

Some things to observe in the early evening skies: during March 2021

The Moon:

To view craters (with a small telescope or binoculars) the best time is around **first quarter Moon** which will be about the **21st March** (around 6.00pm and later) looking South.

The Planets:

Very little to report planet-wise at the moment. Mars is still high in the early evening South-West sky and this month is just below the lovely Pleiades star cluster. Look for the distinct orange colour of 'The Red Planet'.

A few **constellations** to learn and recognise:
(see the Skymap)

Constellations are just patterns of stars in the sky. They have LATIN (and English) names.

Among the many constellations you might view at this time of the year are:

Well last month's ORION is still visible to the South and just a little further left (East) we can now see the constellation of GEMINI (The Twins). Use the skymap to spot the two bright 'twin' stars of Castor and Pollux. (See the circled stars on the attached photo). Castor is the 'higher' one. In fact Castor is a famous double star but you will need a telescope to check this out.

Even further left (to the East) is the constellation of LEO (The Lion) which will become easier to see later in the month (or later in the evening) as the sky drifts westwards.

I always see this as a lion lying down with his head up to the right and his back legs curled underneath him to the left. See the attached photo.

The brightest star in Leo just under his head (his front paw?) is called Regulus.

Clear Skies!

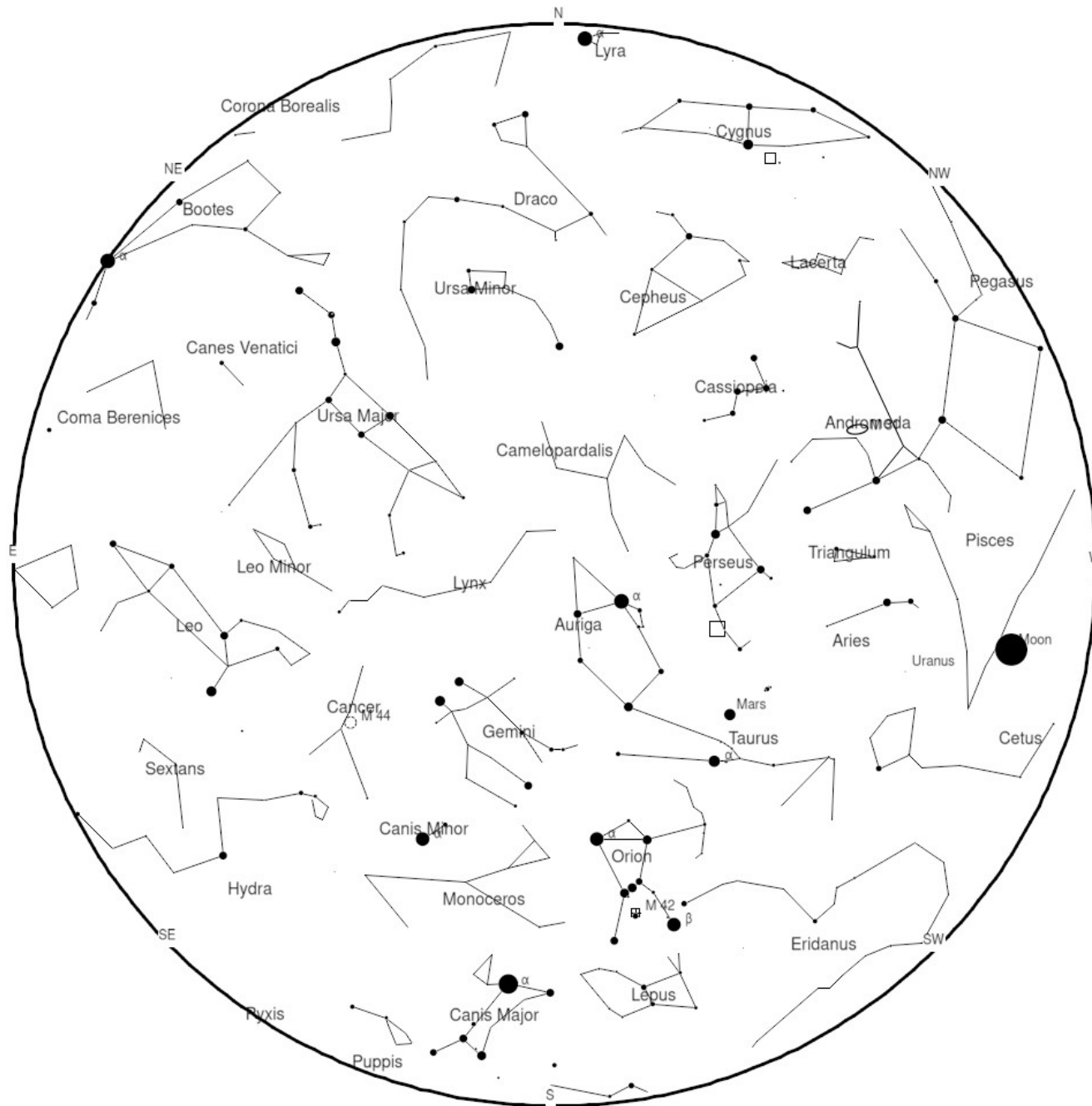
Skymap for:

March 2021

The map shows the night sky at about 7.00pm on the 15th of March, when it should be dark enough to begin observing.

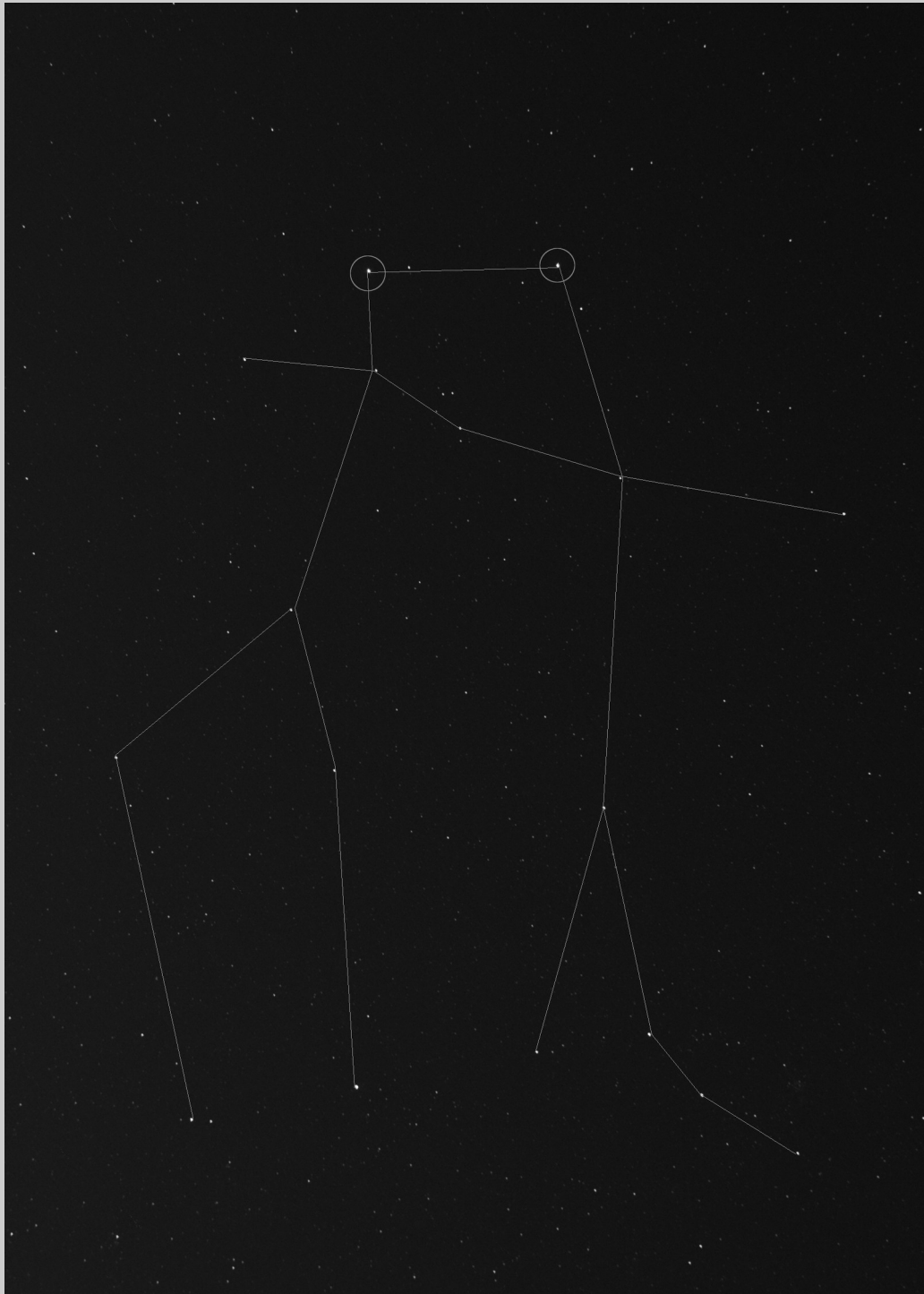
Note that the map will drift westwards during the night and from one night to the next.

Hold the map with 'S' at the bottom when looking South and rotate with 'N' at the bottom when looking North etc.

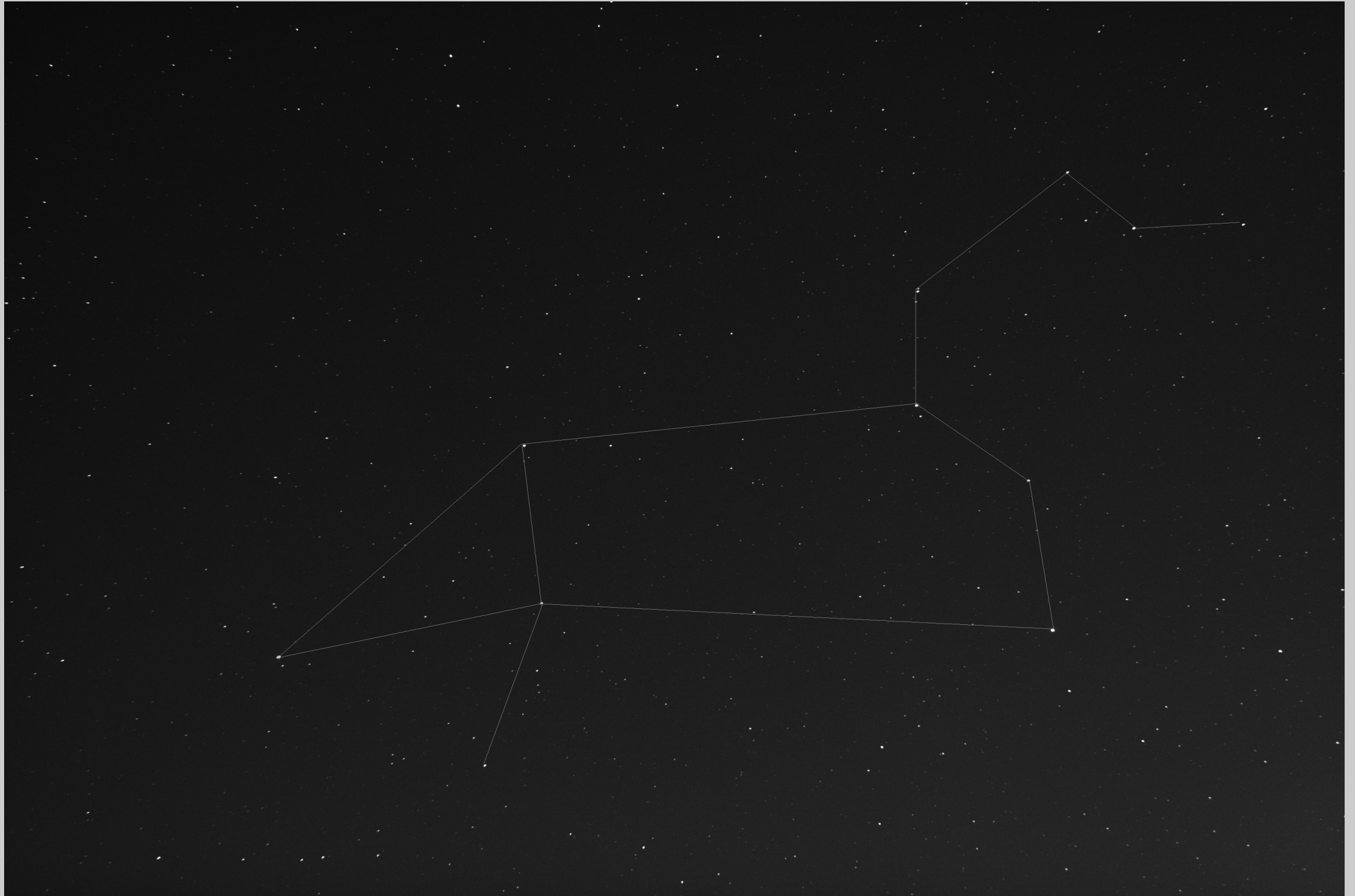




The constellation of GEMINI (The Twins)
As it is normally seen



However rotate it through 90 degrees and you can more easily see 'the twins' holding hands!



The constellation of LEO (The Lion)