



Evening sky in April 2016

The change of season is reflected in the evening sky: Orion, the Hunter, visible mainly in summer, is low in the west while Scorpius (Scorpio) heralding winter, has made its appearance in the east. To the north Leo, the Lion, dominates the autumn evening sky. The king of the beasts appears upside down to Southern Hemisphere viewers. The Lion's head, depicted by The Sickle, an asterism resembling a large backwards, upside down question mark includes bright star, Regulus, the "heart" of the Lion, at the top. This bluish-white star is really a system of four stars about 79 light years away. High above the south eastern horizon is the Southern Cross (Crux) and the Pointers, two bright stars "pointing" to the Cross.

Planets Mars and Saturn are in the constellation of Ophiuchus (Serpent Bearer). Jupiter appears in Leo (Lion). The Moon is in the evening sky from 8 April until 25 April.

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the historic flight when Yuri Gagarin became the first human to journey in outer space. Yuri's Night is celebrated each year on 12 April. Read about the World Space Party at www.yurisnight.net

Autumn equinox is on 20 March.