



Evening sky in April 2018

The constellations of Orion (the Hunter) and the Dogs, Canis Major (the Big Dog) and Canis Minor (the Little Dog), are still well-placed for observation above the western horizon. The blue-white supergiant star, Rigel, represents one of Orion's legs while the red supergiant star, Betelgeuse represents a shoulder of the Hunter. A line from Rigel through Betelgeuse points to Castor and Pollux in Gemini (the Twins). Leo (the Lion) appears upside-down halfway above the northern horizon. The bright star, Regulus, shows the position of the heart of the Lion while the sickle-shaped asterism below outlines the head and mane. On 24 April the Moon is close to Regulus. High to the south-east are the bright stars of Crux (the Southern Cross) and the Pointers. Round to the south-west is Canopus, the second brightest star in the night sky. It is in the constellation of Carina, the Keel of the mythological ship, Argo. Two other constellations complete the ship: Puppis (the Stern) and Vela (the Sails).

Planet Jupiter is in Libra (the Scales) in the east. Towards the end of the month Planet Venus makes its appearance as the bright Evening Star low in the west.

Yuri's Night is celebrated on 12 April (<https://yurisnight.net/>).