

Our Night Sky for April 8th, 2024

By the second week in April we may be in the anticipated perfect spring viewing window. The weather and heavy industry haven't pushed dust into the air because the ground is just drying out from the snow cover. Flying insects are not too annoying yet and temperatures are mostly above freezing. But most important we have several hours of darkness made even better with April 8th presenting a super new moon. The moon's orbit is not a perfect circle, it is an ellipse and sometimes the moon is a bit closer and therefore a bit larger in our sky. Earlier today the moon blocked the sun on a diagonal path across North America. Only a small part of the eclipse is seen from Prince George. But, for this week the small sliver of the moon over us should have very little effect on the viewing.

There is a chance this week if the weather cooperates for a special sight. As this week progresses the three objects are all due west and coming closer each night to setting. There is a faint comet named 12p/Pons Brooke and very nearby is easy to find Jupiter and just above Jupiter is Uranus. Earlier in the week and as early in the evening that it is dark enough is your best chance of catching this lovely sight. Remember these objects are only seven to ten degrees above the horizon so you need binoculars and a good view of the western horizon. Good luck, exploring Our Night Sky.