

# Some Targets for the LAAS Public Star Party on Saturday, April 20, 2013

Sunset at 7:29 p.m. PDT

At 8:00 p.m. PDT the Sidereal Time (Right Ascension at the Meridian) is 10 hours 04.37 minutes

## SHOWCASE OBJECTS

**The Moon** 10 days old (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter was on April 18); in Leo (southeast of Regulus)

Prominent features near the terminator: Rainbow Bay in the North, large crater Copernicus near the middle, craters Tycho and Bullialdus (both with prominent central peaks) in the South

**Jupiter and its Galilean Moons**

Low in the Western sky (will be setting at 10:58 p.m. PDT)

Io and Callisto in the East, Europa in the West, Ganymede transiting Jupiter from 8:05 to 10:34 p.m. PDT

**Orion Nebula (M42) and the Trapezium**

**Saturn** rises at 7:55 p.m. PDT, may be high enough above the horizon for viewing before the session ends

## MULTIPLE STARS

(SAO Numbers are included for use by computerized go-to mounts)

**Prominent white doubles:**

Castor (in Gemini; SAO # 060198; 07:34.6 +31:53)

Mizar (in Ursa Major; SAO # 028737; 13:23.9 +54: 56)

Porrina (in Virgo; SAO # 138917; 12:41.7 -01:27; a pair of 3½ magnitude stars now only 1.55 arcseconds apart)

**Prominent doubles of various colors:**

145 Canis Majoris (orange & blue; in Canis Major; h3945; SAO # 173349; 07:16.6 -23:19)

Algieba (Gamma Leo; gold & gold; in Leo; SAO # 081298; 10:20.0 +19:50)

Iota Cancri (gold & blue; in Cancer; SAO # 080416; 08:46.7 +28:46)

Cor Caroli (Alpha CVn, yellow & blue-grey, in Canes Venatici, SAO # 063257, 12:56.0 + 38:19)

Izar (Epsilon Boo, yellow & blue, magnitude differential challenge in Boötes, SAO # 083500, 14:45.0 +27:04)

**Triple stars:**

Beta Monocerotis (challenging; in Monoceros; SAO # 133317; 06:28.8 -07:02)

## PROMINENT OPEN CLUSTERS

**For binoculars or rich field telescopes:** M44 (the Beehive, in Cancer); Caldwell 41 (the Hyades in Taurus)

**Can fit within the fields of view of medium to long focal length eyepieces:**

M35 (in Gemini), M36 & M38 (in Auriga); M41 (in Canis Major), M47 (in Puppis), M48 (in Hydra),

M50 (in Monoceros), M93 (in Puppis), NGC 2362 (in Canis Major; the Tau Canis Majoris cluster),

NGC 2244 (in Monoceros; surrounded by the Rosette Nebula);

NGC 2264 (in Monoceros; the “Christmas Tree Cluster”).

## PROMINENT GLOBULAR CLUSTERS

M68 (in Hydra), M3 (in Canes Venatici),

## GALAXIES THAT MIGHT BE VISIBLE IN URBAN SKIES

M81 & M82 (in Ursa Major), M51 & M63 (in Canes Venatici); NGC 2903 (in Leo); NGC 3115 (in Sextans)

## RED CARBON STARS

(SAO Numbers are included for use by computerized go-to telescopes)

V Hydrae (in Hydra; SAO # 179278; 10:51.7 -21:16.2; distinctly but pale red)

SS Virginis (in Virgo; SAO # 119381; 12:24.7 -01:23.0)

γ Canum Venaticorum (in Canis Venatici; SAO # 044317; 12:45.1 +45:26.4;

this star that astronomer Angelo Secchi named “La Superba” is bright orange rather than red)

Compiled by Herbert Kraus