

Rare Pink Supermoon to dazzle skywatchers, April 7-8

Amid current times highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we're all looking for any distraction from the gloom and doom – something a little more positive. Since we're also spending more time at home with our kids and significant other we're looking for activities to enjoy with them.

Look no further than tonight (04/07) and tomorrow night's Pink Supermoon which will be the first full moon of the spring season – officially referred to as a perigean full moon, a full moon when it is at its closest point to Earth in its monthly orbit making it appear bigger and brighter in the night's sky. If you want technical numbers, it will be specifically 221,772 miles away.

While we get treated to a few supermoons in a year, this one will be the biggest and brightest full moon of the entire year. When is the best time to see this glorious pink supermoon? Moonrise tonight and at moonset on Wednesday morning.

As you all know, the moon affects the tides of our oceans and so it goes without saying that with this supermoon there will be extra gravitational pull from the moon creating extra-high tides which you will notice after the supermoon passes.

Sorry to break the bad news, but the moon itself will not be pink. It, in fact, earns its moniker because its arrival coincides with spring flower blossoms, the wildflower *phlox subulata* also called moss phlox, creeping phlox or moss pink-blooms.

I, for one, will enjoy tonight's celestial show while playing one of my favorite musicians, Nick Drake's album "Pink Moon" and its title track.

*"I saw it written and I saw it say
A pink moon is on its way
And none of you stand so tall
Pink moon gonna get ye all."* -Nick Drake.

*Did you capture images of this special pink supermoon? Email
imfo@newbedfordguide.com and we'll share with the greater New
Bedford community.*