

WEEKLY SKY REPORT

March 29 – April 4, 2026

ROCKET LAUNCHES

NASA is preparing to launch Artemis 2 this week on a 10-day mission to circle the moon. This will be this first return to the moon in more than 50 years.

April 1 3:24pm Launch

While Artemis is flying around the moon, SpaceX will be preparing its own Starship, which it hopes will be heading to the moon soon. Keep an eye on the launch by searching online: "spacex boca chica" where their Starships are being built.

CONSTELLATIONS

The winter constellations are on full display over Berkeley. Orion the hunter with his sword hanging below his 3-starred belt is hard to miss and is in the middle of the southern sky around 7pm. Jupiter looks to be getting kicked around like a soccer ball right between the Gemini twins loitering just above Orion. Taurus the bull is on the other side of Orion looking to take him on with the glowing star Aldebaran sparkling at the base of one of his horns. Orion's dog Canis Major with its even shinier star Sirius is at Orion's feet is ready to join him in the fight against the bull. Meanwhile, just to the north, Cassiopeia sits clinging to her now upside down throne as punishment for boasting that she, or her own daughter Andromeda, was more beautiful than Poseidon's sea nymph daughters. Poor Andromeda is stuck next to her mother but she, at least, flees the scene and sinks into the west around 8pm. Cassiopeia is left to spin around the sky in her crooked throne until she is lost in dawn's early light.

PLANETS

Our sister planet Venus is leaving behind her morning garb and will now be the Evening Star until fall. The mighty Jupiter is almost directly overhead as it gets dark. Saturn has left the evening sky and will soon mingle with Mercury and Mars in the morning. Come August, Saturn will return to the east in the late night sky.

Telescopes @ Berkeley Public Library!

We have a Orion StarBlast Astro Reflector Telescope that you can borrow for 1 week. Place a hold on it and then pick it up from your branch when it is ready. It is fairly easy to carry at 13 lbs., and stands about 2 feet tall.

Here's what you get:

"A great compact grab-and-go telescope designed for entry-level and intermediate astronomy enthusiasts. Substantial 4.5" aperture and fast f/4 focal ratio provides bright, detailed views of solar system targets like the Moon and planets, as well as wide-field celestial objects like nebulas and star clusters."

We also have pairs of binoculars to check out!



Much of the information for this report comes from the wonderful web site, Heavens Above. You can enter your home city location and bookmark it for easy access: <http://www.heavens-above.com>. Other stellar sources include: <http://www.space.com> and <http://www.nasa.gov>. And check spacex.com for launches.

Binoculars @ Berkeley Public Library!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Cal Falcons program, we have 9 Vortex-Raptor binocular kits that you can put on hold and pick up at the location of your choice.

Here's what you get:

Porro prism performance in a mid-size, wide-angle design, the Raptors deliver a bright, crisp image with excellent color fidelity - even in low light conditions. With a wide range of interpupillary distance, they can easily be adjusted to fit anyone in the family, making them ideal for serious, hard-core youth hunters. The kit comes with a copy of The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western America and a pocket guide to local birds of the SF Bay Area. But it is also great for looking at planets, the moon and the stars!

