

April Evening Skies

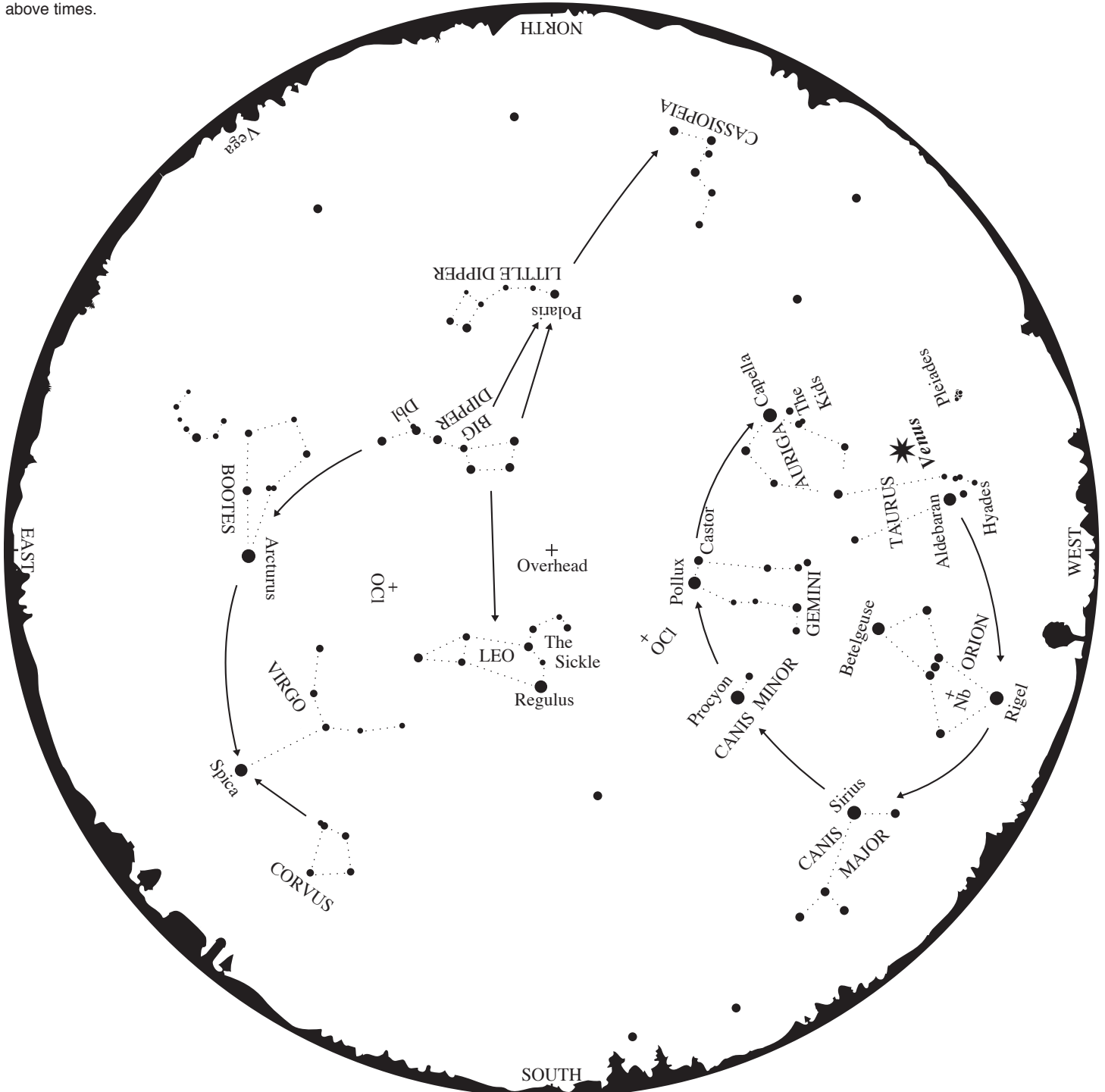
This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local daylight times:

Late March	11 p.m.
Early April	10 p.m.
Late April	9 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times.

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The planet Venus is plotted for mid-April 2020. At chart time 12 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Venus, Sirius, Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Spica, Pollux, and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. The famous Orion Nebula,

a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that constellation. The open or galactic star cluster (OC1) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. Coma Berenices, "The Hair of Berenice," is another open cluster (OC2), between Leo and Bootes. Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch