

Our Night Sky for April 27 th, 2026

This week I would like to have another look at some of the constellations rising in our eastern skies and will be in the summer skies of the coming months. But first, even at civil twilight at about 9:15 pm two very bright objects well above due west will catch your eye even if your not looking for them. Just above west and for at least an hour high enough above the horizon making it hard to miss. Also, in the same general area but about two hand widths higher and a bit left is Jupiter. Being so bright both planets may be spotted just after the sun sets at about 9 pm. You may also see Orion dipping into the horizon at sunset. You won't see Orion again until October as it rises horizontally in the east and begins working its way to winter dominance of our southern winter skies.

Now swing around to the northeastern sky and you should have no trouble spotting the lopsided rectangle with the bright star Vega attached. This is the constellation Lyra. If conditions are good a pair of binoculars panned along the lower bar about a third from the left corner may yield a faint wispy ring of an exploding ball of gas. This is the ring Nebula This is a side view of an exploding ball of gas still expanding after six thousand years. Above and to the right, slide right through the square of Hercules to the horn shaped Corona Borealis. Remember there is an almost invisible star next to the lower horn that we are still watching for a reoccurring nova, now about a year overdue, in Our Night Sky.