

# CAROLINA SKIES FEBRUARY-MARCH 2021

Hold this chart over your head. Find north, and align the chart accordingly. To see it while preserving your night vision, use a red light, or put a brown paper bag over your flashlight for a muted glow.

Winter constellations, Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull, and Gemini the Twins, begin to give way to spring patterns, Leo the Lion, Ursa Major the Great Bear, and Virgo the Maiden. Find Leo the Lion by locating the backward question mark that outlines his head and mane.

Reddish **Mars** shines high overhead shortly after sunset. It remains visible throughout the evening as it treks westward, setting soon after midnight. In early March, it's near the distinctive Pleiades star cluster in Taurus the Bull. Mars is currently the only naked eye planet visible during the evening. In fact, all the others are too close to the Sun's direction and buried in the solar glare during the bulk of February. But by early March, **Mercury**, **Jupiter**, and **Saturn** emerge very low in the eastern morning twilight sky just before sunrise. **Venus** is too close to the Sun to be seen now.

For an online hub of resources for you to enjoy at home, check out **Morehead At Home** - <https://moreheadplanetarium.org/explore/morehead-at-home/>

## Skywatching Sessions:

After it's safe to gather in person again, we'll be back with our free public monthly skywatching sessions.

<http://moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching>

