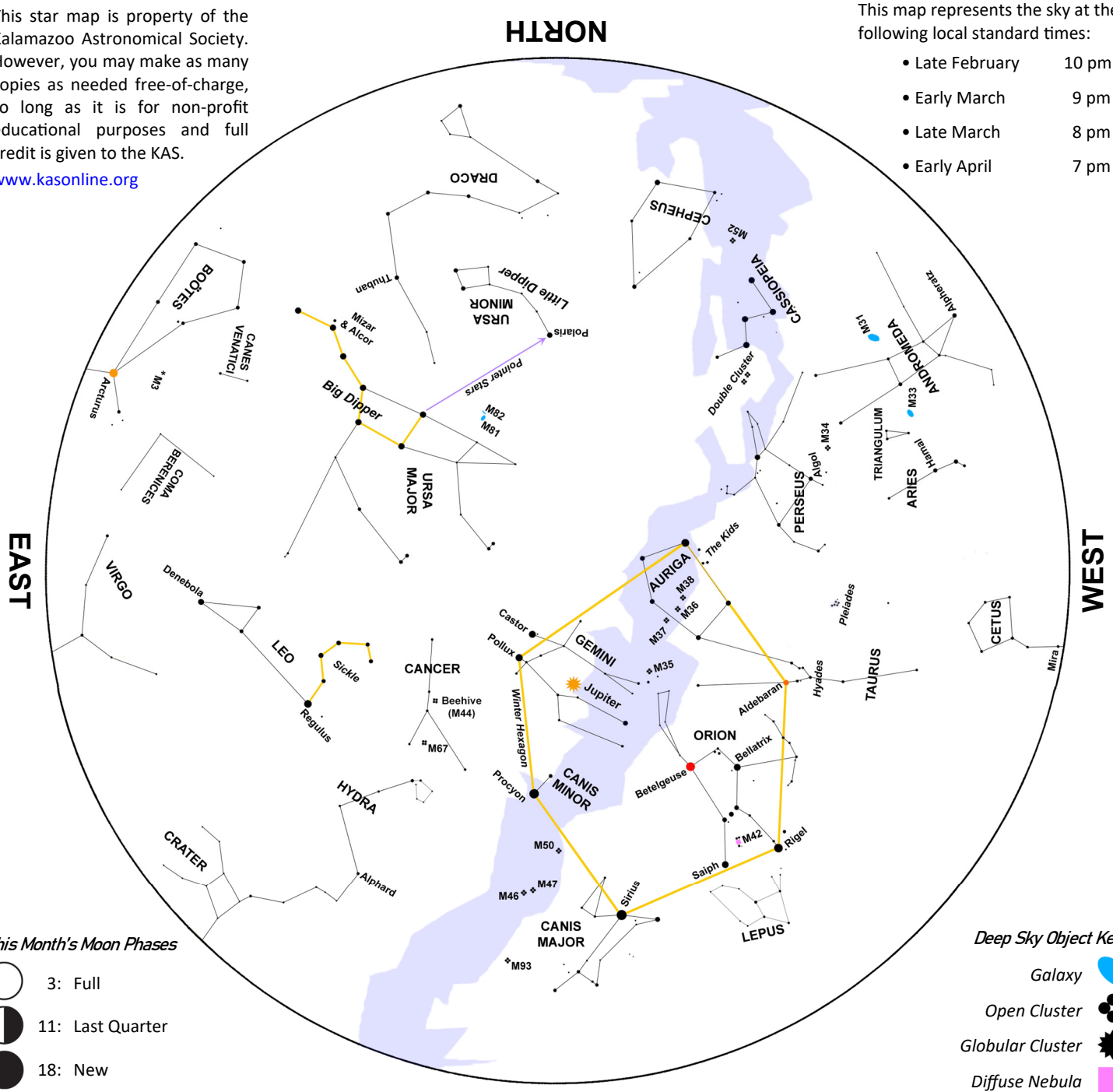
March Night Sky

This map represents the sky at the following local standard times:

- Late February 10 pm
- Early March 9 pm
- Late March 8 pm
- Early April 7 pm



This Month's Moon Phases

- 3: Full
- 11: Last Quarter
- 18: New
- 25: First Quarter

Deep Sky Object Key

- *Galaxy*
- *Open Cluster*
- *Globular Cluster*
- *Diffuse Nebula*
- *Planetary Nebula*

A total lunar eclipse will take place in the morning hours of March 3rd. The most captivating part of the eclipse starts at 4:50 am EST, when the Moon begins to enter Earth's umbra. Observe as Earth's dark, curved shadow elegantly moves across the Moon's face, beginning from the northwest (upper left) section of the disk.

You should notice the eclipsed portion of the Moon turning a coppery red hue when it is about halfway into the umbral stage. Totality begins at 6:04 am and lasts for 58 minutes. Maximum eclipse occurs at 6:34 am, during which the northern half of the Moon appears slightly darker than the southern portion. Totality ends at 7:03 am, and approximately 18 minutes later, the Moon will set while the final stages of the eclipse are still in progress.

Early risers will get another treat on March 10th. A nearly last-quarter Moon will be less than 1½° to the lower right of Antares.

On the evening of March 20th, a razor-thin waxing crescent Moon will be about 8° to the upper right of Venus low in the western sky. The crescent Moon will also visit the Pleiades on March 22nd, sitting some 5½° to the lower right of the famed star cluster.