TO USE MAP:
Hold the map in front of you so that the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The stars on the lower half of the map will match up with the stars in the sky. The center of the map is directly overhead in the sky. Constellation and star pattern names are all capitalized. Names of stars have only the first letter capitalized. The map is valid within an hour of:
11:30pm Mid-March EDT
9:30pm Mid-April EDT

MAGNITUDE is a measure of a star's brightness. The lower the number, the brighter the star
• 1st or brighter magnitude star
• 2nd magnitude star
• 3rd magnitude star
• 4th or fainter magnitude star

ECLIPTIC:
The imaginary path of the Sun through the year. Constellations of the Zodiac surround the Ecliptic and the Moon and planets appear along it.
Daylight Saving Time begins, Sunday, March 13, 2:00 am - Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night!

Vernal Equinox, Saturday, March 20, 11:27 am – The Vernal Equinox marks the first day of spring. The Equinoxes are the only two days each year when the sun rises due east and sets due west everywhere on Earth! If you happen to be standing at the Earth’s equator at noon during the Equinox, you will see the sun pass directly overhead.

Planet and Moon groupings – Conjuction means that two objects appear in the same place in the sky as seen from Earth. Planets in conjunction with the Sun are not visible. Besides being in conjunction with the Sun, planets are also seen partnered with the Moon or another planet in the sky. When planets are at their nearest, from Earth’s perspective, astronomers call it an appulse. In the morning sky before sunrise, look for Venus near Mars on March 12, with their closest on March 15. On March 28, before sunrise look for Mars, Venus, and Saturn near the crescent Moon low in the southeastern sky, Venus will be the brightest seen over Saturn, Mars a less bright reddish dot to the right of the pair and the Moon below Mars. (See picture 1.) In April, Saturn moves toward Mars with closest appulse on April 4, seen very low on the east-southeast horizon before sunrise. Mars and Saturn then move away from each other after April 6. In the last week of April in the predawn sky, the Moon passes by Saturn on April 24, Mars on April 25, and Jupiter and Venus on April 27 (see picture 2). Jupiter and Venus are at their closest on April 30 seen before sunrise in the eastern sky, Venus is the bright dot of the two.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/