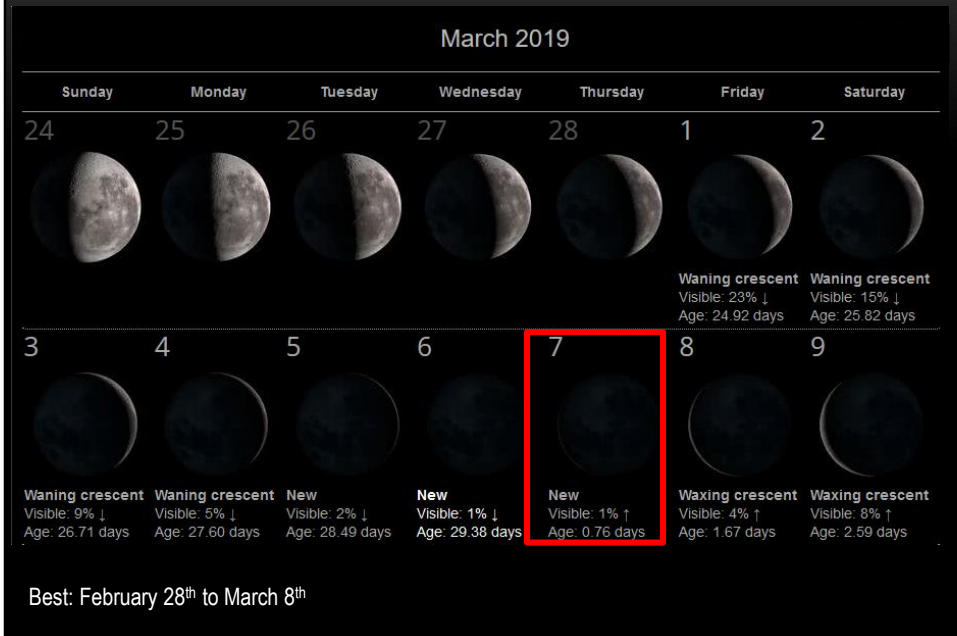


# BAS - MONTHLY SKY GUIDE

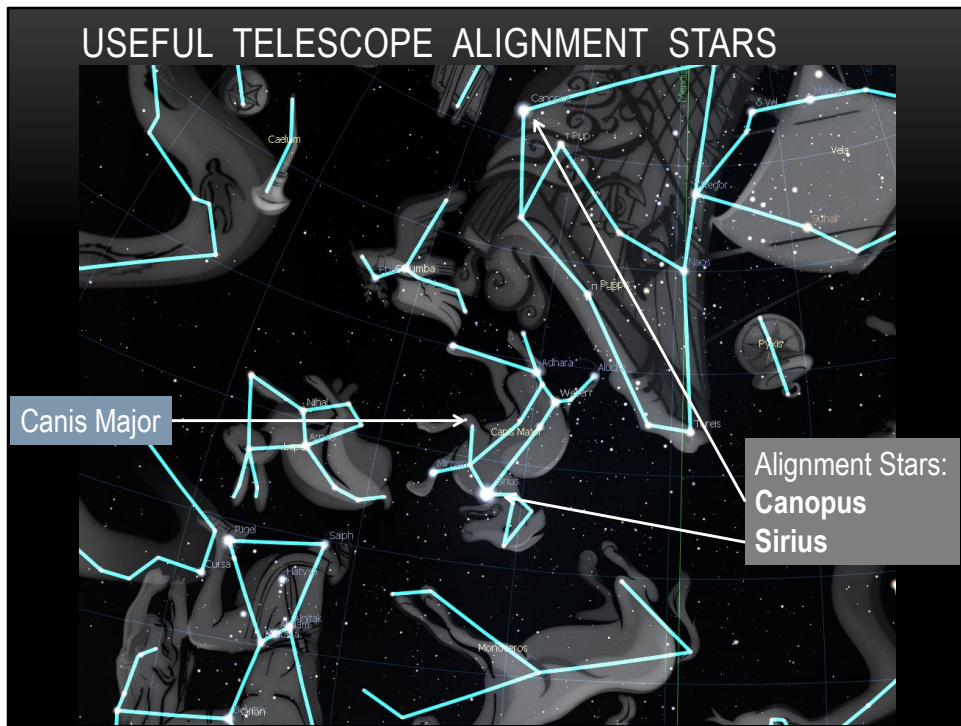
March 2019

The outer arms of our Milky Way Galaxy, in particular the Orion Spur and Perseus Arm, will be stretched diagonally across the sky in the early evening from south-east to north-west. The constellation Carina will be well placed on the meridian for great viewing.

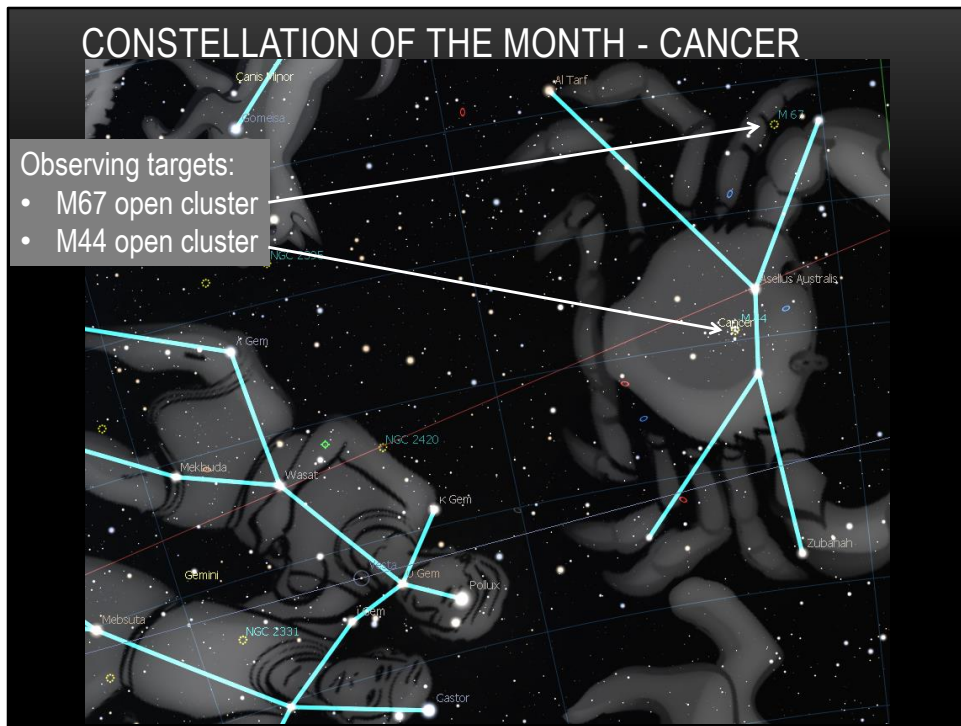
## DARK SKY – BEST OBSERVING DATES - MARCH



New Moon is Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>. A full evening of observing from sunset through to about midnight can be achieved for about a week prior to the New Moon. So plan your observing dates from about February 28<sup>th</sup> onwards. The slim waxing crescent of the early New Moon sets around the end of astronomical twilight on March 8<sup>th</sup> so the setting Moon starts to eat into early evening observing time after that date. So make good use of the period around February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup>.



In March there are two very bright stars high in the sky that make good alignment stars. Look for Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, and Canopus the second brightest. These make good alignment stars are they are reasonable widely separated and very bright and difficult to mistake for another star.



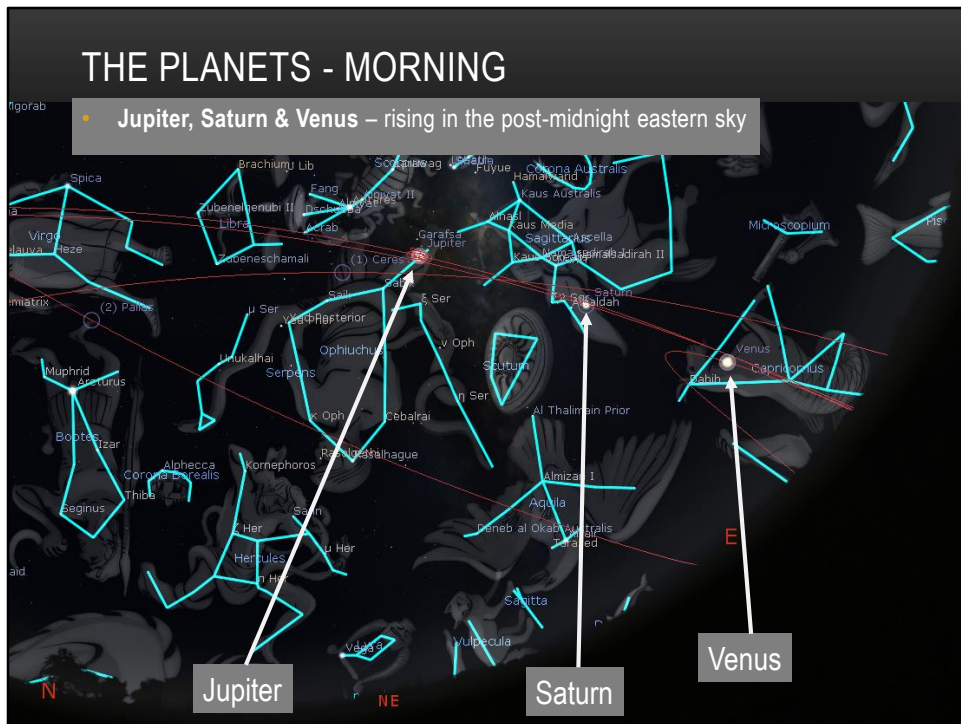
The constellation Cancer, “the Crab”, sits on the ecliptic path of the wandering planets and is one of the ancient Greek constellations. It is associated with the mythical story of Hercules and his Twelve Labours. While trying to fight the serpent beast Hydra his enemy threw the crab at him to distract and kill him. But Hercules won by kicking the Crab into the sky. Cancer is a dim constellation with no bright stars to mark its location. It is more easily identified from a dark sky. Two objects to try and observe are the open clusters Messier 44 located 610 light years away and M67 located 2,600 light years away. There are also lots of galaxies scattered through Cancer but will be much harder to find than these open clusters.

## THE PLANETS - EVENING

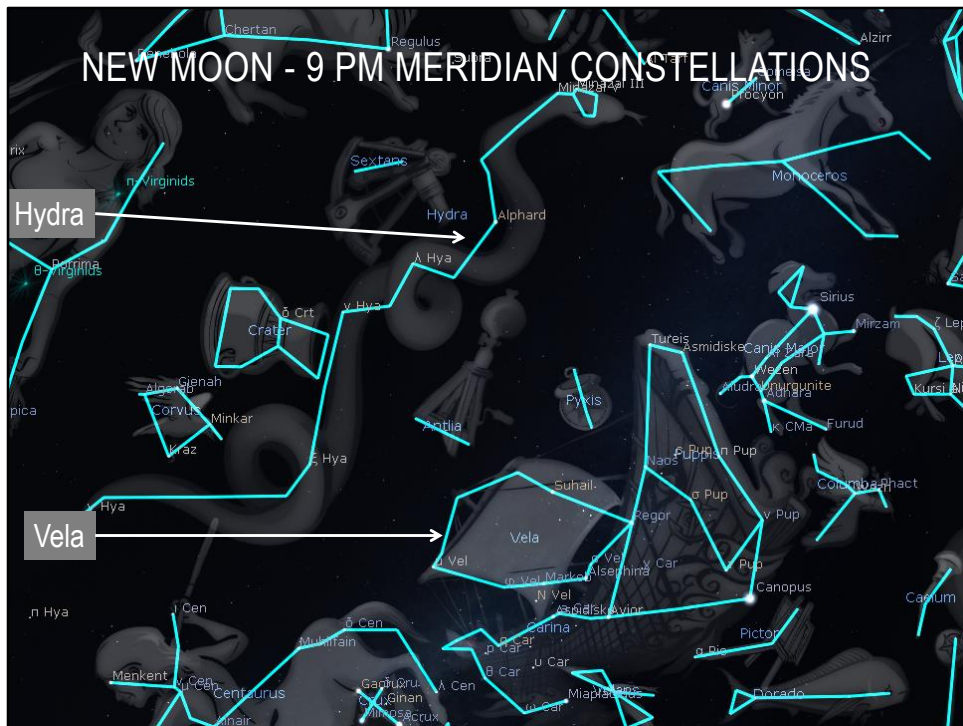
- Planets? What planets?
- Move on. Nothing to see here.



During March there will be no planets visible in the early evenings. However, as the month progresses you might just catch a glimpse of Jupiter low in the eastern sky from around midnight.

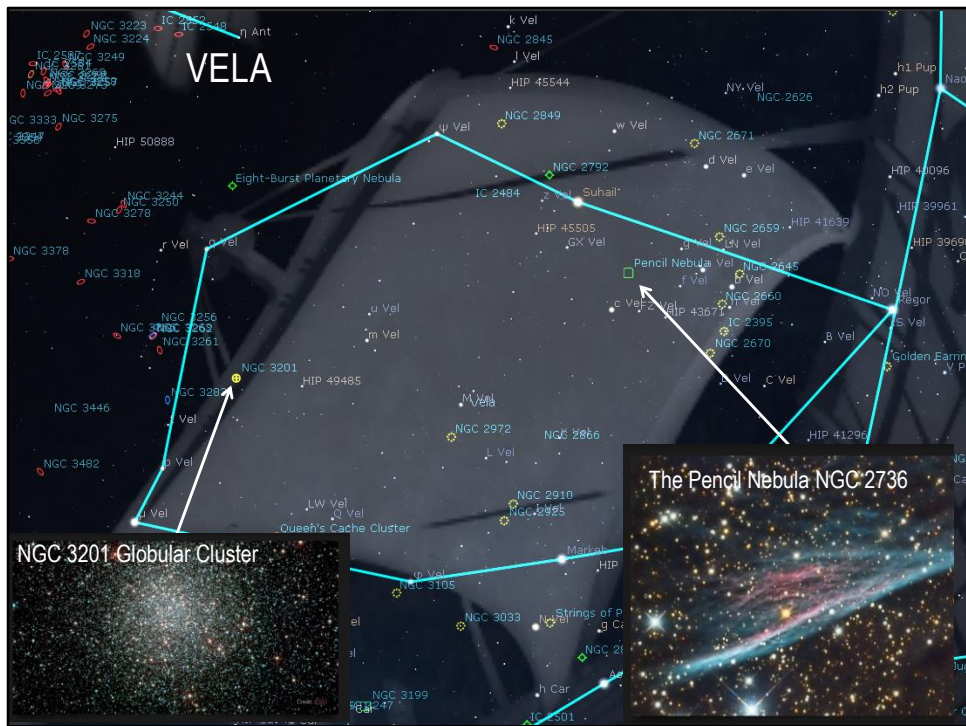


Patient observers sticking with the task until well after midnight will be rewarded with Jupiter, Saturn and Venus rising in the eastern sky. Jupiter and Saturn will continue their march across the sky in subsequent months as they head towards opposition.



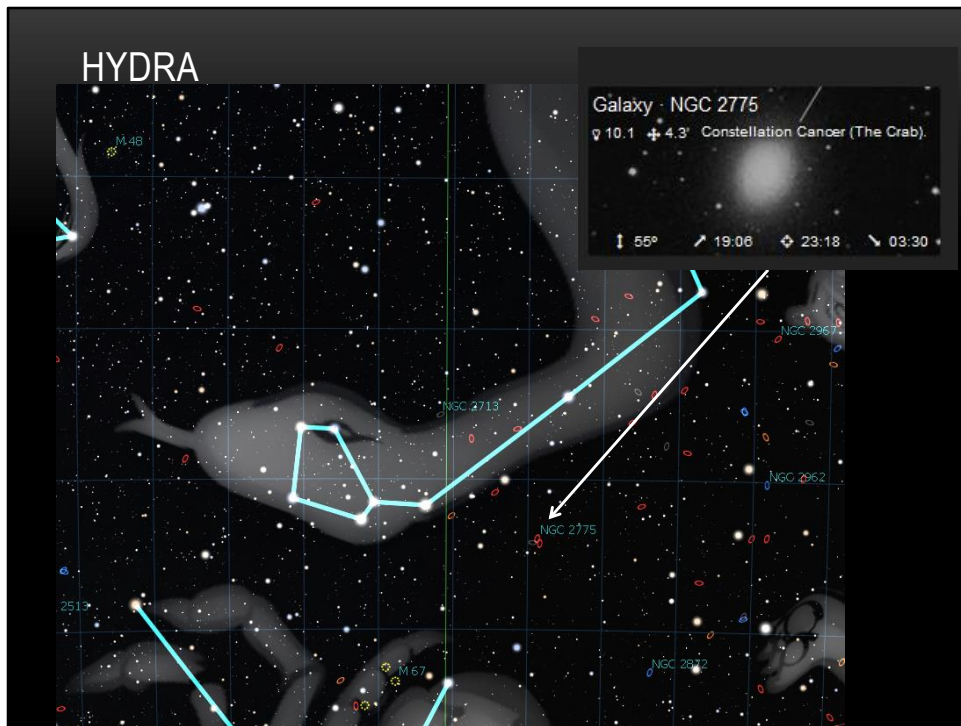
A couple of constellations high in the sky along the meridian at about 9 PM during the New Moon period are Hydra the “Water Snake”, or at least the head end of the snake, and Vela the ship’s sail of the ancient constellation Argo Navis that we no longer use in our star maps. The irregular circular shape of Vela is not too difficult to discern in the deep southern sky in the star-band of the Milky Way. Hydra is a little more difficult to identify as it strings together multiple minor stars across a broad swath of the eastern sky. Locating the little “circular” asterism of stars that define the head of the snake near Canis Minor is the best place to start. A dark sky helps with these constellations.





NGC 2736 is commonly known as The Pencil Nebula and is a bright narrow stripe of glowing gas and the remnant of a supernova explosion from long ago. It is located 800 light years away but can be observed in amateur telescopes in a dark sky. Globular cluster NGC 3201 was observed by James Dunlop in 1826 and is located about 16,000 light years for our Sun.





Hydra stretches over a vast expanse of sky and is a great location to search for distant galaxies. Near the head of the snake is the large spiral galaxy NGC 2775 located 140 million light years away. A dark sky is needed to find this 10.2 magnitude “faint fuzzy” galaxy.

# BUILD YOUR OWN OBSERVING LIST

**DSO Browser**

english español

M 38

Upload your astrophotography

THIRD QUARTER  
23:20 11:20

New Moon: in 9 days (Saturday 28)  
Full Moon: in 23 days (Saturday 11)

Sun, Moon & Planets Information

Like this site?  
 Buy me a beer? :)

**Find Objects**

**Object Type**

Select none

- ☐ Asterism
- ☒ Bright nebula
- ☒ Dark nebula
- ☒ Diffuse nebula
- ☒ Galaxy
- ☒ Galaxy cluster
- ☒ Globular cluster
- ☒ Open cluster
- ☒ Planetary nebula
- ☐ Quasar
- ☐ Supernova remnant

Minimum Elevation

Apparent Magnitude

Apparent Size

Surface Brightness

Catalogues

Coordinates

Constellation

Dorado (The Swordfish)

Local time

Reset filters Search

My Observing List (0)

306 results

Print CSV

Large Magellanic Cloud  
7 8.9 + 10.8° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Tarantula Nebula  
7 8.3 + 20° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Bright nebula  
7 8.5 + 13° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Bright nebula : NGC 1966 / NGC 1962  
7 8.5 + 13° Constellation Dorado (The Swo...

Click Find Objects

Select object types

Select constellation

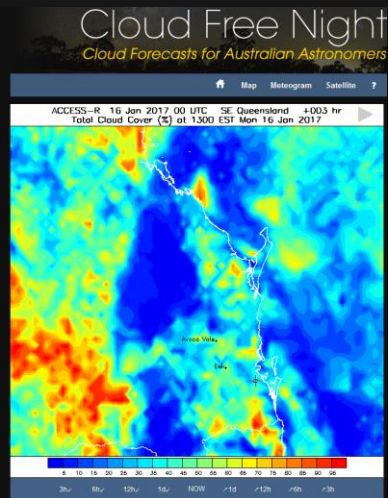
Search

<https://dso-browser.com/>

Make sure you take a look at the great observing planning tool DSO-Browser before the New Moon period. This is a fantastic tool to help you build a list of objects you can try and find each month.

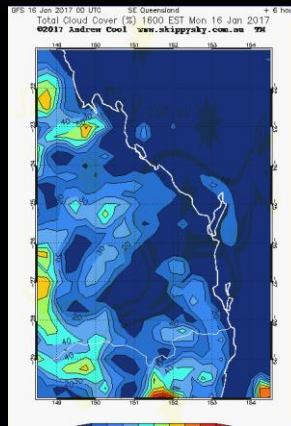
Just a few clicks on [www.dso-browser.com](https://dso-browser.com) can generate a fantastic observing list of object types you are interested in.

AVOIDING CLOUDS  
[www.cloudfreenight.com](http://www.cloudfreenight.com)



More info: <http://philhart.com/content/cloud-forecasts-australian-astronomers>

[www.skippysky.com](http://www.skippysky.com)



And the find the best cloud-free evenings for observing make sure you check CloudFreeNight and Skippysky as you plan your next observing evening.