

The Insider's Guide to the Galaxy Presents...

Messier Minutes

a guide to completing RASC's Messier Observing Certificate



Part 8 -

April 26th – May 9th, 2022

The following pages include a list of objects discussed in the April 26th, 2022, episode of Messier Minutes. Including finder charts and log pages.

List of Targets Discussed:

April 26 is a new Moon

Messier #	Constellation	Magnitude	Type	NGC	Name
49	Vir	8.3	EG	4472	PCG41220/Arp 134
61	Vir	9.7	SG	4303	Swelling Spiral Galaxy
65	Com	8.5	SG	4826	Black Eye Galaxy
104	Vir	8.0	SG	4594	Sombrero Galaxy
83	Hya	7.5	SG	5236	Southern Pinwheel Galaxy

Notes:

M49:

(8 by 10 arc-minutes across)

Modest-sized elliptical galaxy in Virgo south of the main cluster. Located on line joining Minelauva and Denebola, using 40-60 split. Visible in big binoculars and small telescopes. Larger apertures will show shape better, but not much else to note. Bright mag 6 field star to SE. Watch for spiral galaxy NGC 4535 Lost Galaxy of Copeland and NGC 4526 Hairy Eyebrow Galaxy just 1 degree to the east. (Let M49 drift west to find them.) 57 million l-y away. Lots of galaxies around it, including through the halo on SE.

M61:

(6 arc-minutes across)

Small, pretty, face-on, barred spiral galaxy located south of the virgo cluster, and 1 degree south of 17 Virginis. Visible in small telescopes, but larger instrument will grow the halo and tease out the spirals formed by dark dust. Several ways to find it: midway between Minelauva and Nu Virginis, almost 40% of the way from Porrima to Denebola, or starhop from Zaniah (Eta Virginis). It grows with averted vision. 52 million l-y away.

M64:

(11 by 5 arc-minutes across)

Lovely oblique spiral with enhanced surface brightness - so the core is within reach of big binoculars and smaller telescopes. Sits close to the mag 5 star 35 Comae, along hypotenuse of set square of Coma, one third of the distance from Diadem to Al Dafirah. Larger apertures can tease out some halo detail and central dust lane (black eye) towards NE. 24 million l-y away.

M104:

(9 by 3 arc-minutes across)

Spectacular edge-on spiral galaxy in southern Virgo. Bright core and high surface brightness halo allows views in big binoculars and smaller telescopes. Larger apertures can reveal the dark dust lane, the sombrero's rim. Form an isosceles triangle below Spica and Porrima, or split difference between Kraz and Porrima. 29 million l-y away, and receding at high velocity! Watch for interesting asterism to NW.

M83:

(13 by 11 arc-minutes across)

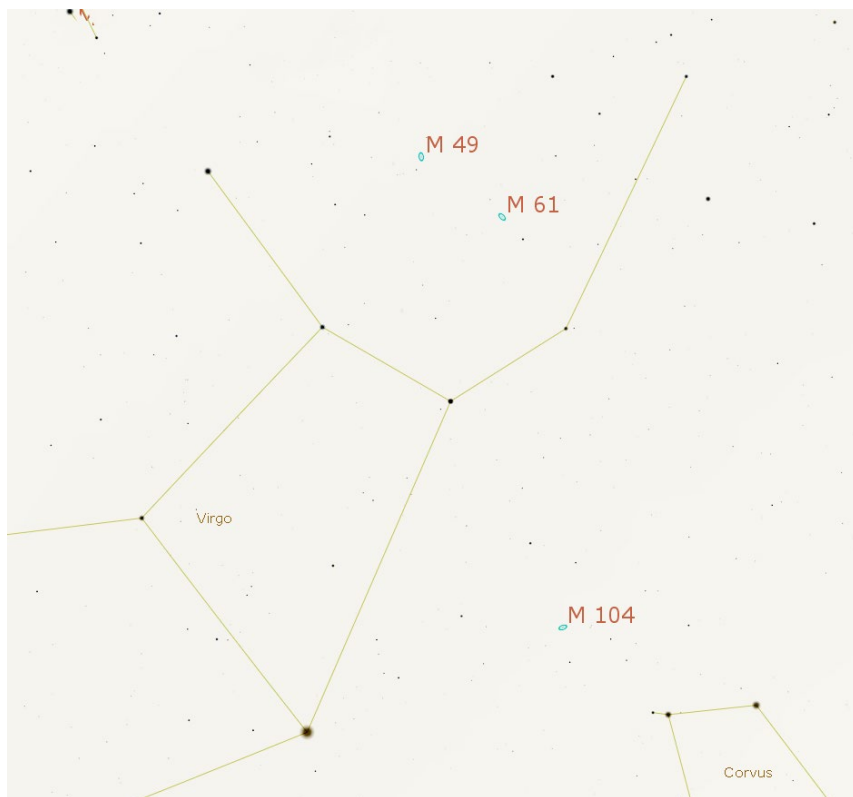
Large, gorgeous, bright, face-on spiral galaxy in Hydra is rather southerly for Canadians, but worth the effort. Observe when it transits at midnight. It is visible in binoculars and small telescopes, even better in large aperture instruments, which show darker patches. Located halfway between Menkent and tail stars of Hydra (Gamma and Psi Hydrae); or make a triangle below Gamma and Pi Hya. (Mag 5.8 field star to NE. 15 million l-y away!

Target Finder Charts:

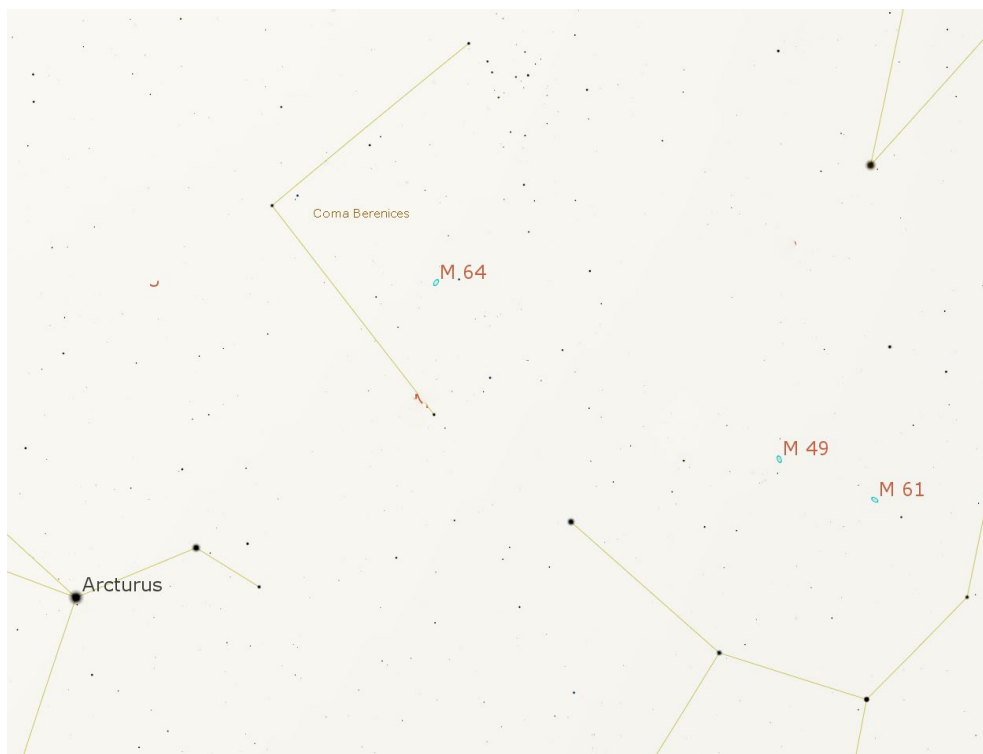
Overview of Targets –



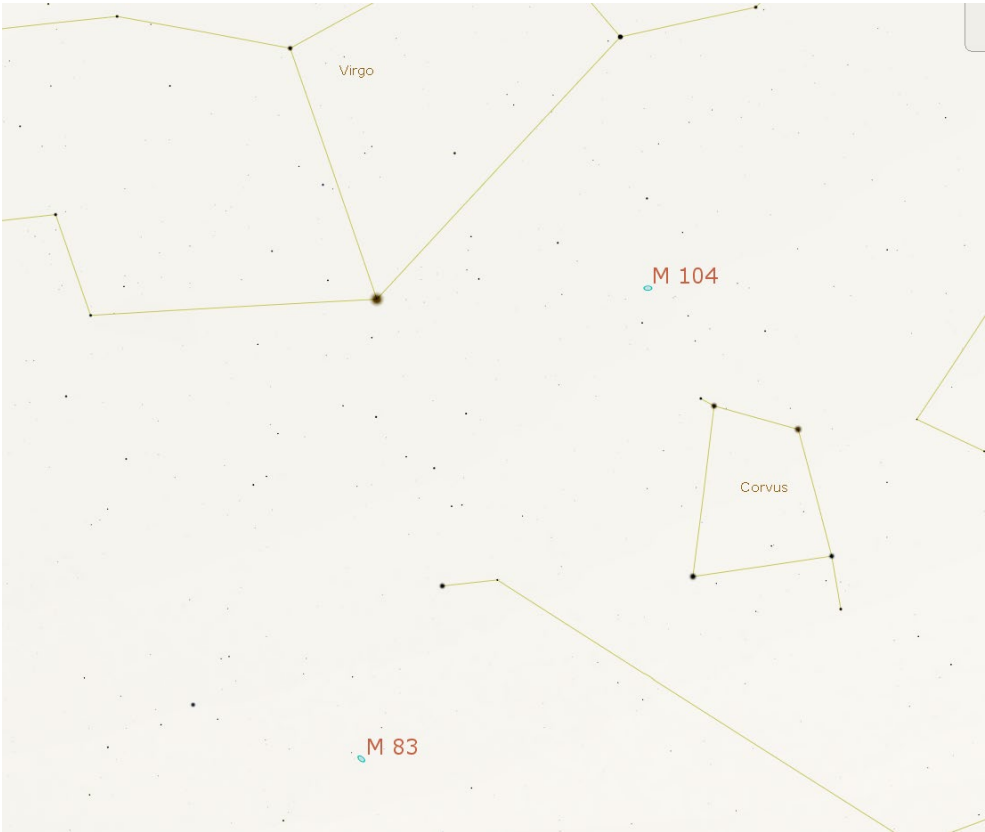
M49, M61, & M104 Closer View –



M64 Closer View –

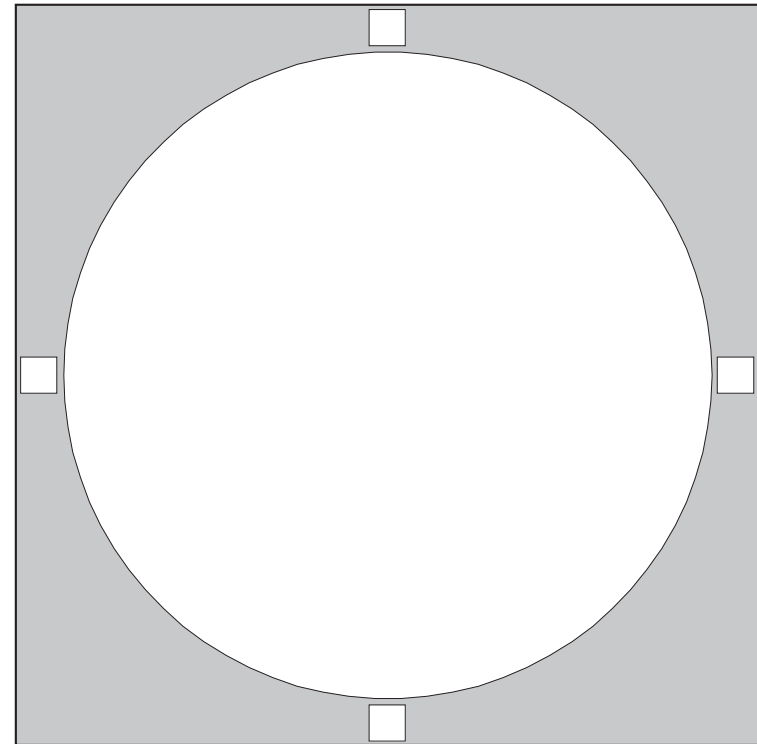


M83 Closer View –



RASC Messier Objects - M49

Messier Object	M49		
NGC	4472		
Constellation	Virgo		
Type	Elliptical Galaxy (G-E2)		
Magnitude	8.4		
Distance (Kilo light-years)	60000		
RA	12 29.8		
Dec	+08:00		
Size	8.1' x 7.1'		
UM I	UM II	193,194	91,A15
	SA	13, 14, B1	
Remarks	very bright elliptical		
Time (hh:mm)			
Seeing	1	2	3 4 5
Transparency	1	2	3 4 5
Observing Location			
Telescope			
Date (dd:mm:yyyy)			

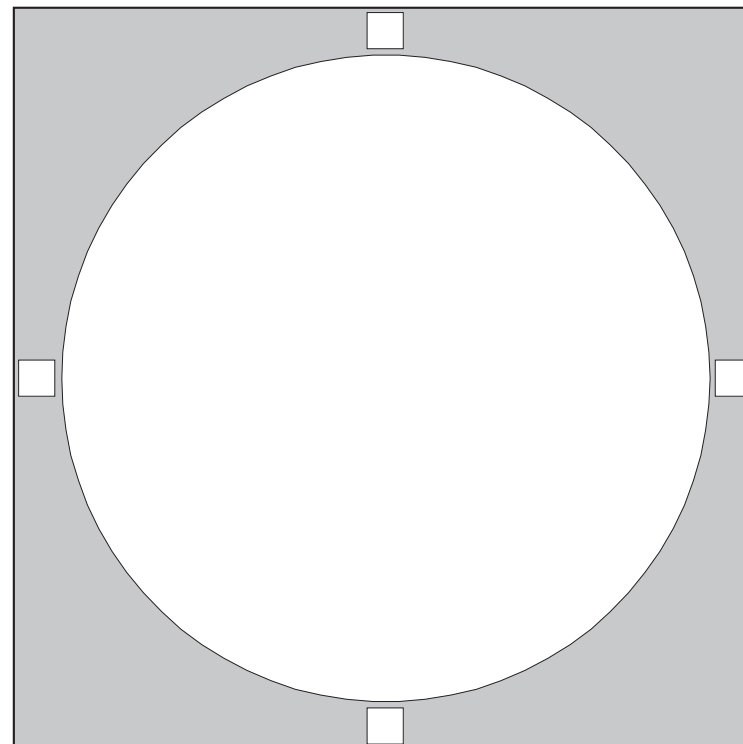


Notes

PN: Planetary Nebula	RN: (diffuse) Reflection Nebula	Seeing: 1 = Best 5 = Poor	* = Number of stars in cluster
SNR: Supernova Remnant	EN: (diffuse) Emission Nebula	Transparency: 1 = Best 5 = Poor	** p = Photographic Magnitude
GC: Globular Cluster	G-: Galaxy, with Hubble type given	Time: DD:MM:YYYY	*** !! = Showpiece Object
OC: Open Cluster	E/RN: Diffuse emission and reflection Nebula	Date: Specify Time Zone or UT	http://www.rasc.ca

RASC Messier Objects - M61

Messier Object	M61		
NGC	4303		
Constellation	Virgo		
Type	Spiral Galaxy (G-SABbc)		
Magnitude	9.7		
Distance (Kilo light-years)	60000		
RA	12 21.9		
Dec	+04:28		
Size	6.0' x 5.9'		
UM I	UM II	238	111,A15
	SA	13, 14, B1	
Remarks	face-on two-armed spiral		
Time (hh:mm)			
Seeing	1	2	3 4 5
Transparency	1	2	3 4 5
Observing Location			
Telescope			
Date (dd:mm:yyyy)			



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EN: (diffuse) Emission Nebula

G-: Galaxy, with Hubble type given

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Time: DD:MM:YYYY

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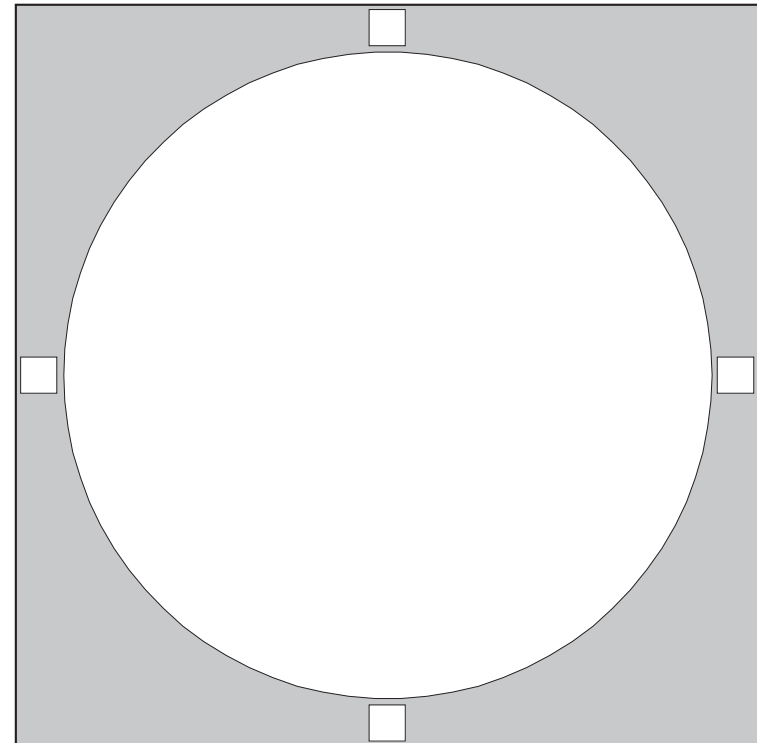
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<http://www.rasc.ca>

Black Eye Galaxy. Sleeping Beauty Galaxy

Messier Object	M64		
NGC	4826		
Constellation	Coma Berenices		
Type	Spiral Galaxy (G-SAab)		
Magnitude	8.5		
Distance (Kilo light-years)	19000		
RA	12 56.7		
Dec	+21:41		
Size	9.2' x 4.6'		
UM I	UM II	149	71
	SA	7	
Remarks	!! Black Eye Galaxy; eye needs big scope		
Time (hh:mm)			
Seeing	1	2	3 4 5
Transparency	1	2	3 4 5
Observing Location			
Telescope			
Date (dd:mm:yyyy)			

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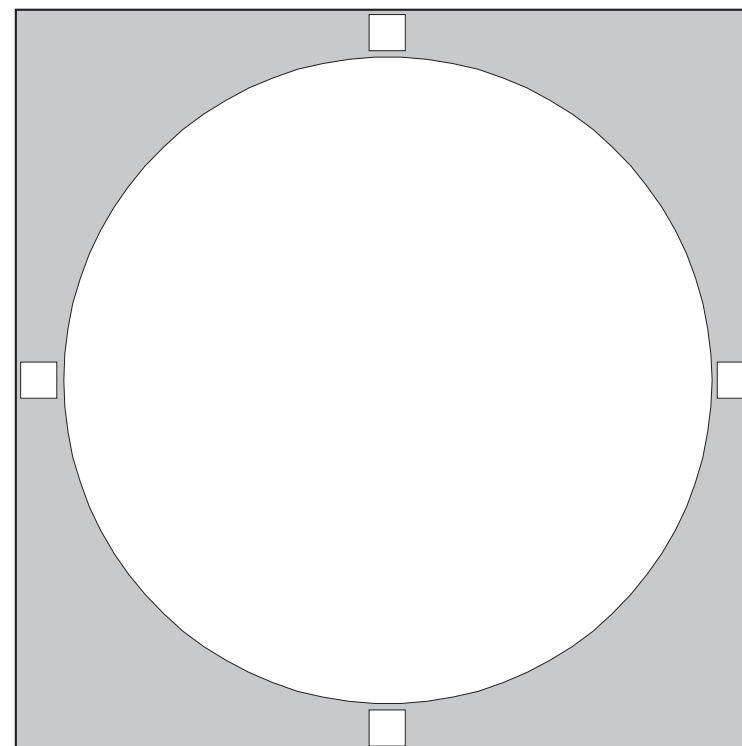
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RASC Messier Objects - M104

Sombrero Galaxy

Messier Object	M104		
NGC	4594		
Constellation	Virgo		
Type	Spiral Galaxy (G-SA)		
Magnitude	8.0		
Distance (Kilo light-years)	50000		
RA	12 40.0		
Dec	-11:37		
Size	7.1' x 4.4'		
UM I	UM II	284	130,131
	SA	13, 14	
Remarks	!! Sombrero Galaxy; look for dust lane		
Time (hh:mm)			
Seeing	1	2	3 4 5
Transparency	1	2	3 4 5
Observing Location			
Telescope			
Date (dd:mm:yyyy)			



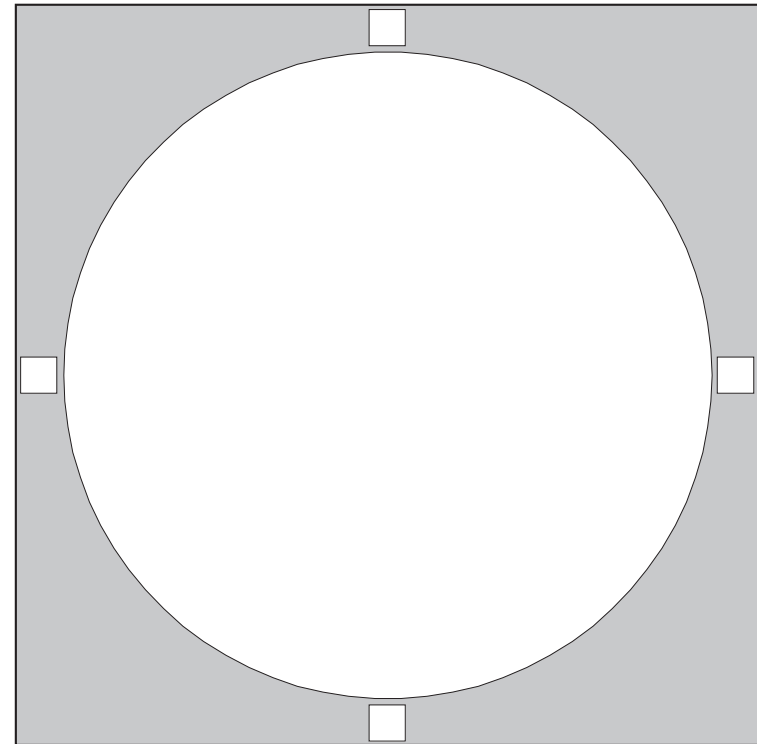
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RASC Messier Objects - M83

Southern Pinwheel

Messier Object	M83		
NGC	5236		
Constellation	Hydra		
Type	Spiral Galaxy (G-SABc)		
Magnitude	7.6		
Distance (Kilo light-years)	15000		
RA	13 37.0		
Dec	-29:52		
Size	16.0' x 13.0'		
UM I	UM II	370,371	149,167
	SA	21	
Remarks	large and diffuse; superb from far south		
Time (hh:mm)			
Seeing	1	2	3 4 5
Transparency	1	2	3 4 5
Observing Location			
Telescope			
Date (dd:mm:yyyy)			



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