

Stargazing Targets, April, 2025

Des Moines Astronomical Society / Ashton Observatoy



| Targets – west to east | Angular size | Distance | Dia (Sep) | Mag |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Uranus, planet 7 | 3.5 sec | 20.4 AU | 4.0 xEarth | 5.8 |
| M45 open cluster (Pleiades) | 120 min | 430 ly | 15 ly | 1.5 |
| M42 nebula (Orion) | 85 min | 1400 ly | 35 ly | 4.0 |
| Jupiter, planet 5 | 34.8 sec | 5.7 AU | 11.21 xEarth | -2.0 |
| M38 open cluster (Starfish) (+1907) | 20 min | 4600 ly | 27 ly | 6.4 |
| M36 open cluster (Pinwheel) | 10 min | 4300 ly | 13 ly | 6.0 |
| M37 open cluster | 14 min | 4500 ly | 18 ly | 5.6 |
| M35 open cluster | 40 min | 3000 ly | 35 ly | 5.1 |
| NGC 2392 Eskimo Nebula | 0.8 min | 4200 ly | 1.0 ly | 9.2 |
| Castor A/B double stars | - | 51 ly | (81 AU) | 1.6;3.0 |
| Mars, planet 4 | 7.3 sec | 1.3 AU | 0.53 xEarth | 0.7 |
| M46 open cluster + planetary nebula | 20 min | 4.9 kly | 29 ly | 6.1 |
| M44 open cluster (Beehive) | 70 min | 610 ly | 12 ly | 3.1 |
| γ (gamma) Leonis (Algieba) double s. | - | 130 ly | (235 AU) | 2.2;3.5 |
| M66 & Leo Triplet | 10 min ea | 33 Mly | 86 kly | 9.0 |
| M100 face-on spiral + Virgo Gp | 7.5 min | 52 Mly | 113 kly | 9.4 |
| Mel 111 open cluster | 120 min | 313 ly | 11 ly | 1.8 |
| M53 globular cluster | 13 min | 60 kly | 221 ly | 7.6 |
| M3 globular cluster | 18 min | 33 kly | 174 ly | 6.2 |
| M5 globular cluster | 23 min | 24 kly | 164 ly | 5.7 |
| M104 spiral galaxy (Sombrero) | 8.6 min | 34 Mly | 85 kly | 8.0 |
| M51 spiral galaxy (Whirlpool) | 11 min | 28 Mly | 91 kly | 8.4 |
| M101 spiral gal (Pinwheel) | 29 min | 23 Mly | 189 kly | 7.9 |
| Alcor & Mizar double-double stars | - | 82 ly | (25 AU) | 4.0 & 2.2;3.9 |
| M13 globular cluster | 20 min | 23 kly | 135 ly | 5.8 |
| M92 globular cluster | 14 min | 26 kly | 110 ly | 6.4 |
| M81 spiral galaxy (Bodes) | 25 min | 12 Mly | 87 kly | 6.9 |
| M82 spiral galaxy (Cigar) | 11 min | 12 Mly | 40 ly | 8.4 |
| NGC884/869 Double Cluster | 18;18 min | 9.6;6.8 kly | 50;36 ly | 6.1;5.3 |
| NGC457 open cl (owl/ET/dragonfly) | 20 min | 7.9 kly | 46 ly | 6.4 |
| | | | | |
| Moon: new=Apr.27; full=Apr.12 | 32 min max | 240,000 mi mean | 2160 mi | -12.2 max |
| | | | | |

Notes: Most data from SkySafari7 Pro smartphone application, 2024.

Angular size=as viewed from Earth; Distance=distance from Earth; Dia=overall true size; (Sep)=distance separating double stars; Mag=apparent visual magnitude from Earth.

min=arcminute; sec=arcsecond; ly=light year (~5.9 trillion miles); kly=ly x1000; Mly=ly x1,000,000.

AU=astronomical unit, 1AU=the average distance from Earth to Sun (≈93,000,000 mi).

Constellations/stars rise approx. 4 minutes earlier/day. Planets move differently per orbit. Moon rises at least 30 minutes later/night.

Milky Way size≈120x1 kly; total stars≈400 billion. MW rotates our Solar System≈483,000 mph. The MW thru space≈1,300,000 mph.

