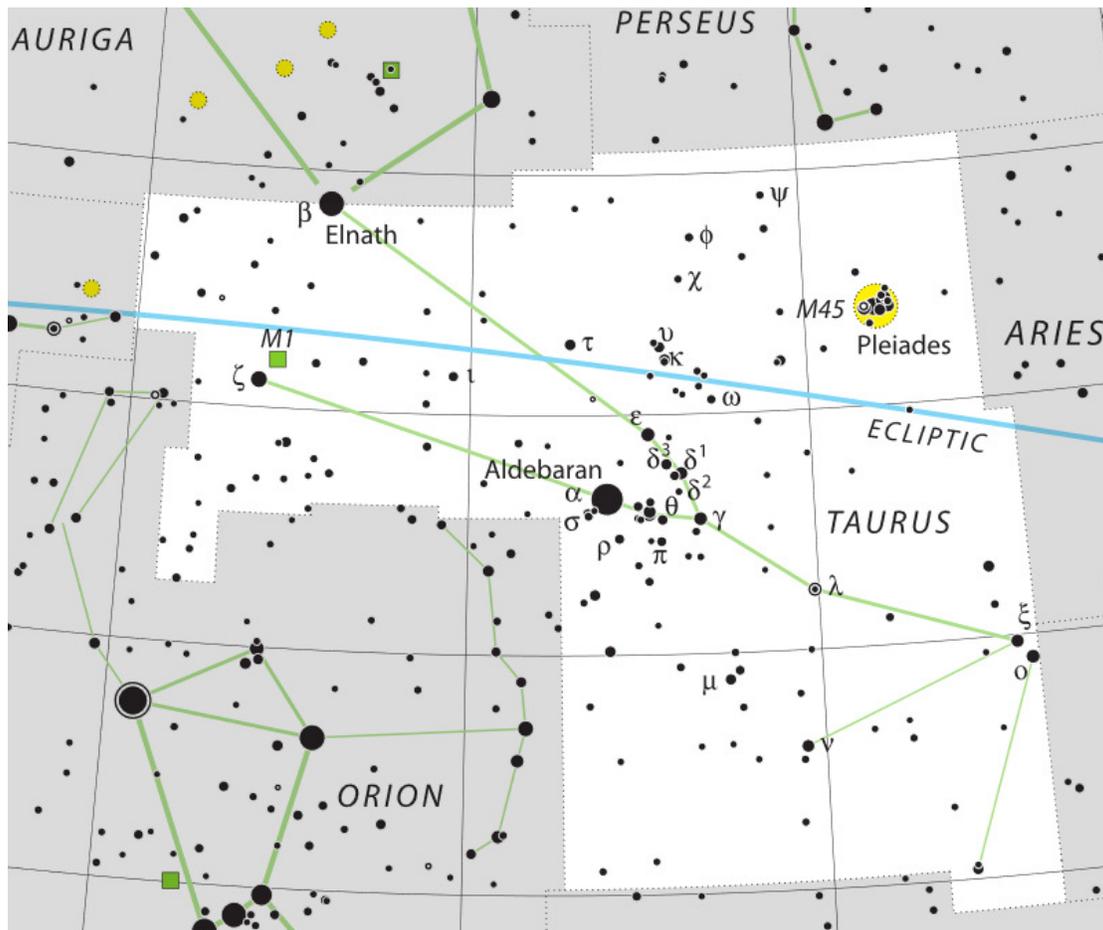
Travelling in Ursa Major, 41P is getting brighter – might become naked eye visible. On March 25-26th, it will be between α and β Ursae Majoris, just outside the Big Dipper's bowl. Get a glimpse with binoculars or telescope. On March 27th 41P gets within 1° of α Ursae Majoris. In early April, it is heading east in Draco and better viewed in the pre-dawn hours, but by the second week the Moon interferes.

- ✚ **Mercury** is low in the western early evening sky for the rest of March. Look for it to team up with a crescent waxing Moon, Mars, and the Pleiades on the 29-30th.
- ✚ **Venus** is brilliant and swells to 59" while only 2% lit. It is still an evening planet in March but switches to morning as April begins. It is at inferior conjunction on March 25th, showing its skinniest crescent shape.
- ✚ **Earth** still spins, and we are still here to marvel at the wonders of our universe.
- ✚ **The Moon** is at perigee (closest) on March 30th, then apogee (farthest) on April 15th.
- ✚ **Mars** continues to edge toward the western horizon, getting a bit dimmer.
- ✚ **Jupiter** is becoming an all-night planet, and reaches opposition on April 7th, at its best for 2017. It will grow to 44".
- ✚ **Saturn** rises well after midnight in March, then by midnight toward mid-April
- ✚ **Uranus** is in the low west as March ends and a poor target in April
- ✚ **Neptune** is in the Sun's glare and not visible
- ✚ **Pluto** is lost in the Sun's glare

My Observing Pick: Taurus

Get bullish on Taurus (♉) before it slips into the Sun's glare. Taurus is a very old constellation, and has been traced back to at least the Chalcolithic, or copper age. It is also depicted as a bull in many subsequent cultures.

Let's check out the bull's offerings.



Name Object Type Location Description

M45 – The Pleiades	Open Cluster	About 10° northwest of the bull's snout	One of my favs. When the sky is dark they become diamondlike on a black background
The Hyades	Open Cluster	This is the bull's snout	Aldebaran (α Tauri) anchors this large group of stars forming the V shaped snout
M1 – The Crab Nebula	Planetary Nebula	About 1° northwest of zeta (ζ) Tauri	Best seen in larger Instruments but at mag. 8 it is within reach, but dim in a 4" refractor

Coming up: **OUR 216th** ASTRONOMY CLUB MEETING

Thursday, **April 20th**, 2016 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., held in the conference room of TJ's restaurant on the Loop Road (337). Have dinner and/or a beverage if you like. The New Braunfels Astronomy Club can be reached at www.astronomynbtx.org

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