April Night Sky

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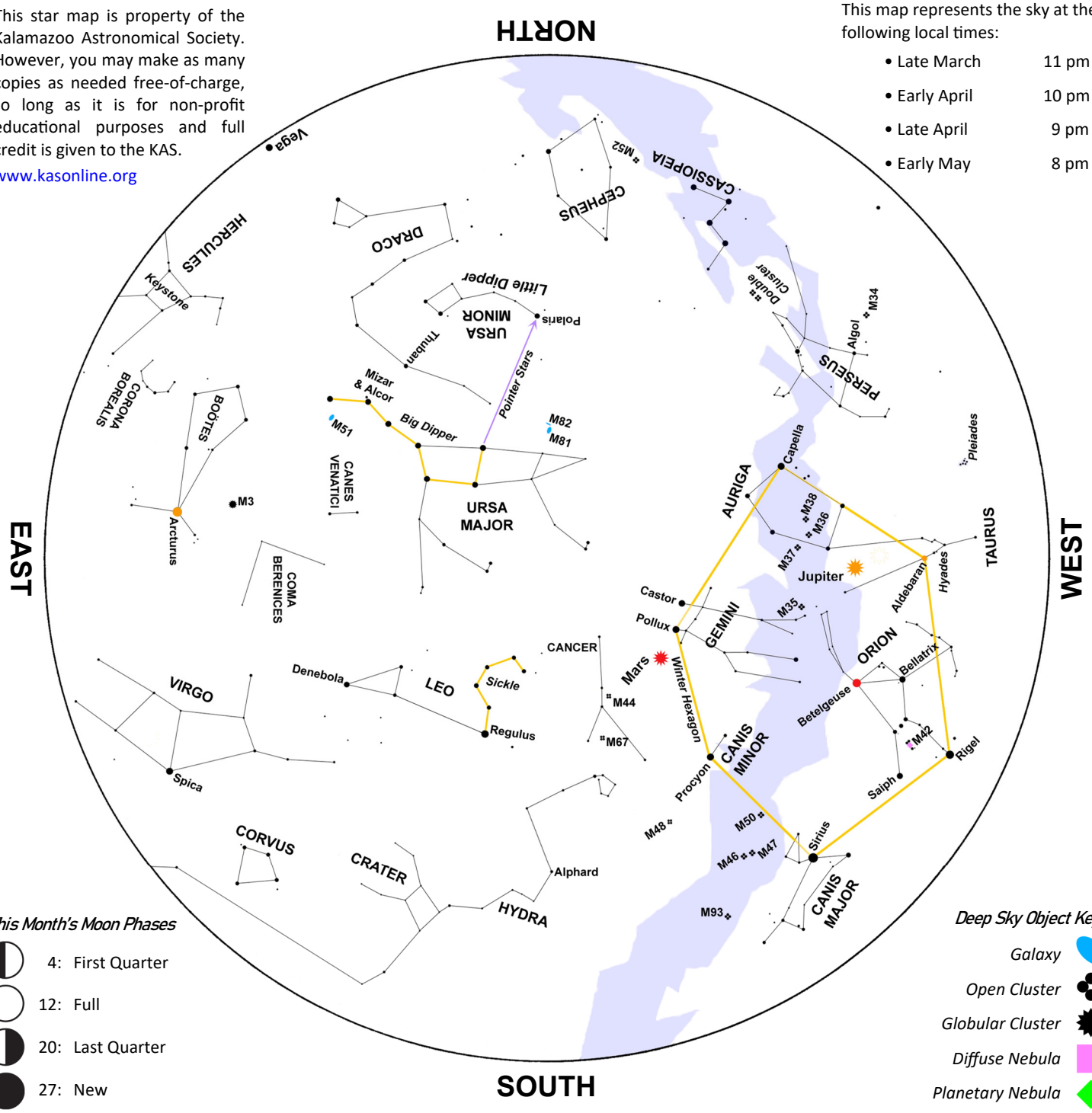
This map represents the sky at the following local times:

- Late March 11 pm
- Early April 10 pm
- Late April 9 pm
- Early May 8 pm



This Month's Moon Phases

- 4: First Quarter
- 12: Full
- 20: Last Quarter
- 27: New

Deep Sky Object Key

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

A waxing crescent Moon passes through Taurus during the first two days of April. On April 1st at dusk, it will only be 1½° above the Pleiades cluster. On April 2nd, look for the Moon 4½° to the upper right of Jupiter. Use binoculars for both encounters.

Only ½° of sky will fill the gap between a full Moon and Spica, Virgo's brightest star, when they rise shortly after dusk on April 12th. Spica will be to the Moon's upper left. Watch them grow apart throughout the course of the night.

The Lyrid meteor shower peaks during the early morning hours of April 22nd. A last quarter Moon will cause some interference, unfortunately. Expect a zenithal hourly rate of 18 meteors per hour.

Venus, freshly returned to the morning sky, blazes about 4° to the upper left of Saturn before dawn on April 24th. On April 25th, a thin waning crescent Moon forms a triangle with Venus and Saturn.

A razor-thin waxing crescent Moon returns to the proximity of the Pleiades on April 28th. This time, they're separated by 4½°. Still close enough to view in binoculars!