

May Evening Skies

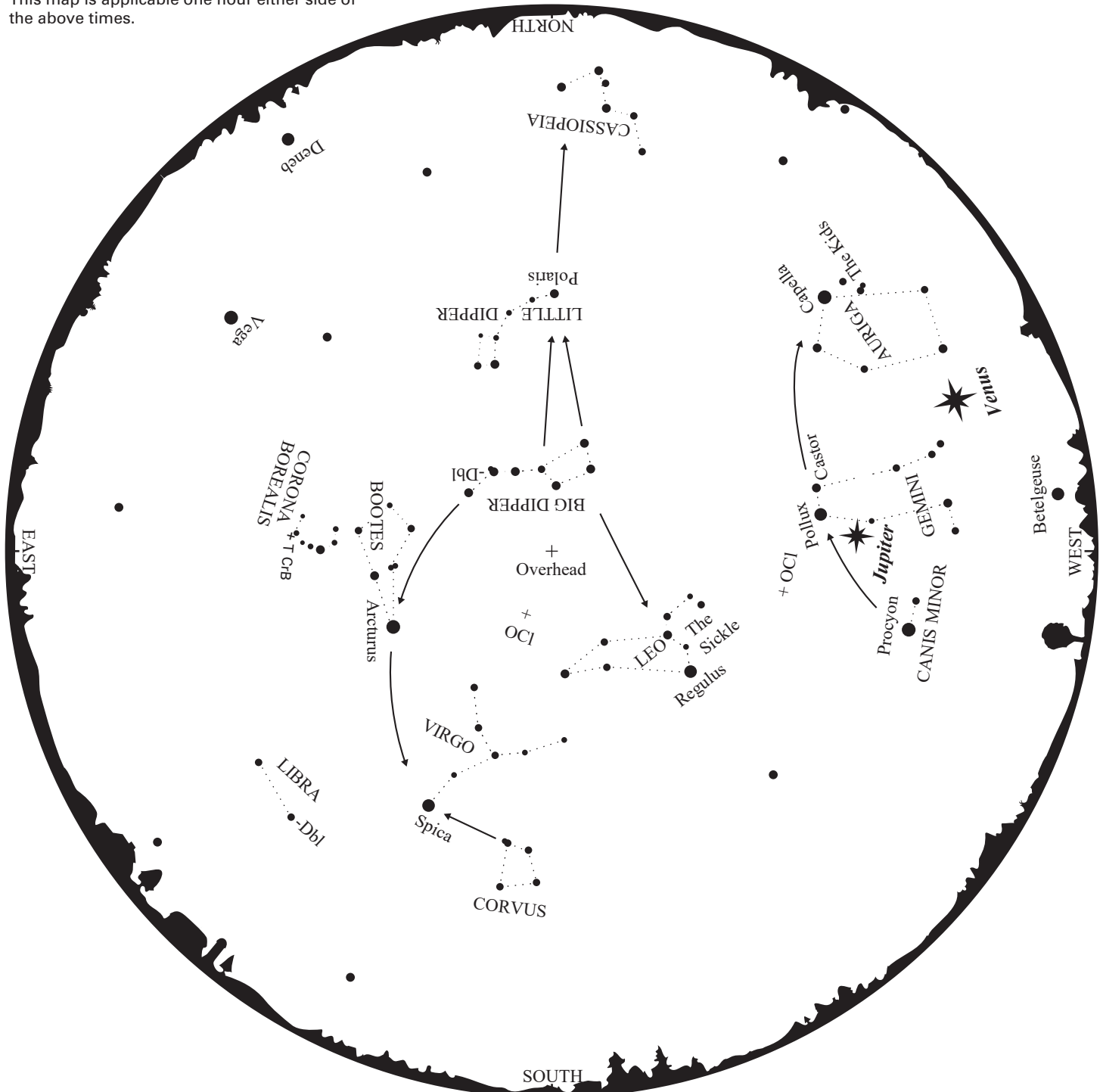
This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local daylight times:

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

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

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The planets Venus and Jupiter are plotted for mid-May 2026. Eleven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Venus, Jupiter, Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Spica, Pollux, Deneb, and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (DbI) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. The double in Libra is more challenging. The open or galactic

star cluster (OCI) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. Coma Berenices, "The Hair of Berenice," is another open cluster (OCI), between Leo and Bootes. Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars. The "**Blaze Star**" T Coronae Borealis (T CrB) is a recurrent nova that flares into naked-eye visibility about every 80 years, and last erupted in 1946. It's expected to flare again soon.

—D. David Batch