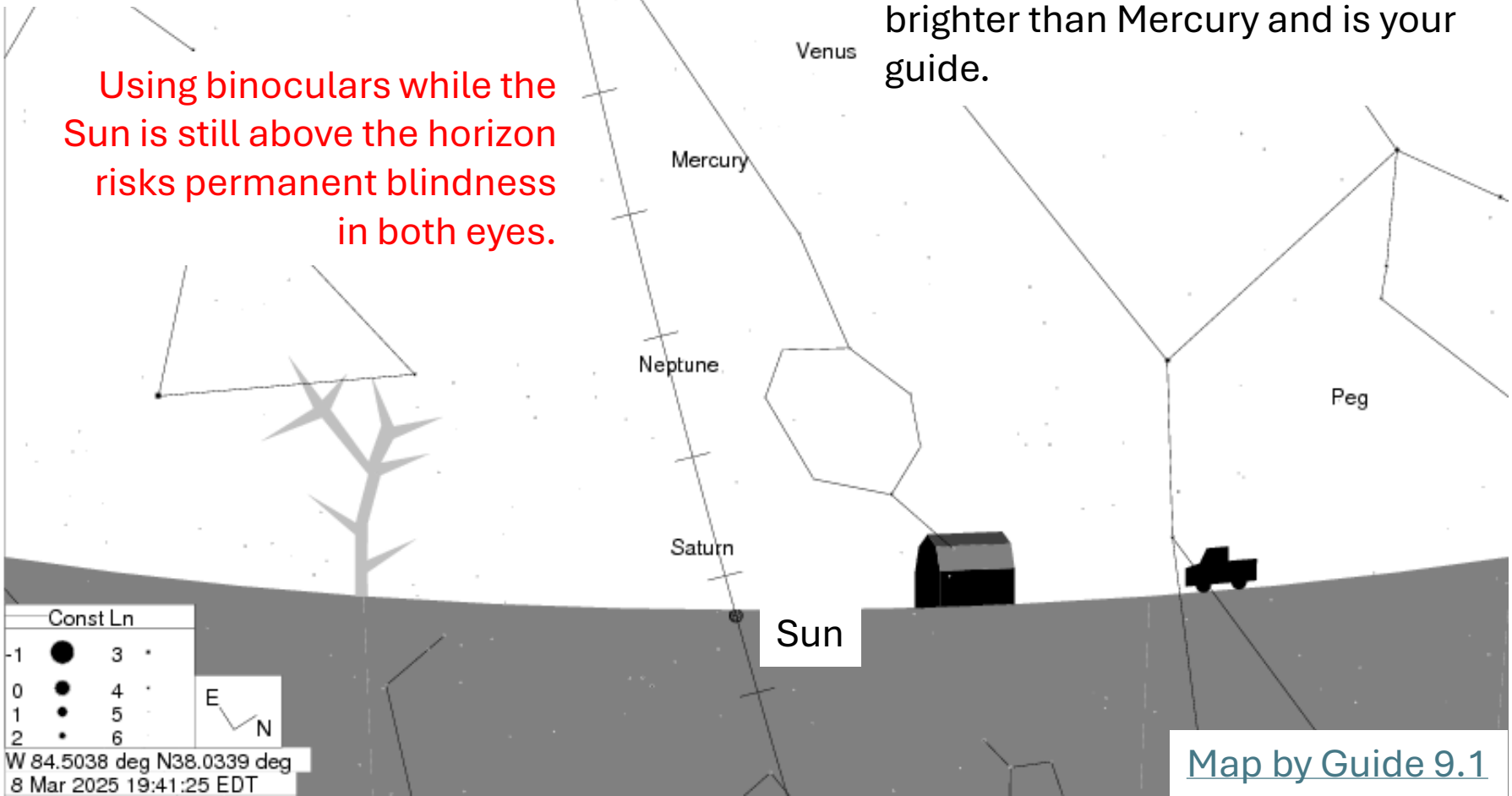
The hashed line is the apparent path of the Sun as seen from Earth (the ecliptic). The major planets are always seen near the ecliptic. The ecliptic is the closest to being perpendicular to the horizon in the northern hemisphere, in the evening, on the vernal equinox.

In the spring of 2025, Mercury's greatest distance from the Sun at sunset occurs on March 8. This would be the best day to try to see Mercury. It should be possible to see Mercury without optical aid during the first two weeks in March. On 8-March Venus is 50x brighter than Mercury and is your guide.

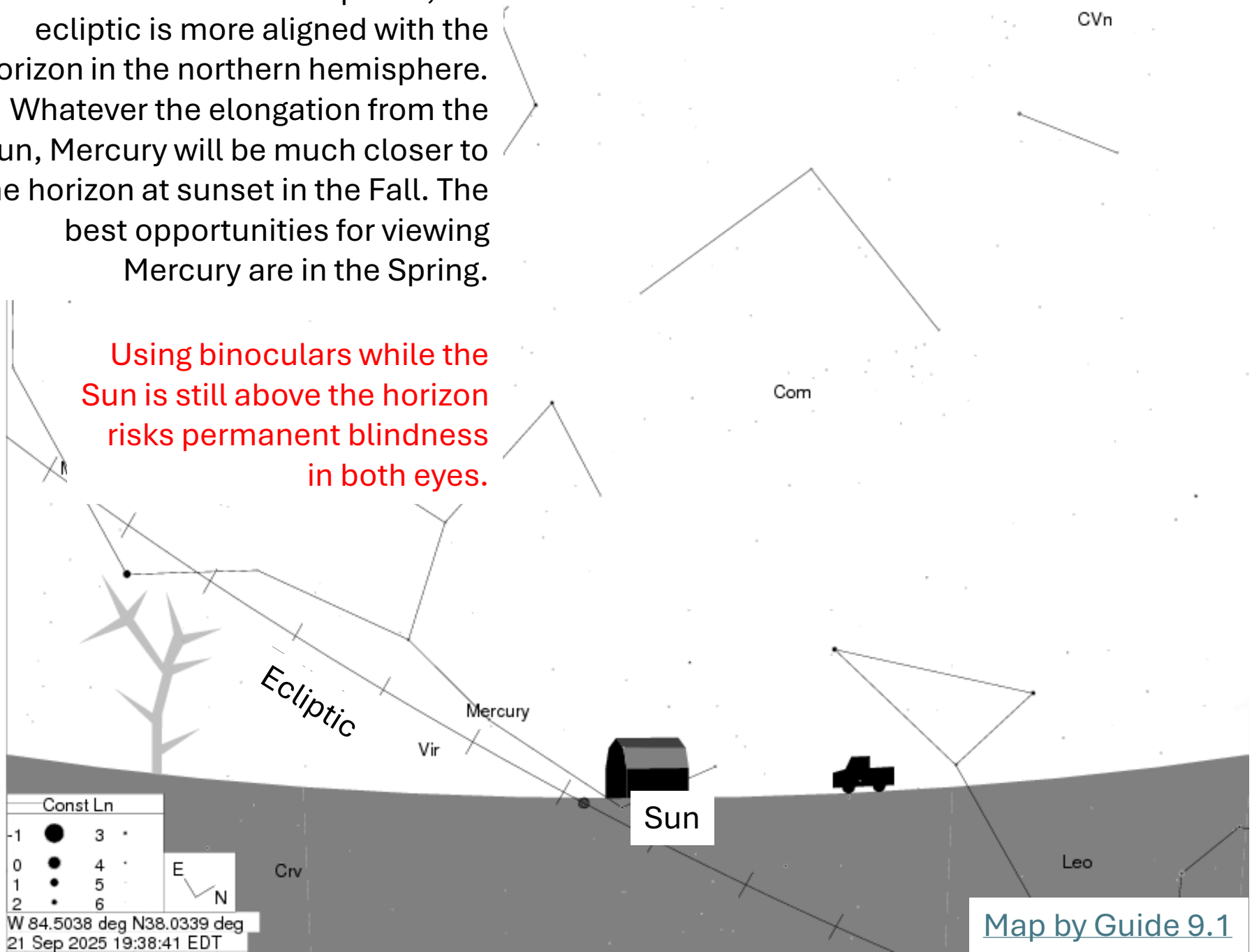
Using binoculars while the Sun is still above the horizon risks permanent blindness in both eyes.



Map by Guide 9.1

At the Autumnal Equinox, the ecliptic is more aligned with the horizon in the northern hemisphere. Whatever the elongation from the Sun, Mercury will be much closer to the horizon at sunset in the Fall. The best opportunities for viewing Mercury are in the Spring.

Using binoculars while the Sun is still above the horizon risks permanent blindness in both eyes.



Map by Guide 9.1