



TAS Messier Marathon

Messier Marathon 2023 Maps and Recording Sheets

Primary Date: March 18, 2023 - Alternate Date: March 25, 2023

Based on the Messier Marathon Observer's Guide by Don Machholz

The Messier Marathon presents an opportunity to view the entire Messier List in one night. Each Spring, the period around the Spring Equinox on March 21 allows observers to view all 110 of the Messier objects in one observing session. In 2023, the new moon weekends fall on March 18 and April 15, allowing for a full night of observing. During other weekends in March and April, the appearance of the moon during part of the night will hinder observers from viewing the whole list.

You may use any size telescope or binoculars for the Marathon, since the object is to SEE the object, rather than to OBSERVE and LOG it. For this reason, it is OK to use setting circles and other electronic devices, even though such observations would not qualify you for the Astronomical League's Messier Certificate. This packet contains a check list and observing sheet for you to use to keep track of your observations. This is intended to be a fun project, so observing and recording on the checklist is done on the honor system. Finding objects and sharing observations with other observers is OK.

The attached map is intended to help you find the relative positions of the Messier Objects across the sky and in the constellations in which they are located. Start with M77 right after sunset, and continue on to M30 just before dawn. Use your own star charts and maps to help you find the individual objects if you do not already know where they are.

You will find there will be periods of inactivity while you wait for the next object to come up, and periods of frantic activity trying to find that one last object before it sets. While the objective is to see all 110 objects, a very difficult project, whatever total number of objects you observe will be a successful night. And if you do not see all of the objects in one night, you can always try again next year!

You do not have to conduct your own Messier Marathon on the dates indicated. These are just the ideal weekend dates for this year. But you can observe anytime during March or April that you have an opportunity to be out. The objects will be up! This is a great club project for any astronomy club.

Get your friends together and get out and observe!

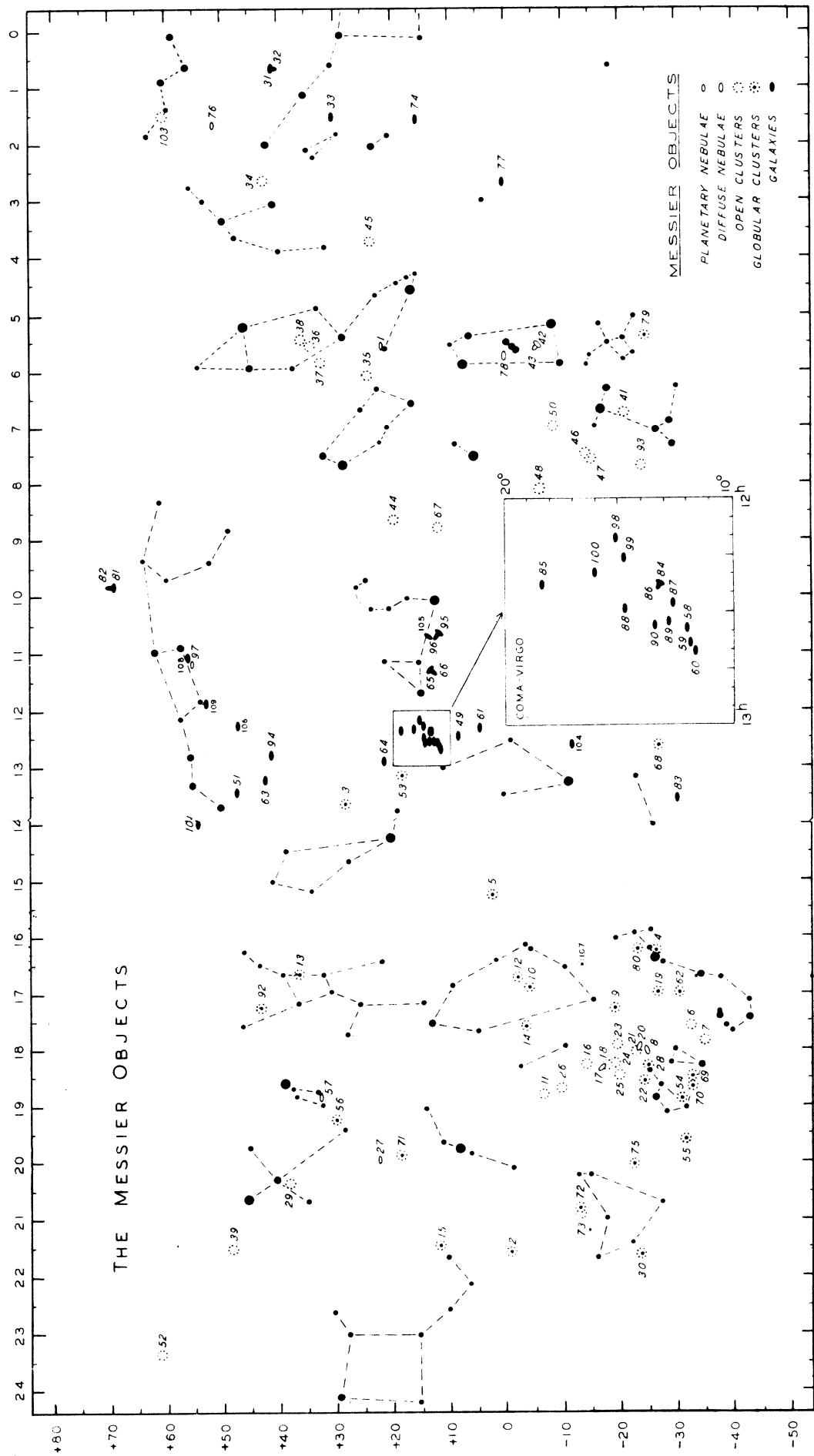
Best Regards,

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Messier Marathon Checklist

Objects are listed in the order they are most efficiently observed. Based on a sequence devised by Don Macholz.

Messier	Constellation	Type	Rating	Messier	Constellation	Type	Rating
I. Early Evening Objects				___ M87	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
___ M77	Cetus	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M89	Virgo.	Galaxy	Difficult,
___ M74	Pisces	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M90	Virgo	Galaxy	Difficult
___ M33	Triangulum	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M88	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Difficult
___ M31	Andromeda	Galaxy	Easy	___ M91	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Difficult
___ M32	Andromeda	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M58	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
___ M110	Andromeda	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M59	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
___ M52	Cassiopeia	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M60	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
___ M103	Cassiopeia	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M49	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
___ M76	Perseus	Planetary Nebula	Moderate	___ M61	Virgo.	Galaxy	Moderate
___ M34	Perseus	Open Cluster	Easy	___ M104	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate
___ M45	Taurus	Open Cluster	Easy	IV. After Midnight			
___ M79	Lepus	Globular Cluster	Moderate	___ M5	Serpens,	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M42	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Easy	___ M13	Hercules	Globular Cluster	Easy
___ M43	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Easy	___ M92	Hercules	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M78	Orion	Diffuse Nebula	Moderate	___ M57	Lyra	Planetary Nebula	Moderate
___ M1	Taurus	Supernova Remnant	Difficult	___ M56	Lyra	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M35	Gemini	Open Cluster	Easy	___ M29	Cygnus	Open Cluster	Moderate
___ M37	Auriga	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M39	Cygnus	Open Cluster	Moderate
___ M36	Auriga	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M27	Vulpecula	Planetary Nebula	Easy
___ M38	Auriga	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M71	Sagitta	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M41	Canis Major	Open Cluster	Easy	___ M107	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M93	Puppis	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M12	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M47	Puppis	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M10	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M46	Puppis	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M14	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M50	Monoceros	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M9	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M48	Hydra	Open Cluster	Moderate	V. Scorpius and Sagittarius Region			
___ M44	Cancer	Open Cluster	Easy	___ M4	Scorpius	Globular Cluster	Easy
___ M67	Cancer	Open Cluster	Moderate	___ M80	Scorpius	Globular Cluster	Moderate
II. Leo and the Big Dipper Region				___ M19	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M95	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M62	Ophiuchus	Globular Cluster	Moderate
___ M96	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M6	Scorpius	Open Cluster	Moderate
___ M105	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M7	Scorpius	Open Cluster	Easy
___ M65	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M11	Scutum	Open Cluster	Easy
___ M66	Leo	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M26	Scutum	Open Cluster	Difficult
___ M81	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M16	Serpens	Diffuse Nebula + OC	Easy
___ M82	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M17	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy
___ M97	Ursa Major	Planetary Nebula	Difficult	___ M18	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy
___ M108	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M24	Sagittarius	Star Cloud	Easy
___ M109	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M25	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy,
___ M40	Ursa Major	Double Star	Difficult	___ M23	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy
___ M106	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M21	Sagittarius	Open Cluster	Easy
___ M94	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M20	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy
___ M63	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M8	Sagittarius	Diffuse Nebula	Easy
___ M51	Canes Venatici	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M28	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Easy
___ M101	Ursa Major	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M22	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Easy
___ M102	Draco	Galaxy	Difficult	___ M69	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M53	Coma Berenices	Globular Cluster	Moderate	___ M70	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M64	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M54	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M3	Canes Venatici	Globular Cluster	Moderate	___ M55	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M68	Hydra	Globular Cluster	Difficult	___ M75	Sagittarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M83	Hydra	Galaxy	Difficult	VI. Early Dawn			
III. Virgo Cluster Region				___ M15	Pegasus	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M98	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M2	Aquarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult.
___ M99	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M72	Aquarius	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M100	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M73	Aquarius	Open Cluster	Difficult
___ M85	Coma Berenices	Galaxy	Moderate	___ M30	Capricornus	Globular Cluster	Difficult
___ M84	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate				
___ M86	Virgo	Galaxy	Moderate				



THE MESSIER OBJECTS

This chart shows the distribution of the Messier objects across the sky, and their relative positions. Constellation and star names have been omitted from this chart for simplicity. Messier objects range in declination from 70 degrees north to 35 degrees south. A star atlas is needed for locating the less conspicuous Messier objects.



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The American Association of Amateur Astronomers Observing Log

Observer: _____ Location: _____ Page: _____

INDEX	Period - Instrument		Notes
Object	Date	Time	
	Power	Seeing	
	Type Instrument		
Object	Date	Time	
	Power	Seeing	
	Type Instrument		
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	Power	Seeing	
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