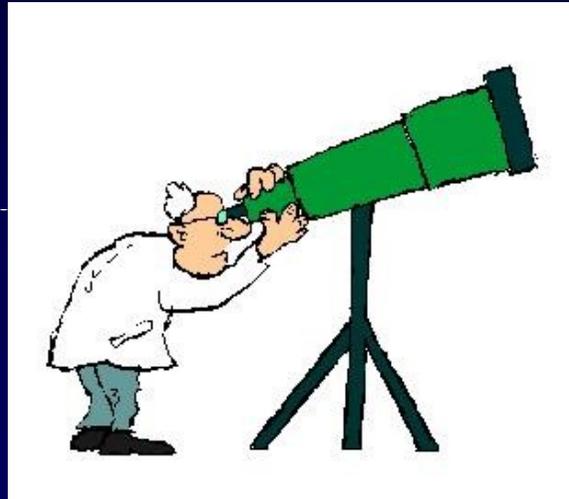


What's Up!

For March 2018



BROOKLANDSRADIO

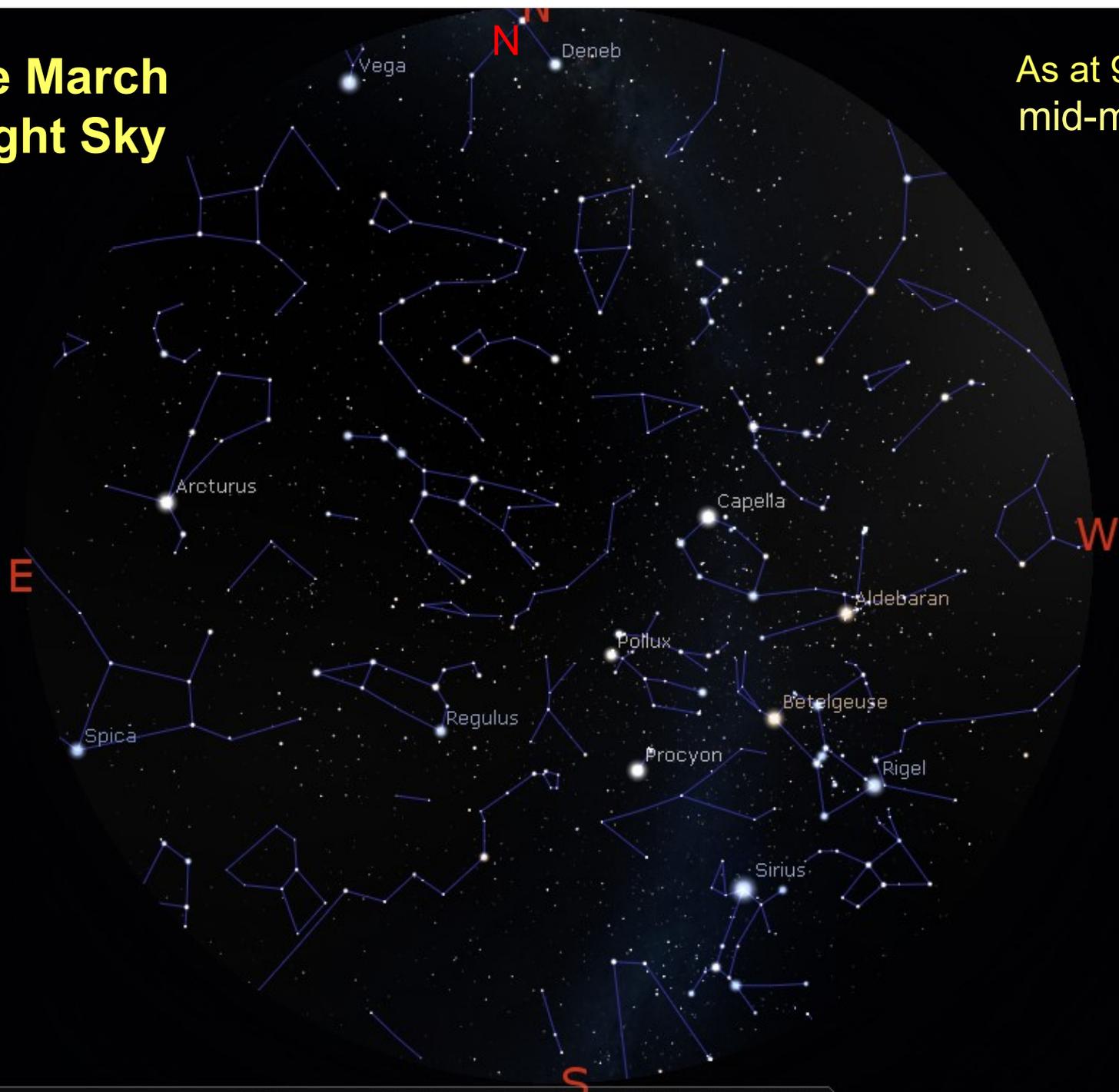
ONLINE

The Sound of Surrey



The March Night Sky

As at 9 p.m.
mid-month



The Moon in March



What's Up - March's Planets

- Mercury

- An early evening object, low in West, Mag -1.1. Best seen in the middle of the month, setting 2 hours after the Sun.

- Venus

- A brilliant evening object, very low in West setting 90 mins after sunset at mid month, Mag -3.8

- Mars

- A morning object, relatively dim at Mag +0.5 in E-SE, visible from around 3.30 a.m. Improving as month draws on, in both brightness and disc size.

What's Up - March's Planets

- Jupiter

- A morning object, easily visible at Mag -2.0 in South East to South before sunrise, brightening and increasing in size throughout the month.

- Saturn

- An early morning object shining at mag +1, improving as month progresses, very low in South Eastern sky, before sunrise.

- Uranus

- Still visible for this month, binocular object visible all night at Mag +5.9 in South West

- Neptune

- Not visible this month

Events of Interest in March

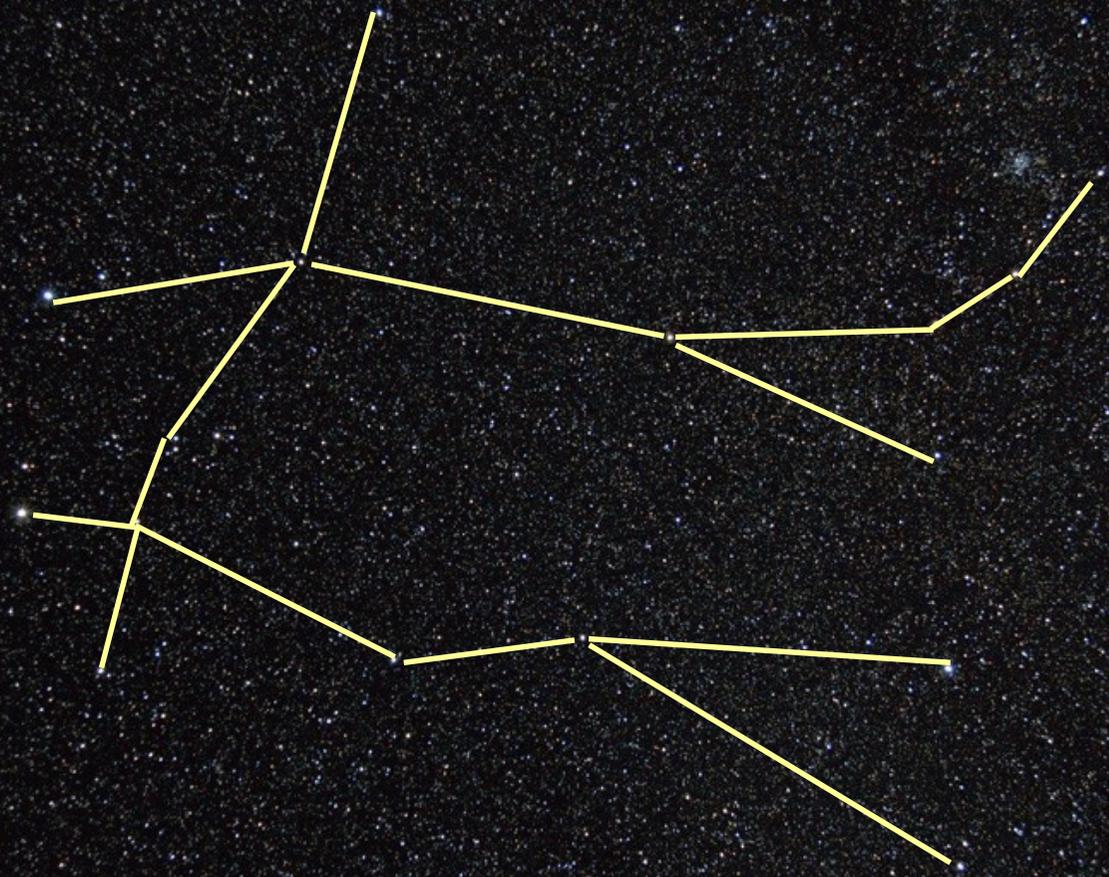
- **1st** 6.06 a.m. full Moon occults 1st magnitude Regulus, which reappears 45 mins later 
- **4th** Mercury and Venus just 1° apart, low in the West, 30 mins after sunset 
- **18th** Mercury, Venus & 1%-lit crescent Moon form a straight line, low in the West, shortly after sunset
- **19th** Mars passes between M8 & M20 (Lagoon & Triffid Nebulae) low in South East at 3.30 a.m. 
- **22nd** Crescent moon passes through Hyades open cluster, occulting Aldeberan at 23.30 for 45 mins 

March's Suggested Constellation

- but which one?

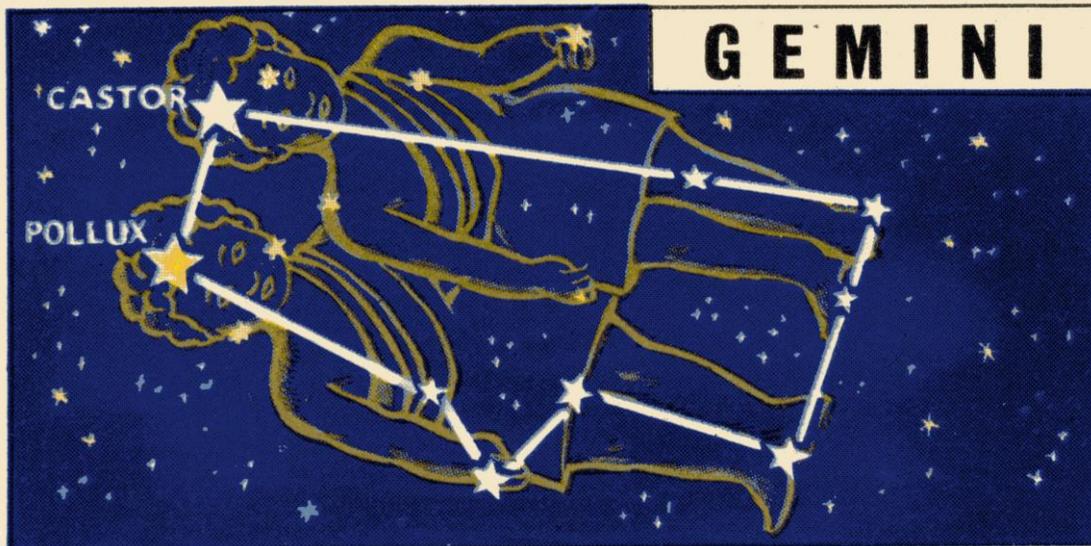
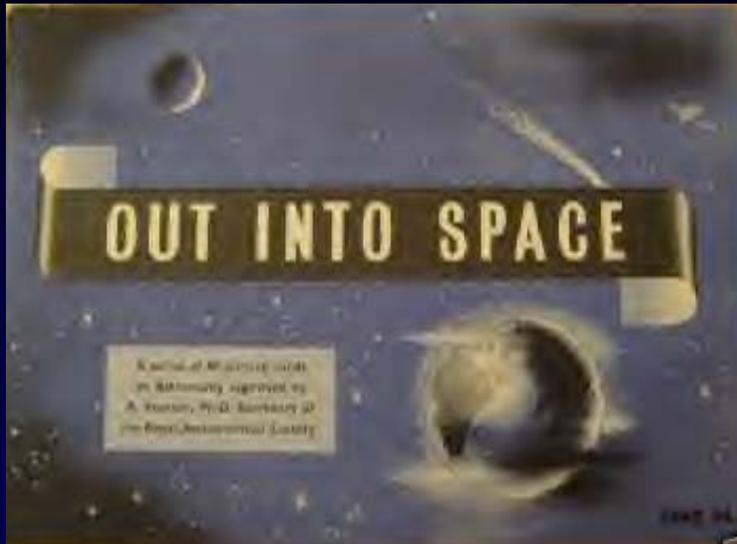
*Have you
got it yet?*

March's Suggested Constellation - but which one?



That's right - Gemini

March's Suggested Constellation



A SERIES OF 50 No. 26

OUT INTO SPACE

*Approved by A. Hunter, Ph.D.,
Sec. Royal Astronomical Society*

GEMINI

Gemini (Twins), third Zodiacal sign, is between Taurus and Cancer. It contains several double stars, and is represented on most Celestial maps by male twins of mythology Castor and Pollux. Castor is a binary or 'double star' consisting of two white stars of approximately same magnitude, but appears as one very bright star, except when seen through a telescope. Pollux is a navigational star. Castor, Pollux and other principal Gemini stars are very noticeable, because the adjoining areas of Cancer and Lynx constellations have few stars of great magnitude.

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Gemini in Greek Mythology

- The twins were half-brothers, sons of Leda. Castor was the son of the King of Sparta, but Pollux was the son of Zeus. Zeus had come to Leda disguised as a swan, so maybe she had unusual interests! :-)
- Zeus & Leda went at it again, and had another pair of twins; Helen of Troy and Clytemnestra.
- Castor, whose father was human, was mortal whereas Pollux was immortal, being the son of Zeus. When Castor was killed by his cousin (what a family!) Pollux grieved. Zeus was so moved by this grief that he placed them in the heavens, together forever.

Where do I find it
in the night sky?



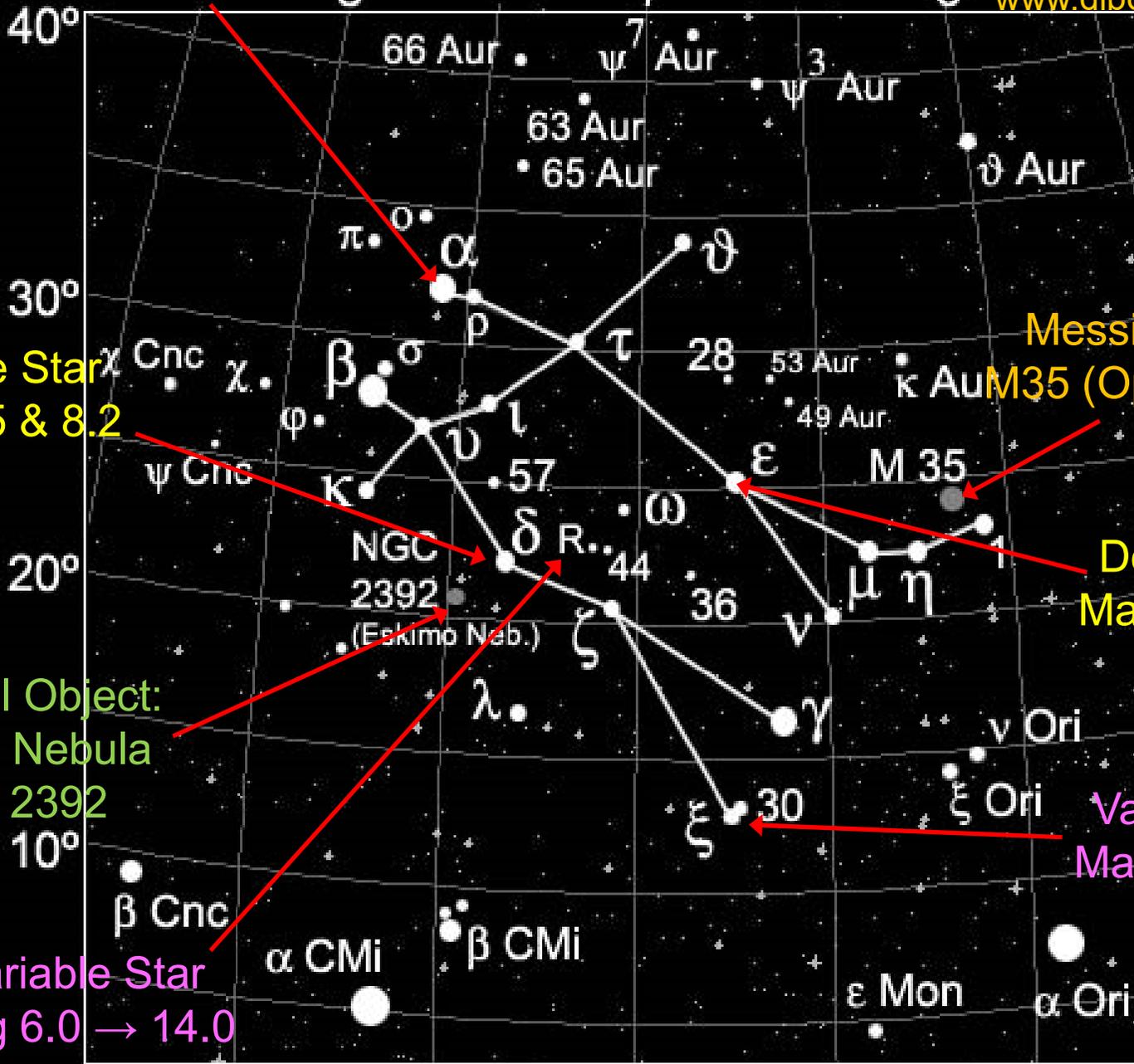
As at about
9.00 p.m.
mid-month

Double Star

Mag 1.9 & 3.0

Gemini

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Double Star
Mag 3.5 & 8.2

Messier Object:
M35 (Open Cluster)

Double Star
Mag 3.3 & 8.8

Caldwell Object:
Eskimo Nebula
NGC 2392

Variable Star
Mag 3.6 → 4.2

Variable Star
Mag 6.0 → 14.0

Messier Object in Gemini



M35 (NGC 2168) – *with NGC 2158 at lower right*

Distance 2,800 light years

Visual Brightness Magnitude 5.1

Apparent Dimension 25 arc minutes

Discovered 1745 Philippe Loys de Chésaeaux

Caldwell Object
in Gemini



Eskimo Nebula
C39 (NGC 2392)

Distance 4,000 light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 9.2
Apparent Dimension 47 arc seconds
Discovered 1787 William Herschel

Meetings at Local Societies

- **Guildford AS** *Lecture Theatre L, Uni of Surrey*

– Thursday 1st March, 7.30 p.m.

» **Structure In The Early Universe**

» **Prof Carlos Frenk**

» **Durham University**

NB This meeting had to be cancelled because of the poor weather conditions, and so this talk will be scheduled again in the next season of talks.

Meetings at Local Societies

- **Farnham AS Aldershot Cricket Club**

– Tuesday 13th March, 7.45 p.m.

- **The Exploration of Mercury**

– **Steve Woodbridge**

» Farnham AS

Talks at Local Astro Societies

- **Croydon AS** *Royal Russell School, Coombe Lane, Croydon*
 - Friday 9th March, 7.45 p.m.
 - **Cassini at Saturn - the end of an era**
 - Prof Carl Murray
 - » Queen Mary, University of London
 - Friday 23rd March, 7.45 p.m. **tba**
 - **Ewell AS** *Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam*
 - Friday 9th February, 8.00 p.m.
 - **Weighing The Stars**
 - David Fishwick
 - » Ewell AS

Astronomy Evening - 21st March

- Wednesday 21st March, 7 p.m. till 9.30 p.m.
- University of Surrey, Dept of Physics
- 7.15 pm Talk tba, at Lecture Theatre D
- 7.45 pm star gazing
 - their observatory and with Guildford AS volunteers
- Free, but book via Eventbrite on Uni's website
 - [Department-Physics/events](#)



Astronomy on TV

- **The Sky at Night**

- *Taking a break this month*
- *returns in April with a new producer*
 - *so possibly with a change in format?*



"That's all Folks!"