

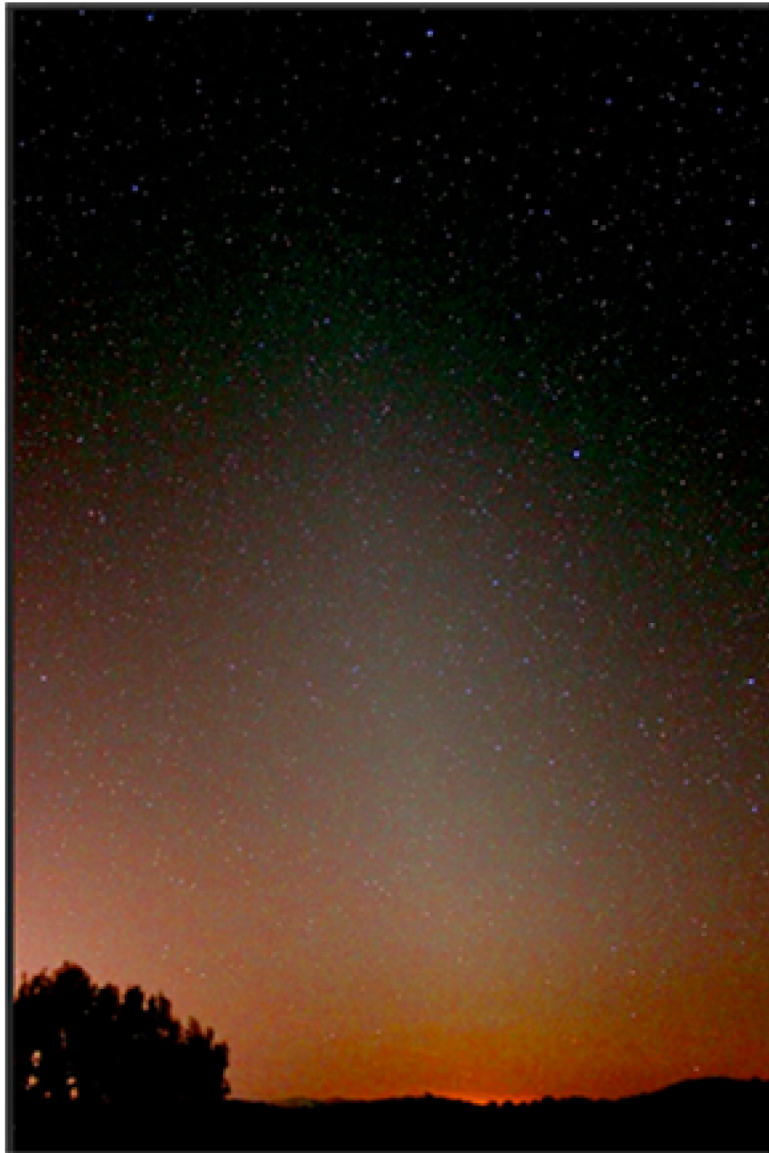
# THE BROADSHEET

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40° 42.75' N, 74° 01.06' W

## EYES TO THE SKY



Zodiacal Light © Kent DeGroot, Silver City, NM. Photo was taken with a Canon T3i DLSR using an 18mm lens. The exposure was f3.5 at 30 seconds. Film speed was set at 3200.

### Zodiacal Light, New Moon, And the Last Week of True Sun Time

The zodiacal light is often described as an ethereal glow or pillar of pearly light that appears in the west about an hour and a half after sunset on late winter and early spring evenings. To participate in the quest to observe this stunning phenomenon, seek out clear, dark, moonless skies away from light pollution. The next opportune window for viewing is likely to be March 21 through April 2.

Astrophotographers in the Southwest published photographs of the zodiacal light in late January of this year. You may find images in astronomy publications and as seen here thanks to the generosity of Kent DeGroot. The "false dusk" has been observed in the northern hemisphere through early May. Remember, the phenomenon does not directly follow sunset and twilight; it occurs at nightfall. (Most astronomers define this as the point when the sun dips 18° below the horizon, and it comes around 90 minutes after sunset.)

On March 1, the sun rises at 6:31 Eastern Standard Time (EST); the following Saturday, March 8, the sun will be up 11 minutes earlier, at 6:20 EST. The next day, Sunday the 9th, most Americans will advance clocks an hour so that sunrise will be at 7:18, known as Daylight Savings Time (DST) or Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). It will be 5 weeks, April 7, before sunrise will be at 6:31 again! Those who rise early and have come to enjoy morning light best savor it this coming week before being plunged back into darkness for the first hour of the day. With DST in force, stargazers can anticipate with relish an extra morning hour with the stars and planets. Relatively late risers get another chance to see morning's cosmic wonders until close to 7:00 am.

—Judy Isacoff  
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