

# What's Up?

2026 March 23 to April 27

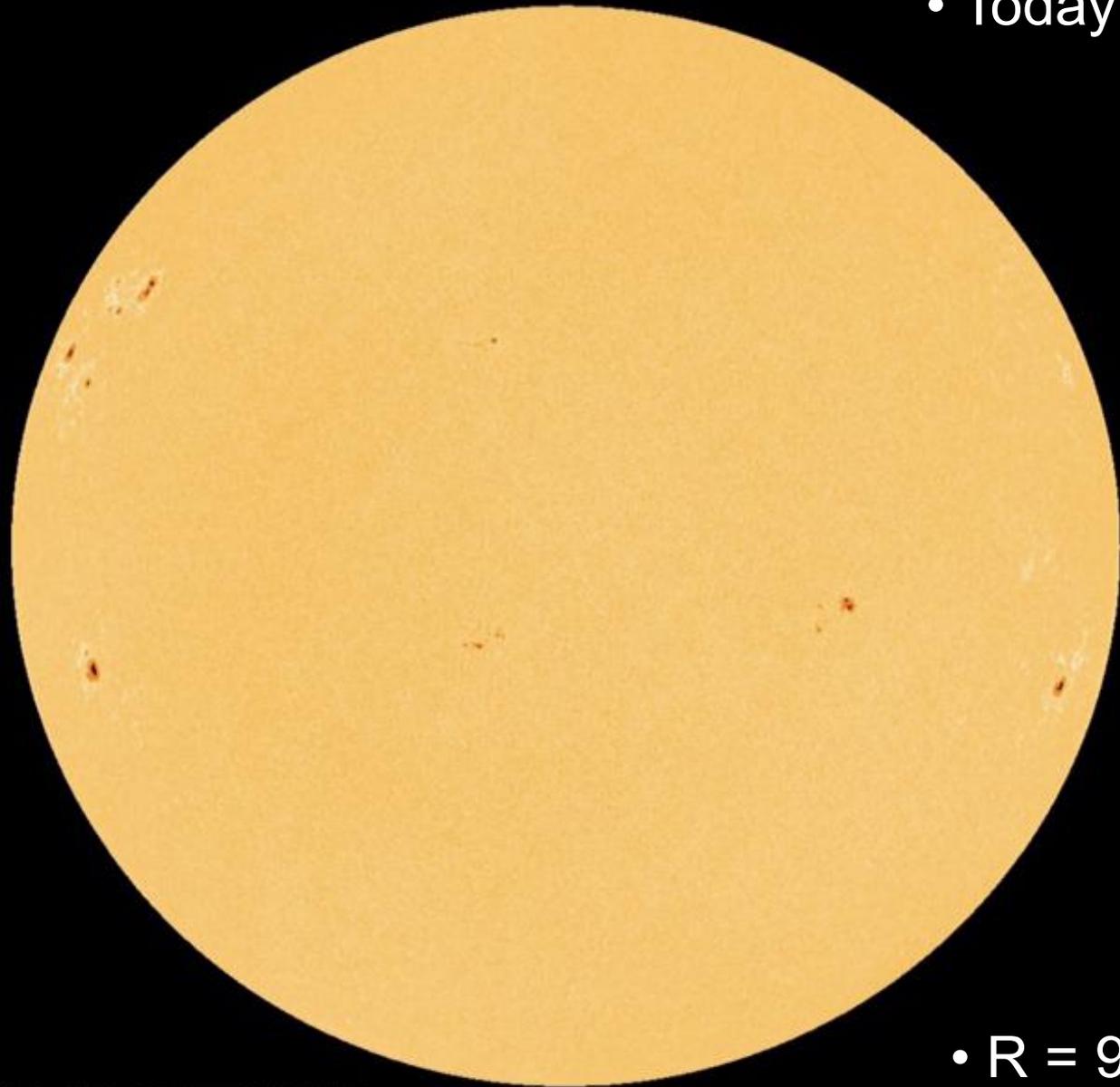
Bill Barton, FRAS

• Last Time



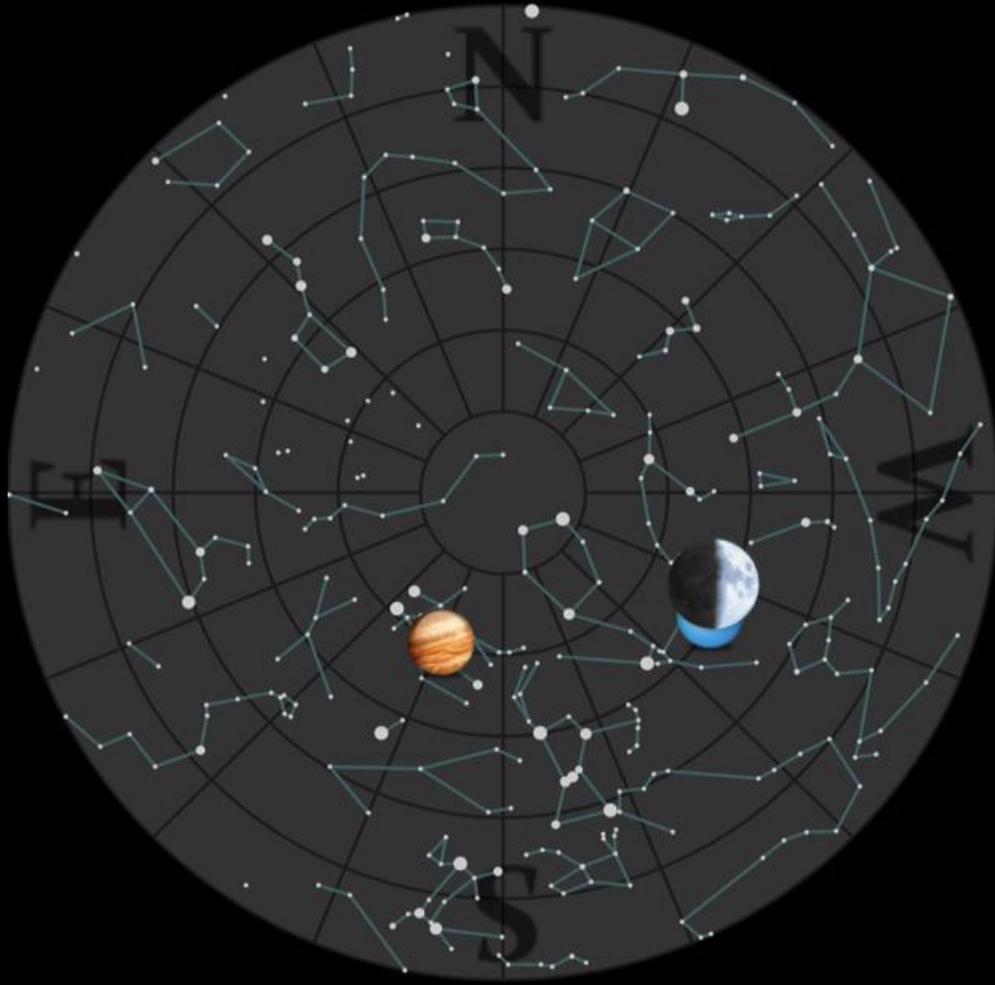
•  $R = 0$  (!)

• Today

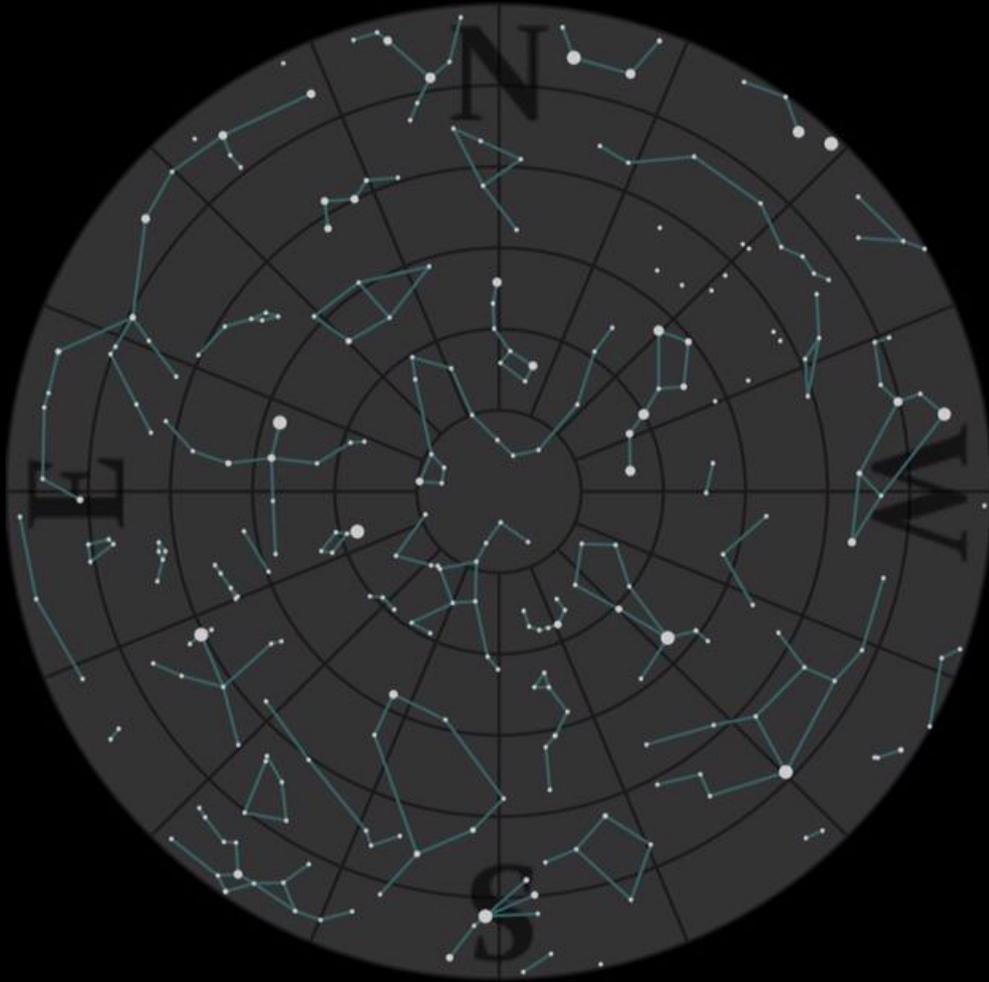


• R = 96

- The Sky 20:00  
Tonight



- The Sky 06:00  
Tomorrow



# Inner Solar System

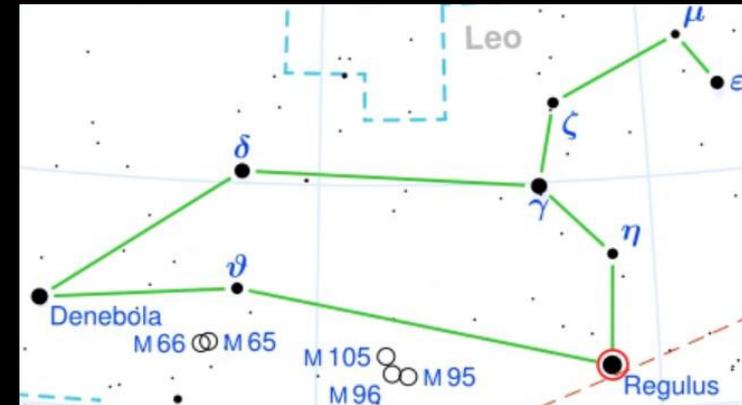
- Sun
  - Declination increasing, solstice June 21
  - Last sunspot max., 2024 October, next min., 2030?
- Mercury
  - In the morning sky, greatest elongation April 03 ( $28^\circ$  ), currently  $23^\circ$  , superior conjunction on May 14
  - Today, rise 05:10, transit 10:30, set 15:50
- Venus
  - In the evening sky, greatest elongation August 14 ( $46^\circ$  ), currently  $18^\circ$
  - today, rise 06:30, transit 13:10, set 19:50

# Earth

- Time
  - 00:00UT  $\approx$  10:15ST today
  - BST starts 01:00, March 29
  - Today, sunrise 05:50, transit 12:00, sunset 18:15
  - End of period, sunrise 05:30, transit 12:50, sunset 20:15
- Moon
  -  First Quarter, 25, & April 24
  -  Full, April 02 ('Worm or Sap' Moon)
  -  Last Quarter, 10
  -  New, 17
- Meteors
  - None of note this period

# Lunar Occultation

- Moon
  - First Quarter, March 25, Full, April 02
- Sunday March 29 (BST in operation)
  - Moon, age 09 days, rise, 15:20
  - Sunset, 19:20, civil twilight end, 20:00
  - Moon south, 22:40
- Regulus ( $\alpha$  Leonis), mag +1.4
  - Disappearance at dark limb, 19:15
  - Reappearance at bright limb, 20:21



# Outer Solar System

- Mars
  - Next opposition February 19, 2027. Today, rise 05:30, transit 11:00, set 16:30
- Jupiter
  - Opposition January 10, conjunction July 29. Today, rise 10:40, transit 19:00, set 03:10
- Saturn
  - Conjunction March 25, opposition October 04. Today, rise 06:10, transit 12:10, set 18:15
- Uranus
  - Conjunction May 22, opposition November 25. Today, rise 07:40, transit 15:40, set 23:30
- Neptune
  - Conjunction February 20, opposition September 26. Today, rise 06:00, transit 12:00, set 18:00

# Comet

- C/2026 A1 (MAPS)
  - discovered 13 January 2026, Kreutz sungrazer
- 04 April 2026, 15:21 BST will pass within 99,000 miles of the Sun (0.0057AU)
  - visible in SOHO coronagraphs
- Great Comet of 1843
  - perihelion, 0.00553AU, seen one degree away from Sun
- Great Comet of 1882
  - perihelion 0.0077AU, visible in daylight
- Comet Ikeya-Seki
  - 1965, reached mag -10 or -11, but for only a few days

# OASI Events

- Recorded Lecture Meeting
  - Monday 20 April, from 20:00
    - 'At the Limits of Astrophysics', Katy Clough
  
- In Person Lecture Meeting
  - Friday 24 April, from 19:45
    - St Augustine's Church Annex
      - 'Astronomy in Uzbekistan', Chris Mead, Chair DASH Astro

# Local Societies Events

- DASH (Darsham Village Hall, 7:00pm, Sundays)
  - April 05, observing meeting
  - April 5 & 6, Henham Country Show
  - April 19, 'Einstein & Relativity', Paul Whiting
- SAS (Cavendish Memorial Hall, 7:30pm, Tuesdays)
  - April 07, Saturn, Mike Foulkes
- AAA (Whepstead Village Hall, 7:30pm, Wednesdays)
  - April 01, 'The Night Side of Venus' Martin Lewis
  - April 15, Spring Night Skies, Variable Stars

# National Events I

- British Astronomical Association
  - Special General Meeting
  - IoP, 37 Caledonian Rd., London, N1 9BU
  - Wednesday March 25, 17,30-20:00
  - 'Kuiper Belts around other stars', Dr Tim Pearce
  - 'Variable Nebulæ - where we are, but where to go?', Richard Sargent
  - Sky Notes, Paul Abel
- Society for the History of Astronomy
  - Spring Conference
  - BMI, 9 Margaret St., Birmingham, B3 3BS
  - Friday April 24, 10:00-16:30

# National Events II

- Society for Astronomy
  - Chadwick Lecture Theatre, UCL, Gower St., London, WC1E 6BT
  - Saturday April 25, 14:00-17:00
  - 'The Impact of Satellite Constellations on Astronomy', Dr Mike Peel
  - 'Skynotes', Robin Scagell