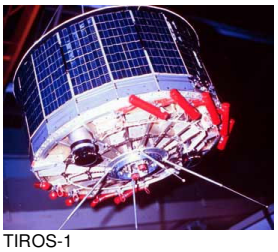
April 1st: Day 91 of the gregorian calendar.


TIROS-1

History: In 1960, the United States launched their first meteorologic satellite, TIROS-1.

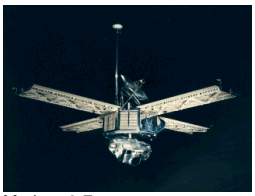
Observations: Follow this month's Advanced Astronomical Observations' suggestion and try to spot the Coma Star Cluster.

April 2nd: Day 92 of the gregorian calendar.

History: On this date in 1889, the Harvard Observatory's 13" refractor arrived at Mt. Wilson. Just one month later, it went into astronomical service at Lick Observatory, located at Mt. Hamilton. It was the largest telescopes in the World from 1908 to 1948 – it was 60" for the first decade, then upgraded to 100".

Observations: Lunar Occultation of Victoria that can be seen only in the Pacific Ocean.

April 3rd: Day 93 of the gregorian calendar.


Mariner 6-7

History: In 1969, Mariner 7 was launched.

Observations: This week, Mercury is emerging from the glare of the Sun and is close to Venus. Lunar Occultation of Athamantis that can be seen only in Antartica.

April 4th: Day 94 of the gregorian calendar.

SS Challenger

History: In 1968, Apollo 6 was launched.
In 1983, Space Shuttle Challenger made its first flight up to Space.

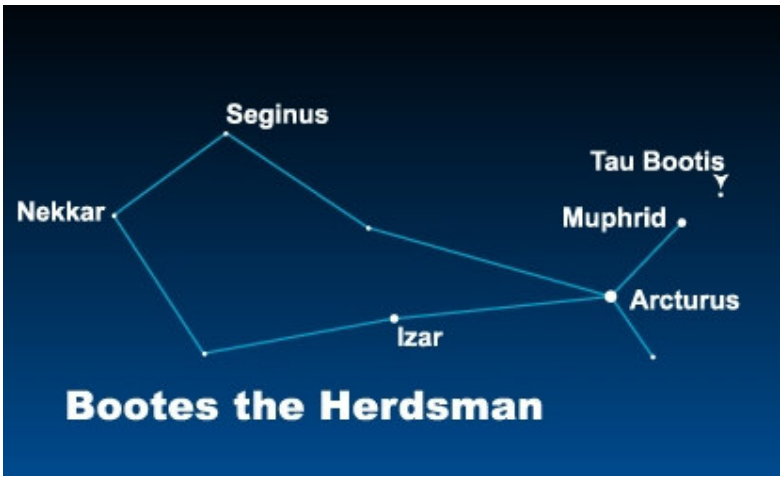
Observations: Mercury is making a beeline for Venus. By week's end, the two planets will be just 3º apart, an eye-catching pair in the deep-blue twilight of sunset. This is the best night to look. Lunar Occultation of Urania can be seen only between South America and North Africa.

April 5th: Day 95 of the gregorian calendar.

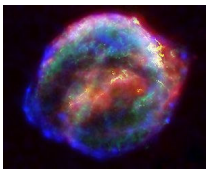
History: In 1973 the probe Pioneer 11 makes the first direct observations of Saturn.

In 1991 the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory was launched.

Observations: In 2007, a faint star in the constellation Bootes, the Herdsman, made astronomical history. A team of astronomers, led by the french Jean-Francis Donati and Claire Montau, caught the star Tau Bootis flipping its north and south magnetic poles while these astronomers were mapping the magnetic fields of stars. This was the first time a magnetic reversal was observed on any star other that the Sun. Try to find Tau Bootis tonight.



April 6th: Day 96 of the gregorian calendar.



History: In 1993, NASA astronomers using the Internacional Ultraviolet Explorer (IUE), discover direct evidence that red supergiants end their existence as supernovae.

Observations: Last Quarter at 09h37 (TDT).

April 7th: Day 97 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1991, the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory was activated.
In 2001 the first sucessuful flight of Proton M.
In 2001 the probe Mars Odyssey was launched.

Observations: Try to make a picture of Mars with your telescope. Have you considered using a webcam? Try to find out how it can be done.

April 8th: Day 98 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1964, the unmanned mission Gemini 1 was launched.

Observations: Tonight Mercury has its greatest evening elongation (19.3°E at 23h TDT)

April 9th: Day 99 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1994, the STS-59 mission of space shuttle Endeavour was launched.

Observations: Moon at Apogeeat a distance of 404999 km from Earth at 03h (TDT). Lunar Occultation of Hebe can be seen only between in Patagonia, Antartica and South Africa. Lunar Occultation of Laetitia can be seen only between in Antartica and South Oceania.

April 10th: Day 100 of the gregorian calendar.

First launch attempt of the mission STS-1.

History: In 1981, the first launch attempt of the mission STS-1 (the first mission of a Space Shuttle) was aborted in the last moment due to computer failure.

Observations: At dawn you can see a crescent Moon above Jupiter.

April 11th: Day 101 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1862, William Wallace Campbell was born.
In 1960, the first radio search for extraterrestrial civillizations directed by Frank Drake (Project Ozma) begins.
In 1986, at a distance of 65 million kilometers, Comet Halley makes its closest approach to Earth on the 30th known visit to our planetary neighbourhood.
In 2002 dies the amateur astronomer Yuji Hyakutake, that discovered "Comet Hyakutake" in 1996.

Observations: At dawn you can see a crescent Moon side by side with Jupiter.

April 12th: Day 102 of the gregorian calendar.

Yuri Gagarin

History: In 1849, de Gasparis discovers asteroid Hygiea.
In 1961, the russian cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin becomes the first human in Space.
In 1981 the mission STS-1 of Space Shuttle Columbia is finally launched.

Observations: Lunar Occultation of Industria that can be seen only in Antartica.

April 13th: Day 103 of the gregorian calendar.

Apollo 13 crew

History: "Houston, we have a problem". These were the words of the astronaut Jack Swigert on this day in 1970 after the oxygen tank number 2 of the service module of the Apollo 13 mission exploded.The astronomers were able to return safely to Earth after emergency procedures with perfect coordination between mission control and the crew.

Observations: With no Moon this is a wonderfiul night to try to esplore deep-sky objects.

April 14th: Day 104 of the gregorian calendar.

Christian Huygens

History: In 1629, Christian Huygens was born. He discovered Titan the largest moon of Saturn, as well as this planet's rings.

Observations: New Moon at 12h31 (TDT

April 15th: Day 105 of the gregorian calendar.

Observations: Take the night to try to make a nice picture of Saturn with your telescope.

April 16th: Day 106 of the gregorian calendar.

Apollo 16 crew

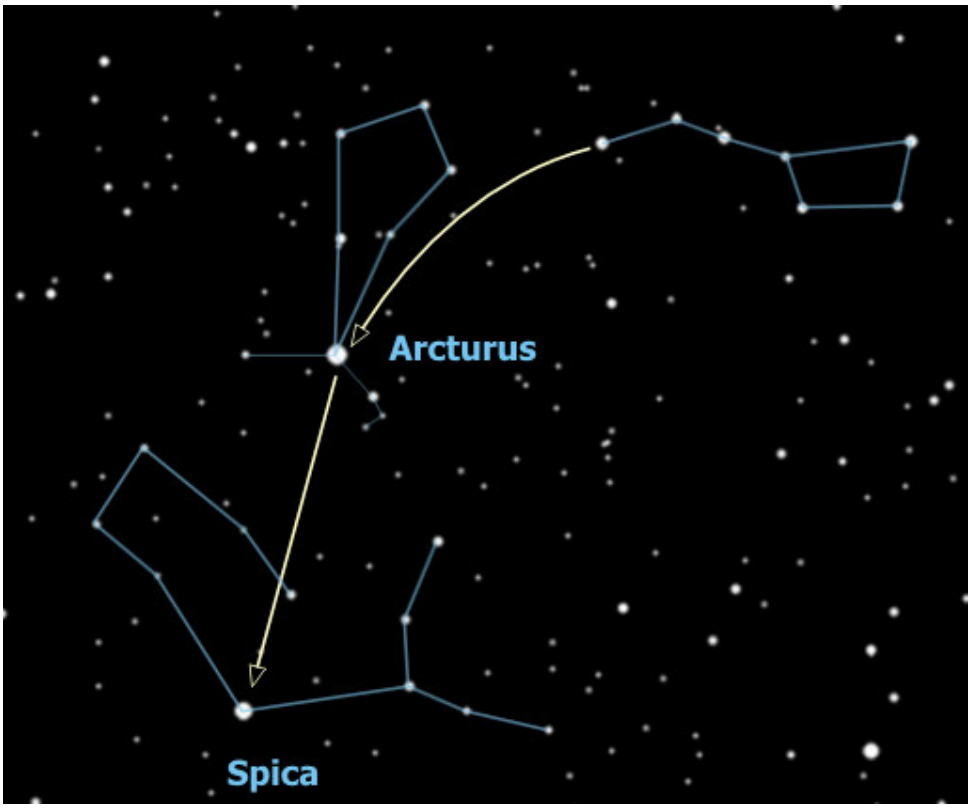
History: In 1972, the United States of America launched Apollo 16 to the Moon.

Observations: Venus 4.1°S of Moon at 13h (TDT).

April 17th: Day 107 of the gregorian calendar.

History: After days of tension Apollo 13 finally lands on Earth**.**

Observations: Follow the tail of the Big Dipper and you will find the star Arturus (Alpha-Bootes). If you continue the arch you will find the star Spica (Alpha Virgo).



April 18th: Day 108 of the gregorian calendar.

Observations: Lunar Occultation of Diotima that can be seen only in Far East Asia. Lunar Occultation of Hementaria that can be seen only in the Artic Regions (North of Europe and America).

April 19th: Day 109 of the gregorian calendar.

Observations: Lunar Occultation of Hermione that can be seen only in South Pacific.

April 20th: Day 110 of the gregorian calendar.

Apollo 16

History: In 1972, the Apollo 16 mission lands on the Moon and becomes one of the six successful manned missions to the Moon.

Observations: Lunar Occultation of Parthenope that can be seen only in the Arctic Regions (North of Europe and America).

April 21st: Day 111 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 2002, a solar eruption provides an excellent data acquisition opportunity for the probes SOHO, TRACE e RHESSI and test the Lin & Forbes model for CMEs (coronal mass ejections).

Observations: First Quarter at 18h15 (TDT).

April 22nd: Day 112 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1970 Earth's Day was celebrated for the first time.

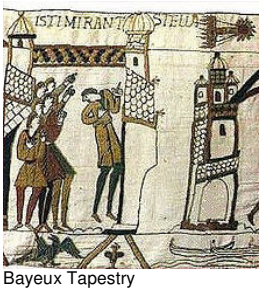
Observations: Mars 4.6°N of Moon at 10h (TDT). Lunar Occultation of Hygiea that can be seen only in the Arctic Regions (North of Europe, Asia and America).

April 23rd: Day 113 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1967, the Russian mission Soyuz 1 was launched.

Observations: Lunar Occultation of Eurynome that can be seen only from East Mediterranean Regions to North Oceania.

April 24th: Day 114 of the gregorian calendar.



Bayeux Tapestry

History: In 1066, comet Halley was observed over England and its appearance was recorded on the Bayeux Tapestry.

Observations: Moon at Perigee at a distance of 367142 km from Earth at 21h (TDT).

April 25th: Day 115 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1983 the Pioneer probe passed the orbit of Pluto.
In 1990, astronauts of the Space Shuttle Discovery (STS-31) repaired the Hubble Space Telescope.

Observations: Try to find the names of the stars of the Big Dipper. There is a star called Mizar that has a star called Alcor next to it. These two stars that form a false binary system are sometimes called the "Horse and Rider," and the ability to resolve the two stars with the naked eye is often quoted as a test of eyesight, although even people with quite poor eyesight can see the two stars. Can you see them?

April 26th: Day 116 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1920 the Shapley-Curtis debate about the nature and distance of nebula was held at the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C..
In 1933 Arno Penzias was born.

Observations: It's time to start you Moonwalkers Contest observations.

April 27th: Day 117 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1999 asteroid 1989 ML passed by Earth at a distance of 0.2520 AU.

Observations: As the Moon phase grows more features can be seen for the Moonwalkers Contest observations.

April 28th: Day 118 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1903, M. Wolf discovers asteroid Iolanda (509).

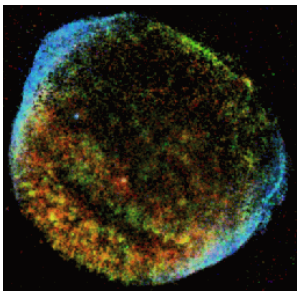
Observations: Full Moon at 12h19 (TDT). Mercury at Inferior Conjunction at 17h (TDT).

April 29th: Day 119 of the gregorian calendar.

History: In 1715, John Flamsteed observes Uranus for the sixth time.
In 1861, R. Luther discovers asteroid Leto (68).
In 1902, M. Wolf discovers asteroid Pittsburghia (484)

Observations: Lunar Occultation of Dembowska that can be seen only in South Oceania.

April 30th: Day 120 of the gregorian calendar.



History: In 1006, a very bright supernova was observed by Chinese and Egiptian in the constellation of Lupus.

Observations: Can you find the Hercules constellation?
Don't forget your Moonwalkers Contest observations!March 1st: Day 60 of the gregorian calendar.