

Our Night Sky for April 20 th , 2026

Tonight Venus should be easy to spot as it hangs above our western horizon long after the sun sets. As the sun sets you should be able to spot the three-day old waxing moon. The moon is well above the horizon by 9 pm and is sharing the area with bright star Capella on it's right and Bright red Betelgeuse in familiar Orion just above setting at due west. Looking up from west is Gemini the twins and still with Jupiter close between the twin stick men.

By Wednesday night the moon will move into Gemini and almost touch Jupiter as it moves gracefully past. This near conjunction may be visible in the same view in your binoculars. If you are very patient, you may even see the faster moving moon move across the much more distant Jupiter. Seeing a solar system object move against another is a sight you won't soon forget.

This week we are treated to the Lyrid meteor shower. The radiant is close to the constellation Lyra now close to the Northeastern horizon but each night higher towards its summer dominance all summer. The Lyrids meteor shower is a fairly low count at around 18 to 20 meteors an hour but with milder weather and the has little to no effect this could yield some spectacular meteors being spotted. As you know meteor showers happen when the earth passes through the debris left by comets that orbit the sun. The Lyrids meteor shower is a result of the passage of a comet called G1 Thatcher that only returns to the inner solar system every 415 years. A rare item in our night sky.