



# Event Horizon

Volume 33, Number 7  
May 2026



## From The Editor

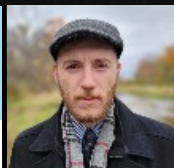
Welcome to May, everybody!

Just as a heads-up, this month's and next month's (June's) editions of the E.H. will be my last. September's edition will be left to my successor. If interested in taking on this role, you can contact Kevin, or myself at the email below.

Happy Reading, and Clear Skies!

*Bob Christmas,*

*Editor*  
*editor 'AT' amateurastronomy.org*



## Chair's Report by Kevin Salwach

As promised last month, I have a lot more for you in May. Getting right into it - June is our Annual General Meeting, and being the first since incorporation, several Council positions are up for nominations. A huge thanks to our outgoing council members Marcus Freeman and Ed Smith who helped the club through these first few months after incorporation - there was definitely a lot of business, and a few long, long, loooong meetings, but now that it is all said and done, business has been running smoothly and efficiently, just as it should be! The following positions are open for any club member over the age of 18 in good standing:

- Treasurer
- Membership Director
- Communications Team Director
- Member Services Director

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Announcements, including the HAA Dark Sky Star Party
- HAA Explorers 2.0 --- Artemis II: What it is and Why it's Important

- The Sky This Month for May 2026
- Eye Candy
- Upcoming McCallion Planetarium Shows
- Upcoming Events
- Contact Information

## Chair's Report (continued)

As part of the new club by-laws, at the first council meeting after incorporation, Council voted on which positions would have an initial one-year and two-year term. This was done to ensure that there will always be continuity on Council, as 5 of the 9 positions will be voted on one year, and 4 of the 9 the next. This means that Chair, Second Chair, Secretary and Observing Team Director will be up for voting next year, while the four above positions, as well as Education team Director (Jo Ann Salci has volunteered to stand again this year) are up for voting this year. Each council position has a two-year term and affords a great opportunity for club members to get involved with the decision making and decisions of the HAA. As a not-for-profit, we rely on volunteers to keep the club running, to expand, grow, and to help all members enjoy all the great experiences, benefits and fun nights that come with being a part of the club. I ask anyone who is interested in seeing the HAA continue its mission to please contact me at [chair@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:chair@amateurastronomy.org) to put their name down for one of these positions. If you have any questions regarding what each position entails, our new bylaws are available on the club site, and you can also email me at the above email and I will be happy to expand on the roles and responsibilities of each Council position.

One other very important position is also open come June - Bob Christmas is stepping down as long-time editor of the Event Horizon after many years curating and editing our wonderful monthly newsletter. Bob's efforts are greatly appreciated by the club, and on behalf of all members I would like to thank him for helping keep the EH such an enjoyable and insightful monthly read. The EH Editor is a non-council, non-voting position, and if you are interesting in helping out and putting your own spin on the club newsletter, please reach out to me or Bob at [editor@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:editor@amateurastronomy.org) to volunteer.

Events wise, in the past month we had our Member's Silent Auction at the April meeting. Members raised almost \$2,000 for the club and made off with some great new (to them) equipment which the club was no longer in need of. Ryan Zhu gave an excellent talk on affordable astrophotography options, and members in attendance got to watch the Artemis splashdown live on the big screen together. Thank you to everyone who made it out and made it such a great night! International Astronomy Day on April 25th was sadly clouded out, but Education Director Jo Ann Salci and Dee Rowan went to an outreach session at Westdale Library, where next to their informative and colorful display table they spoke to over 75 members of the public who were coming and going into the library, and fielded a slew of questions from curious and inquisitive members of the public. Thanks, guys, for the great work as always! If you are interested in helping with one of our many public outreach events, contact Jo Ann at [education@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:education@amateurastronomy.org) and see what she has going on for the club - she is always happy to have some helping hands!

Our speaker this month is Loaner Scope Director Jeff Parsons, who will be presenting to us about his recent trip with his brother to the Atacama Desert in Chile, and their experiences visiting the Very Large Telescope and the ALMA Array. In June, after the AGM portion of our meeting, Dr. Phil McCausland from Western University will be giving a presentation to us on his area of expertise - meteorites. Saturday May 23rd is a public observing night (see The Sky This Month for more info), and I'm sure there will be more than a few Binbrook nights as well coming up.

Registration for our Dark Sky Star Party at Andromeda Meadow in Warton is now open. Open for all club members and family, the Star Party runs from September 11-13th and is always a fantastic weekend of friendship and stargazing under nice dark skies. Registration is available through the "Dark Sky Star Party 2026" section on our website.

*(Continued on [page 3](#))*

**Masthead Photo:** *The Hercules Globular Cluster (M13), by Chris Szaban.*

Taken from Milton ON through his MEADE 2120 scope with his ASI2600MC Pro camera.  
Exposures: 15 x 300 seconds; 1 hour, 15 minutes total integration time.

## Chair's Report (continued)

Finally, club apparel will be available shortly. Council will be discussing purchasing options at our next council meeting, and hopefully by the middle of the month it will be available for membership to purchase. Keep an eye out in your emails for more information in the new couple weeks.

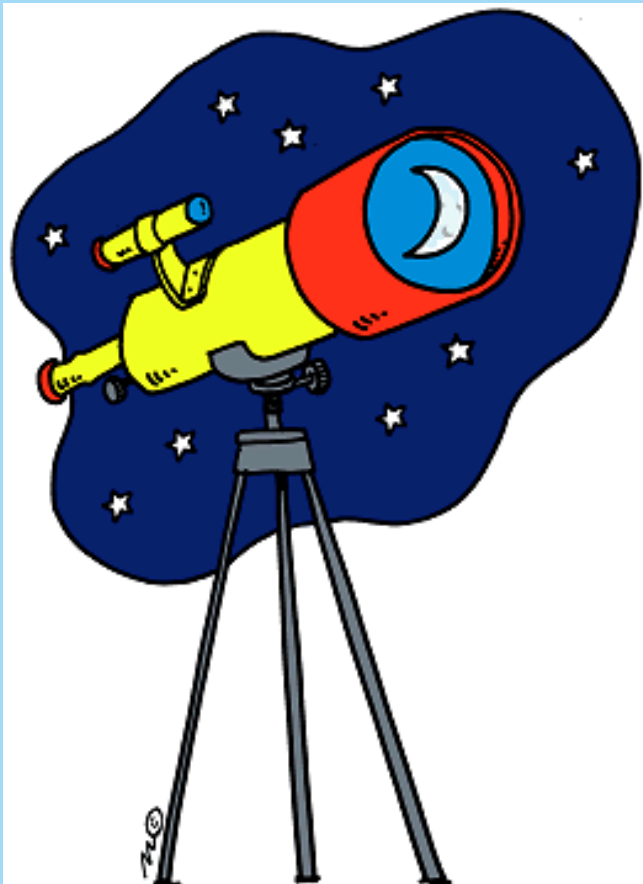
That's all for this month, I hope to see you all on the 8th, and hopefully under the stars at Binbrook as well! Until then, clear skies and happy observing.

Kevin Salwach

## 2026 Event Dates

Friday May 8, 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Jeff Parsons	St. Matthew on-the-Plains Anglican Church, 126 Plains Rd, Burlington
Saturday May 23, 2026	Public Observing Night	Bayfront Park, Hamilton, 8:30-10:30PM
Friday Jun. 12 2026	Monthly Meeting Speaker: Dr. Phil McCausland Western University	St. Matthew on-the-Plains Anglican Church, 126 Plains Rd, Burlington

## HAA's Loaner Scope Program



The HAA Loaner Scope Program is back!

It allows members who don't own a telescope to get more up close with the night sky, and it allows members to explore different types of telescopes! Paid members are welcome to borrow a telescope for one month.

We have telescopes of varying expertise levels, as well as various accessories, including various eyepieces.

Please visit the HAA website for more information:  
<https://amateurastronomy.org/telescope-loaner-program/>

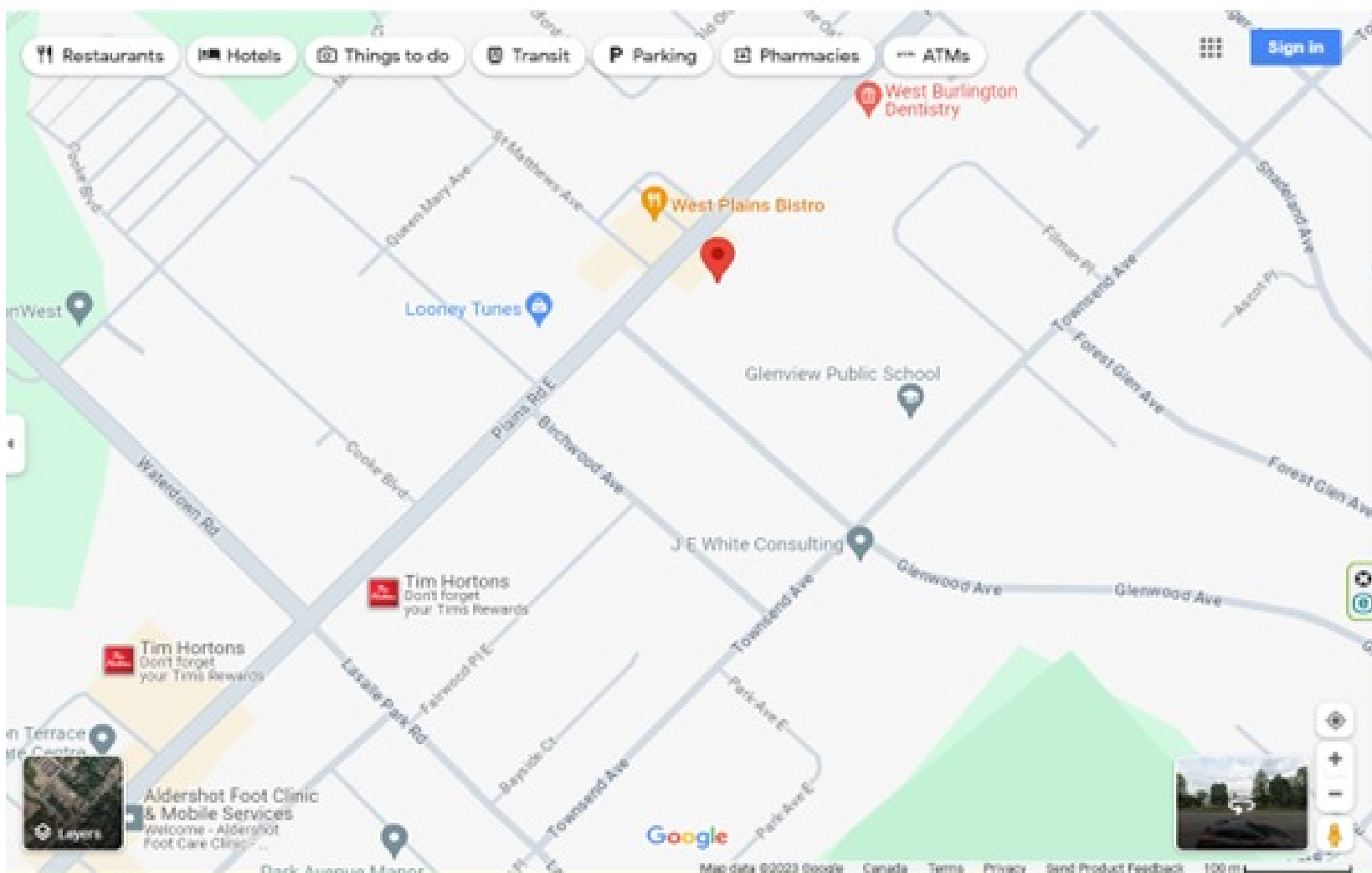
If you are interested in borrowing a scope, please contact Jeff Parsons at

[loanerscope@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:loanerscope@amateurastronomy.org).

Telescopes are loaned out on a first come basis.

## Meeting Location

Our upcoming meeting is scheduled for *May 8th, 2026*, at St. Matthew on-the-Plains Anglican Church. St. Matthew's is located at 126 Plains Road East, Burlington, Ontario. Doors open at 7:00 and the meeting begins at 7:30.



*St Matthew on-the-Plains Anglican Church (indicated with red locator)  
Image generated using Google Maps*

## HAA Helps Hamilton

The H.A.A. is accepting and collecting donations from our members and guests for local food banks at our general meetings. The H.A.A. has always valued its relationships with food banks in the community, particularly [Hamilton Food Share](#).

If you can't make an in-person meeting, you can make a donation directly to your local food bank.





# HAA Dark Sky Star Party

## Fifth Anniversary

September 11 - September 13, 2026  
Andromeda Meadow  
Warton, Ontario

*Come and celebrate our fifth anniversary of star gazing on the Bruce Peninsula.*

Cost: \$25 per person, \$50 Family  
\$37.50 1 Parent/Guardian & 1 child under 18

### Weekend Events

- Visual observing and astrophotography opportunities
- E.S. Fox Observatory visit
- Dinner onsite Saturday (optional extra cost)
- There are no lectures

More information will be available on the HAA website.

Ground camping and trailer sites onsite  
Motels, Cottages rentals etc. nearby

### ONSITE AMMENITIES

- Portable Washrooms
- Gas generator for charging astronomy equipment only
- Gathering tent

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Sue at  
[starparty@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:starparty@amateurastronomy.org)  
Matt at  
[mattmannastro@outlook.com](mailto:mattmannastro@outlook.com)



This is a remote site with no:  
water,  
electricity,  
flush toilets,  
showers,  
electical or water  
hookup for trailers.

**REGISTRATION OPENS Friday April 17, 2026**



## HAA Explorers 2.0 --- Artemis II: What it is and Why it's Important by Fiza Mehfil

I'm sure many of you have heard about Artemis II recently – it's probably been all over your social media and news feeds as everyone is buzzing with excitement about it. But what really is Artemis II, what is its importance, and why should you care? Let's learn all about it!

Artemis II is a 10-day, crewed flyby mission that launched on April 1st, 2026 and returned to Earth on April 10th, 2026. It sent four astronauts on a figure-eight loop around the Moon and back, marking the first human deep-space flight in over 50 years.

### The Backstory

To understand why Artemis II is such a big deal, we have to go back in time. During the Apollo program, astronauts traveled all the way to the Moon, and some even got to walk on its surface. It was an incredible moment in history, showing what humans can achieve when they work together and think big.

But after 1972, humans stopped going to the Moon. Instead, astronauts stayed closer to Earth, working on things like space stations and satellites. For many years, no one traveled that far into space again.

Now, NASA is leading a new chapter of exploration called the Artemis program. The goal now is to explore it more deeply, stay longer, and learn how humans can live and work in space. Artemis II is one of the first major steps in making that dream happen.

### The Mission

Artemis II is all about testing and preparing for the future. Four astronauts traveled in a spacecraft called the Orion spacecraft, which is specially designed to carry humans safely through deep space. To get there, they used the powerful Space Launch System (SLS), one of the most advanced rockets ever built.

Instead of landing on the Moon, the astronauts flew around it in a large loop before heading back to Earth. This might sound simple, but it's actually very important. The mission tested everything astronauts will need for future trips, like how to navigate in space, how to communicate with Earth from far away, and how to stay safe and healthy during the journey.

### Why You Should Care

You might be thinking, "This is cool, but what does it have to do with me?" The answer is – a lot more than you might expect!

Space missions like Artemis II help scientists discover new things and create new technology. Many inventions we use today, like improved cameras, better materials, and even some medical tools, came from space research. The work being done now could lead to new discoveries that make life better on Earth.

Artemis II is also important because it helps us prepare for even bigger adventures, like building bases on the Moon or sending humans to Mars one day. These missions are about exploring the unknown and answering big questions, like: Can humans live on other planets? What can we learn from space that we can't learn on Earth?

But maybe the most important reason to care is this: space exploration shows us what's possible. The astronauts on Artemis II didn't start out as astronauts. They were students, just like you, who were curious and willing to learn. They studied science, worked hard, and followed their dreams.

*(Continued on [page 7](#))*

## HAA Explorers 2.0 --- Artemis II: What it is and Why it's Important

(continued)

That means one day, you could be part of something like this too. You could design a spacecraft, study planets, or even travel to space yourself. Artemis II is the beginning of a new era of exploration, and there's room for the next generation to be part of it.

As we look up at the Moon, it's exciting to know that humans are finally heading back. And this time, we're going further than ever before.



*The flight path of Artemis II, step by step. Credit: Astronomy Magazine; Roen Kelly*

### HAA Outreach Presentations with Vulnerable Sectors

The HAA executive has created a policy for any HAA member who wishes to do outreach presentations to vulnerable sectors, which includes children under 18 years of age and vulnerable adults. This does not include our general club outreach activities.

Presentations include in-person or virtual sessions where parents/guardians may not be present. **As it is not always possible to anticipate caregiver attendance at outreach activities for children under the age of 18, or vulnerable adults, it is therefore a requirement for HAA member-volunteers who work with these vulnerable populations to complete a Police Vulnerable Sector Check.**

These can be obtained only in your region of residency. Costs vary from one area to another. They will be kept on file by the HAA Education Director. No details regarding the findings of the check will be made in any way public or viewed beyond the HAA Education Director.

The HAA will reimburse any member who wishes to do outreach presentations to vulnerable individuals, provided a receipt is submitted.

Please contact Jo Ann Salci if you have any questions about this policy and/or if you wish to put your name forward to help with outreach activities to young people!



## The Sky This Month for May 2026 by Kevin Salwach

Hey all, happy May! The summer air and warm temperatures are close at hand, and the nicer weather is here to stay. The last month has given us some nice clear skies (at least for me over in Niagara), and plenty of observing opportunities to take advantage of. Sadly, that did not translate to our first attempt of the year for a public observing night on International Astronomy Day on the 25th - we got clouded out all day and all night - but rest assured there are many more sidewalk astronomy nights planned for this summer. This month, we are aiming to be out at Bayfront on Saturday, May 23rd from 8:30-10:30PM. Details will be sent out via email, posted on the website, and to our Facebook page a couple weeks before. There are also several dates set for July and August, which will be in my article in the June EH. As always, keep an eye out as well on your email for park openings from the Binbrook Team!

A reminder that our Loaner Scope Program is open for all members who wish to borrow a telescope from the club for their personal use - you can email Jeff at [loanerscope@amateurastronomy.org](mailto:loanerscope@amateurastronomy.org) for details. As well, we have finally been listed on Astrospheric, and as such all HAA members now have access to the Astronomy Society Pro Version of the app - a few emails have been sent out previously on how to join, and if you missed them and wish to sign up, email Jeff again at the loaner scope email and he'll run you through how to get access to this great resource. The web version is also now on our site under the Astrospheric tab.

Now let's see what's going on in the May sky...

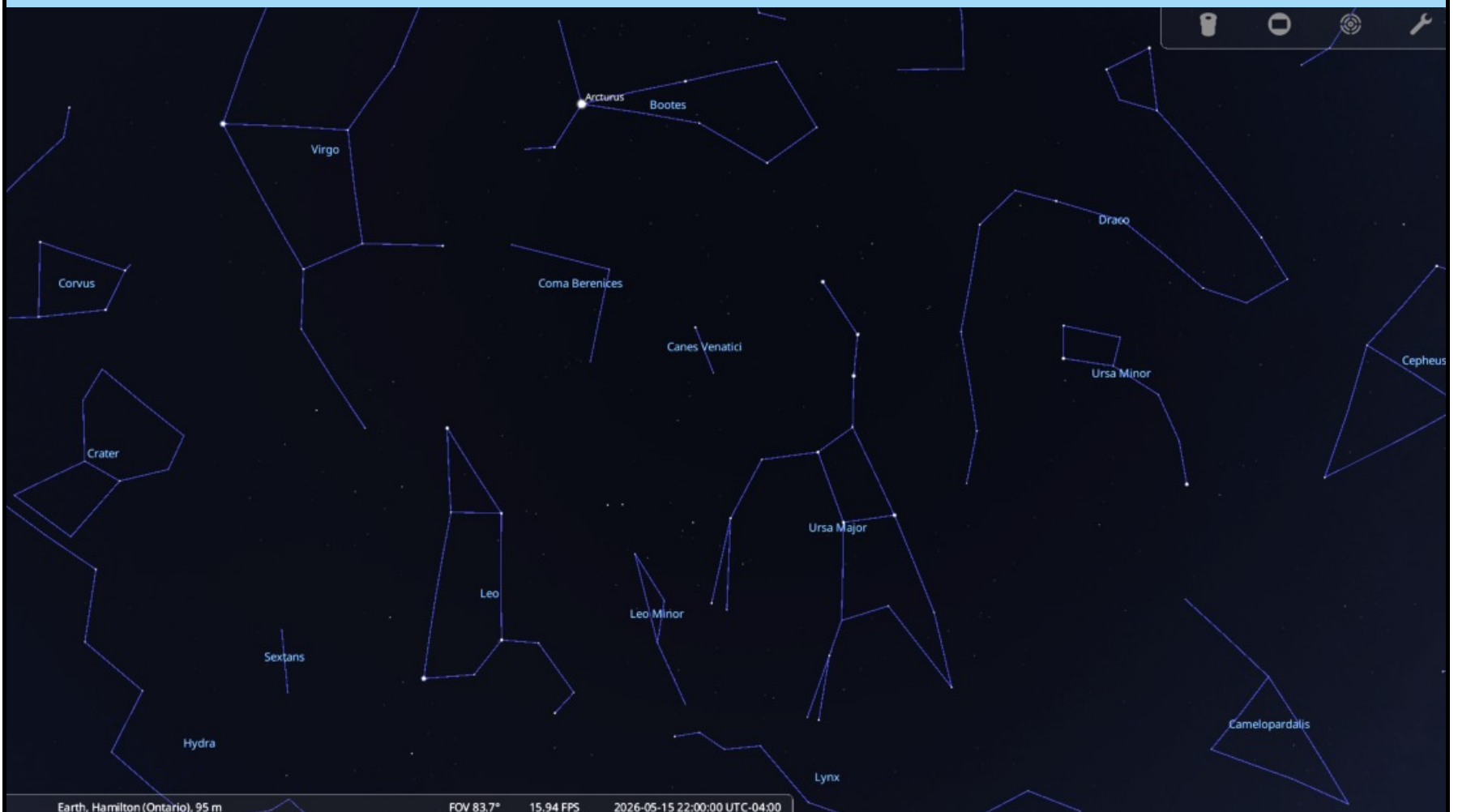
With our naked eyes looking to the west this month, the last vestiges of winter are setting by midnight, as Gemini and Auriga slip below the horizon in the middle of the month, followed by the early spring constellations of Leo and Cancer nose-diving after them. In the northwest Cassiopeia and Perseus hug the horizon, while in the southwest Hydra still snakes along with Corvus and Crater riding on its back.

*(Continued on [page 9](#))*

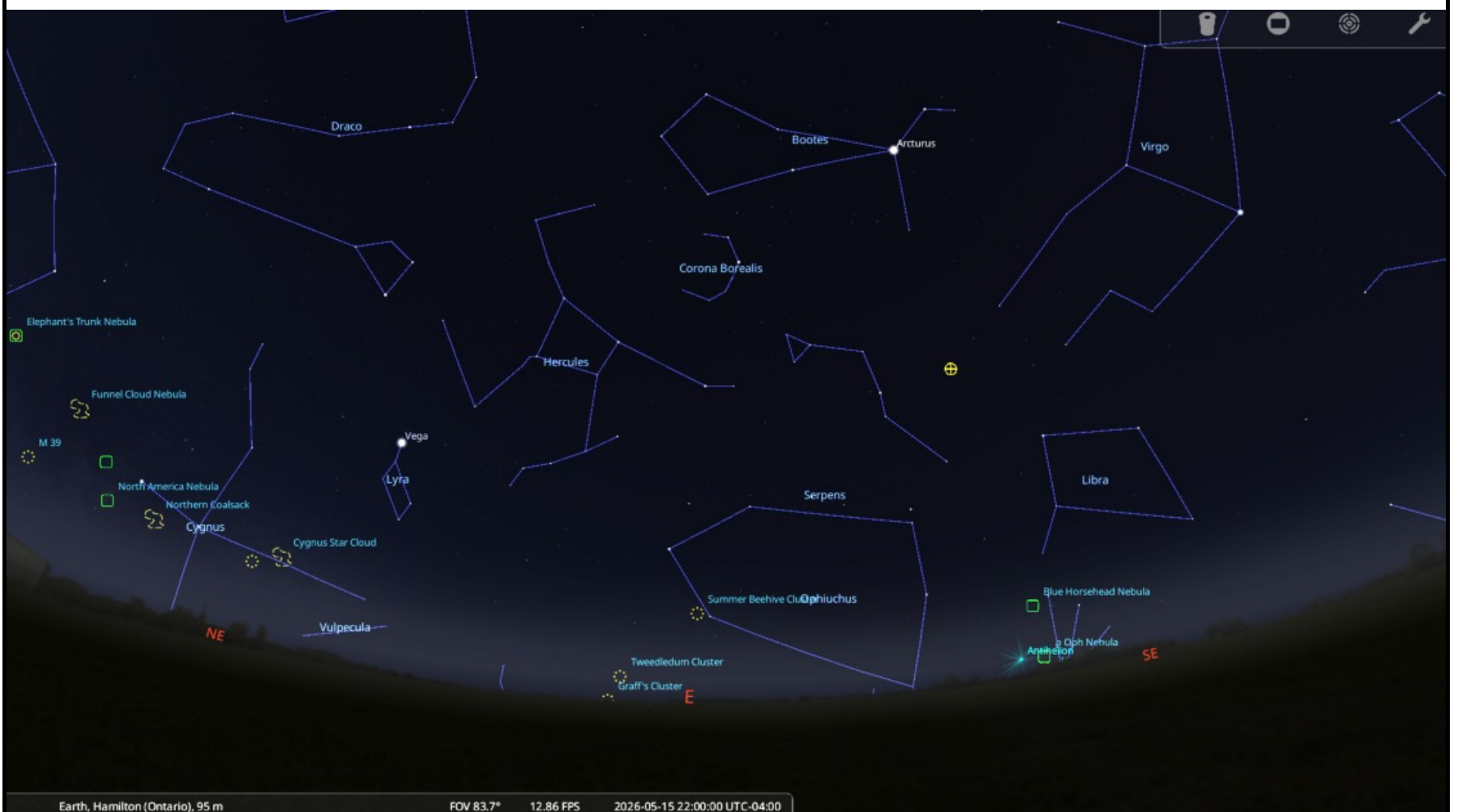


*The night sky looking west at 10:00PM on Friday, May 15th. Image generated using Stellarium*

# The Sky This Month for May 2026 (continued)



*The night sky looking towards zenith at 10:00PM on Friday, May 15th.*



*The night sky looking east at 10:00PM on Friday May 15th.  
Images generated using Stellarium*

*(Continued on [page 10](#))*

## The Sky This Month for May 2026 (continued)

Straight above at Zenith, Canes Venatici and Ursa Major are almost directly overhead this month, with their many beautiful deep sky objects perfectly placed for great telescopic views. Leo's butt-end, Bootes and Coma Berenices all circle around as well. To the east, the first hints of summer are peaking up over the horizon, with Hercules fully risen early in the night, Ophiuchus up by midnight, and the Summer Triangle along with it. To the south, Virgo is placed well off the horizon, while in the north Cepheus and Camelopardalis swing low this time of year.

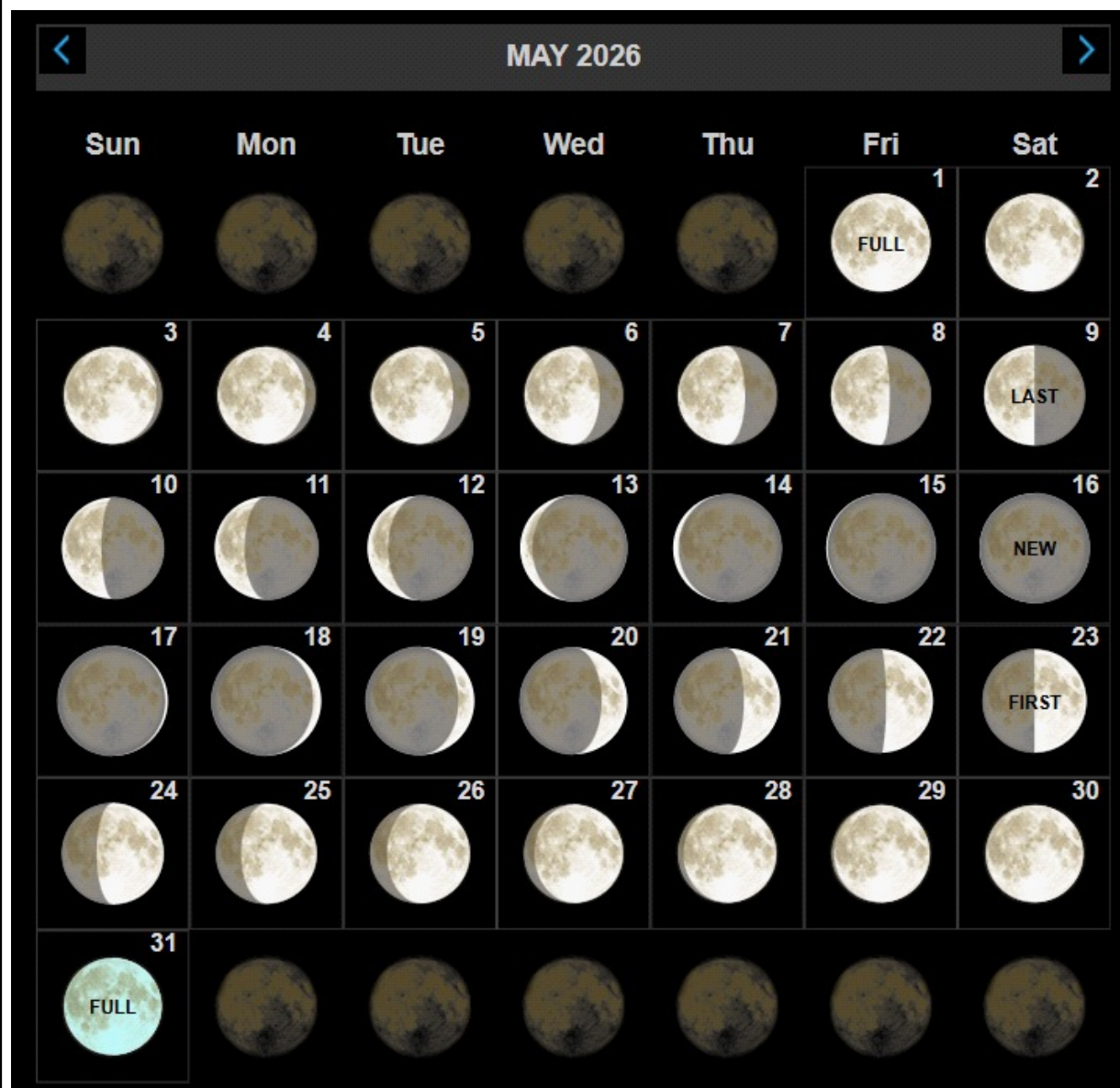
### The Moon

The Moon this month starts off Full on the 1st, hits Last Quarter on the 9th, New Moon on the 16th, First Quarter on the 23rd and then gives us a second Full Moon to end the month on the 31st. The 10th-17th is the best week for darker and moonless skies this May. Some lunar events of note in May:

- A couple degrees away from Antares in the early morning on the 4th
- A few degrees away from Saturn in the morning on the 13th
- In between Saturn and Mars on the morning of the 14th
- A couple degrees away from Venus on the evening of the 18th
- In between Venus and Jupiter on the evening of the 19th

Spring is also the best time of year to view Earthshine - the beautiful phenomenon where the dark side of the Moon is actually visible and illuminated - and is best seen in the days around New Moon. This effect is caused by sunlight reflecting off of the Moon, heading towards Earth, reflecting off Earth, and heading back towards the Moon. It makes for some great astrophotography and great views in a large pair of binos or smaller refractor.

*(Continued on [page 11](#))*



*Moon Phases for May 2026*

## The Sky This Month for May 2026 (continued)

### The Planets

On to the planets for this month. *Mercury* is too close to the Sun for much observing this month, but begins to swing away during the final few days for a great showing in the evening sky over the first week of June. I'll get to that next month! *Venus* puts on a show for us the whole month. It is high and lingering in the western sky for two hours after sunset from the 1st through to the 31st, and is impossible to miss. *Jupiter* starts off May still in Gemini after sunset visible until 1AM. By the end of the month however, it sets just as the sky starts to get fully dark around 11PM, so this is your last chance to get some views of the King of Planets and its Galilean moons until it becomes a morning object in September. The next planet out, *Saturn* is now a morning object this month. Rising around 5AM on May 1st, it moves further and further from the Sun and higher and higher earlier on as May progresses, making a great early morning sight for our early risers (or those among us who never sleep and stay out all night!). *Uranus* is too close to the Sun for any meaningful observing, while *Neptune* is still tracking a few degrees in front of Saturn in Pisces all month.

### Deep Sky Objects

Finally, moving on to the deep sky, we'll focus directly above us this month at the zenith. Ursa Major, Coma Berenices, and Canes Venatici host a slew of great deep sky objects for stargazers of all stripes.

#### *Globular Clusters*

**M3** - big, bright and very dense at mag 6.9, one of the nicest in the northern sky.

**M53** - at mag. 7.7 it is a slightly dimmer version of M3 - visually similar, and a great object for a medium sized scope.

**NGC 5053** - this dimmer globular in Coma Berenices is more difficult to find at mag. 10.0, but what makes it a challenge is its low surface brightness and low density - it appears more like an open cluster than a globular.

**NGC 5466** - In Bootes, it is much the same as NGC 5053 - at mag. 9.7 it is big, dim, and very loose, but still a neat sight in a large dob.

#### *Planetary Nebulae*

**M97 The Owl Nebula** - at magnitude 9.9 this is a faint planetary, but one of the coolest in the sky - in a large scope under dark skies you can see its two interior dark spots which give it its name.

#### *Galaxies*

**M81/M82 Bode's and Cigar Galaxies** - at mags 6.9 and 8.4, this pairing of galaxies is one of the most famous, beautiful and easy to spot in the night sky.

**M51 The Whirlpool Galaxy** - this face on mag 8.1 galaxy is a beginner's best chance to see some galactic spiral arms - in larger apertures and dark skies you can easily see the spiral structure along with its interacting companion NGC 5195.

**M63 The Sunflower Galaxy** - one of the night skies most beautiful galaxies, this mag 8.6 oblique spiral is a classic beginner object.

**NGC 4631/4656 The Whale and Crowbar Galaxies** - this close pairing of warped interacting galaxies in Canes Venatici is a good challenge for more experienced observers. At magnitudes 9.2 and 10.5 they require large aperture and steady seeing, but both certainly live up to their names.

**The Coma Berenices Cluster** - this large galaxy cluster includes several dozen visible in an 8-12 inch scope but from magnitudes 10-14 they will require plenty of patience and great skies to see.

(Continued on [page 12](#))

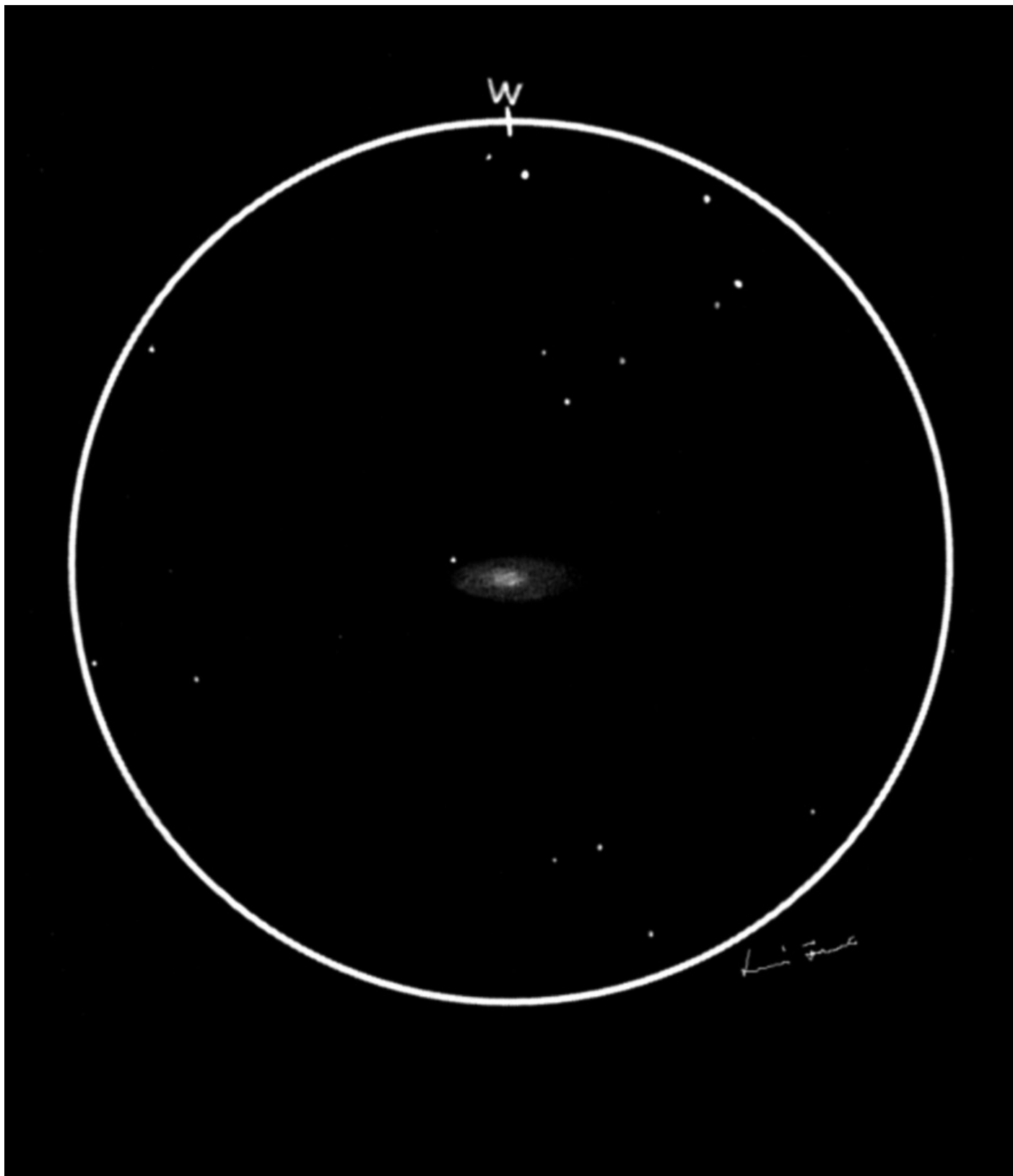
## The Sky This Month for May 2026 (continued)

**NGC 4244 *The Silver Needle*** - at mag 10.0, this edge on, thin galaxy is an overlooked gem - it requires aperture to see, but at high magnifications there is plenty of diffuse structure to be seen in this thin needle of a galaxy.

### **Challenge Object: NGC 5033 “*The Waterbug Galaxy*”**

At magnitude 12, this spiral galaxy in Canes Venatici is dim by all standards, but with a large (10+ inches) scope, high magnification and very, very good skies, experienced observers might just be able to pick out some of its faint, sprawling spiral arms which give it the appearance of a waterbug laid out on the water.

Clear skies!



*NGC 5033 in a 12" Dob courtesy of graphitegalaxy.com*



**Reflection Nebula M78 in Orion, from Burlington ON, by Bob Christmas**  
Taken with Seestar S50 in EQ mode. 360 × 10 seconds; 1 hour total integration time.



**Markarian's Chain, the heart of the Virgo Galaxy Cluster, from Milton ON, by Chris Szaban**  
Taken through his NIKKOR 300mm F ED with his ASI294MC Pro camera.  
58 x 300 seconds; 4 hours, 50 minutes total integration time.



*left:*

**The “Brocken Sceptre” effect,  
taken on a flight to Dallas TX**

**by Caroline Gross  
(submitted by Paul Gross)**

*below:*

**The Milky Way**

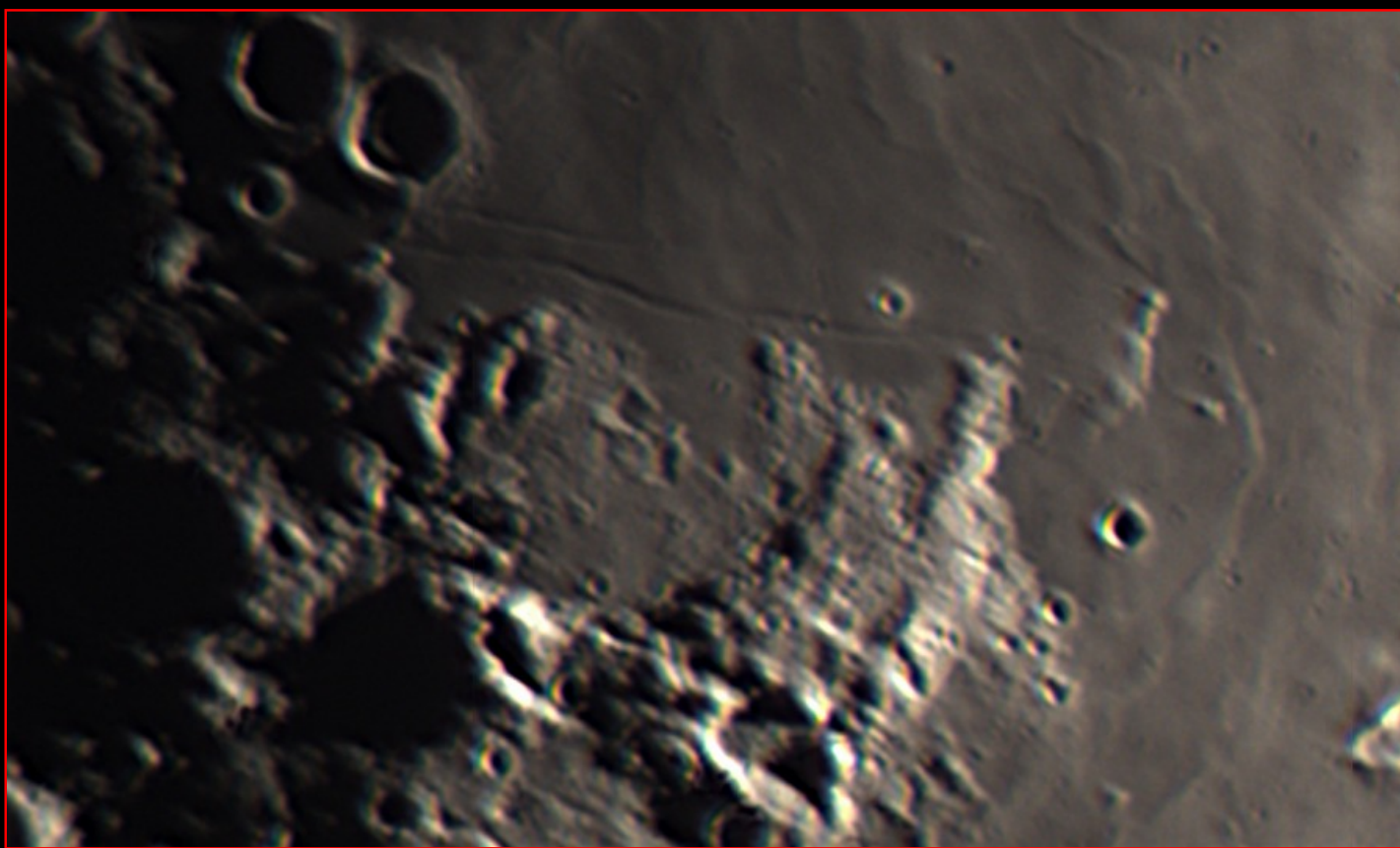
**by Sylvie Gionet**

**Taken from Astrolab du parc national  
du Mont-Megantic AstroLab and  
Observatory in Quebec, August 22,  
2025, with her Apple iPhone 14 Pro  
Max Main 24 mm Camera.**



## Moon Close-Ups of Apollo Landing Sites, by Chris Szaban

Both images are stacked SER video best frames taken through his Celestron NexStar 6SE & 3x Barlow, with an ASI715MC camera.



**Apollo 11 landing site**



**Apollo 17 landing site**



William J. McCallion  
**Planetarium**

McMASTER UNIVERSITY, HAMILTON, ONTARIO

- **Public transit available directly to McMaster campus**
- **Tickets \$10 per person; private group shows \$226**
- **Upcoming shows:**
  - **May 6:           Introductory Astronomy for Kids — Solar System**
  - **May 13:        Onekwá:tara – the Seven Dancers of the Pleiades**
  - **May 20:        Moon Madness**
  - **May 23:        Introductory Astronomy for Kids — Solar System**
  - **May 27:        A Voyage Between Worlds**
  - **Jun 3:           Introductory Astronomy for Kids - Galaxies**
- **For show times and further details, visit**  
**<https://planetarium.physics.mcmaster.ca>**

