**Sky Calendar April 2016**

**SUNDAY**
- April 2-8, 40 minutes before sunrise

**MONDAY**
- April 10-12, one hour after sunset
- Sunday 10
- Saturn ♆ Mars ♆ SCORPIUS

**TUESDAY**
- April 13, one hour after sunset
- Wed April 13, one hour after sunset
- April 14-15, one hour after sunset
- The Lyrid meteor shower peaks overnight Thursday into Friday morning. This year, the light of the Full Moon interferes with the meteor shower.

**WEDNESDAY**
- April 15-17, one hour after sunset
- Mon April 18, one hour after sunset
- Wed Apr 20, one hour before sunrise

**THURSDAY**
- April 21-22, one hour after sunset
- Mon Apr 25, one hour before sunrise

**FRIDAY**
- April 27-30, one hour before sunrise
- The bright stars of winter will soon disappear from the evening sky. On what date will you last see Rigel? Since? Aldebaran? Belt of Orion?

**SATURDAY**
- April 28, Last Quarter Moon 11:20 p.m. EDT

**Subscription:** $12.00 per year, starting anytime, from Sky Calendar, Abrams Planetarium, Michigan State University, 755 Science Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824 or online at abramspplanetarium.org/skycalendar/
The planet Jupiter is plotted for mid-April 2016. Twelve objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Jupiter, Sirius, Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Spica, Pollux, and Regulus.

Our usual monthly maps are designed for stargazers just beginning to find their way around the sky. This month's map is useful for those stargazing from dark locations. It contains many more stars, inclusive to magnitude 4.5, and some fainter stars as needed to complete patterns or assist in locating special objects.

A selection of double stars (labeled with Greek letters) and "deep sky objects" is also plotted. All are visible with modest equipment; most are within the range of the unaided eye or binoculars.

The double stars, in order of decreasing angular separation, are η in Ursa Major, δ in Taurus, α in Libra (just rising), and ν in Draco.

The star δ in Capheus and Algol in Perseus are naked-eye variables with periods of 5.4 days and 2.9 days respectively.

Three open or galactic clusters are noted: the Coma Cluster between Leo and Bootes; the Beehive or Praesepe (M44) in Cancer, the Double Cluster between Perseus and Cassiopeia.

The Hercules Cluster (M13) is a fine example of a globular cluster, and M42, the Orion Nebula, is a gas cloud out of which stars are forming.