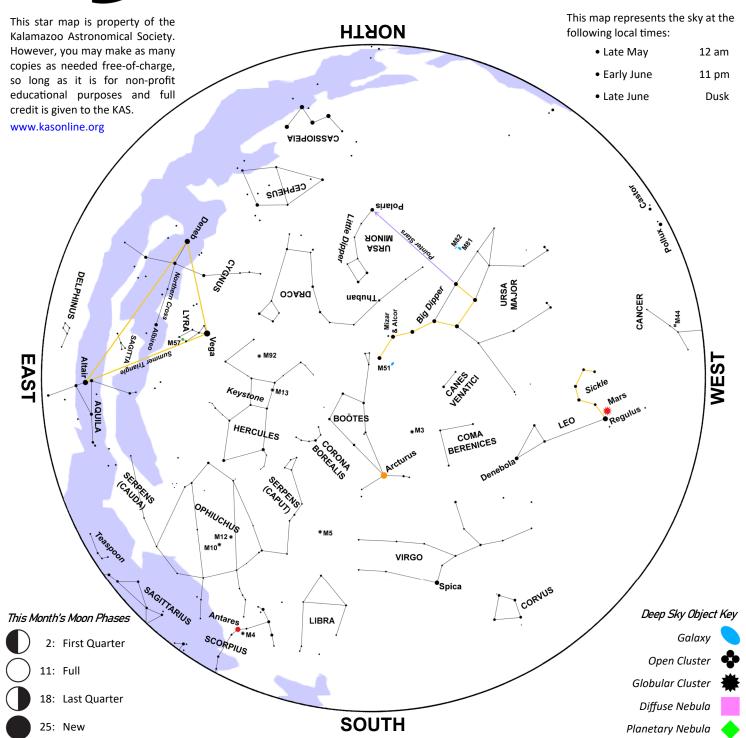


## June Night Sky



Mars may be well past opposition, but it has a worthwhile encounter with the heart of Leo the Lion in mid-June. The Red Planet will be a mere <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>° to the upper right of Regulus on the evening of June 16<sup>th</sup>. On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Mars will be <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>° above Leo's brightest star.

Many amateur and professional astronomers have never seen the planet Mercury firsthand. You'll have an excellent chance to spot the elusive innermost world at dusk on June 21<sup>st</sup>. On that date, Mercury will be 5° to the lower left of Pollux. The trick is finding an unobstructed view of the west-northwestern horizon. Give it a shot!

On the morning of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, a waning crescent Moon and Venus will be about 6° apart when they rise above the east-northeastern horizon. Both worlds will fit in

the field of view of a pair of 7×50 binoculars.

You'll have another chance to see Mercury at dusk on June  $26^{th}$ . This time a slender waxing crescent Moon will be  $3\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  to the right of the metal planet.

Finally, the crescent Moon hangs less than ½° to the lower left of Mars on June 29<sup>th</sup>.