

What's Up?

May 1-31, 2023

Made with the 2023 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2023
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

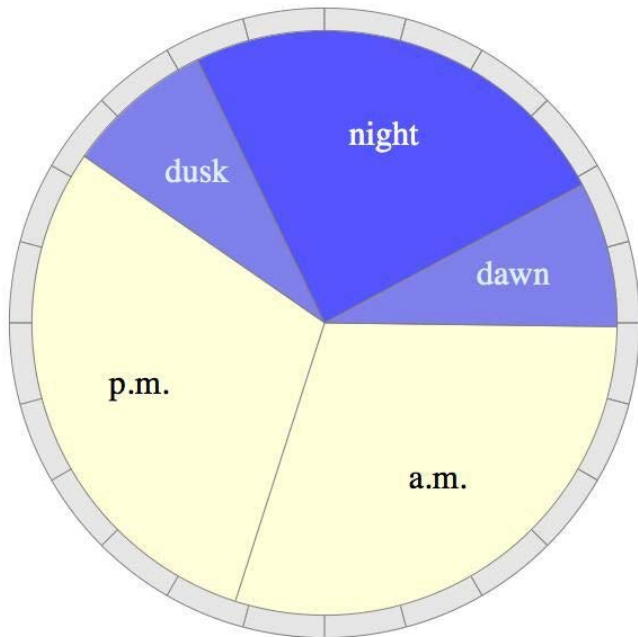
photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

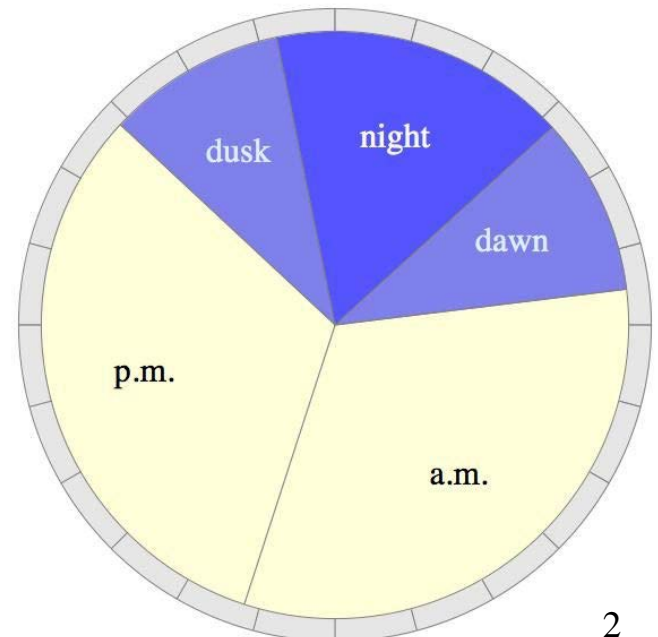
Today's Solar Activity

| Date | Sunset | Dusk End | Darkness | Dawn Start | Sunrise | “Noon” | Sunlight | Max Altitude |
|--------|-----------|------------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|--------------|
| May 1 | 8:18 p.m. | 10:17 p.m. | 5.8 h | 4:06 a.m. | 6:04 a.m. | 1:11 p.m. | 14.3 h | 61° |
| May 31 | 8:51 p.m. | 11:12 p.m. | 4.0 h | 3:12 a.m. | 5:32 a.m. | 1:11 p.m. | 15.3 h | 67° |

Halifax May 01

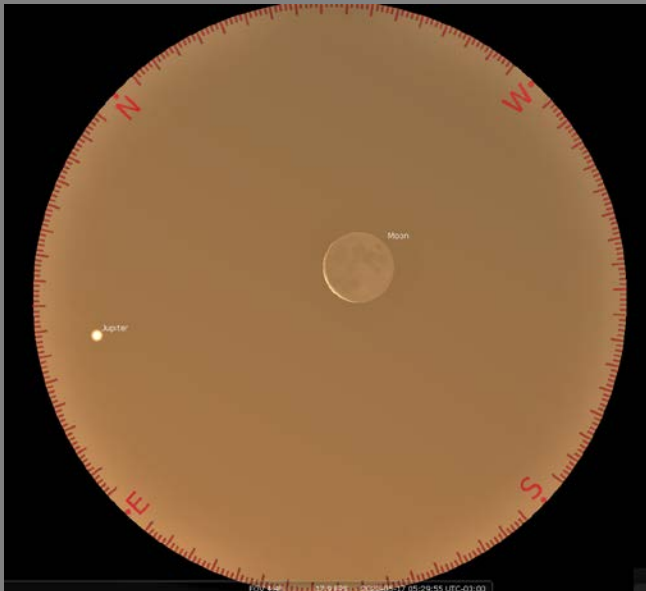


Halifax May 31



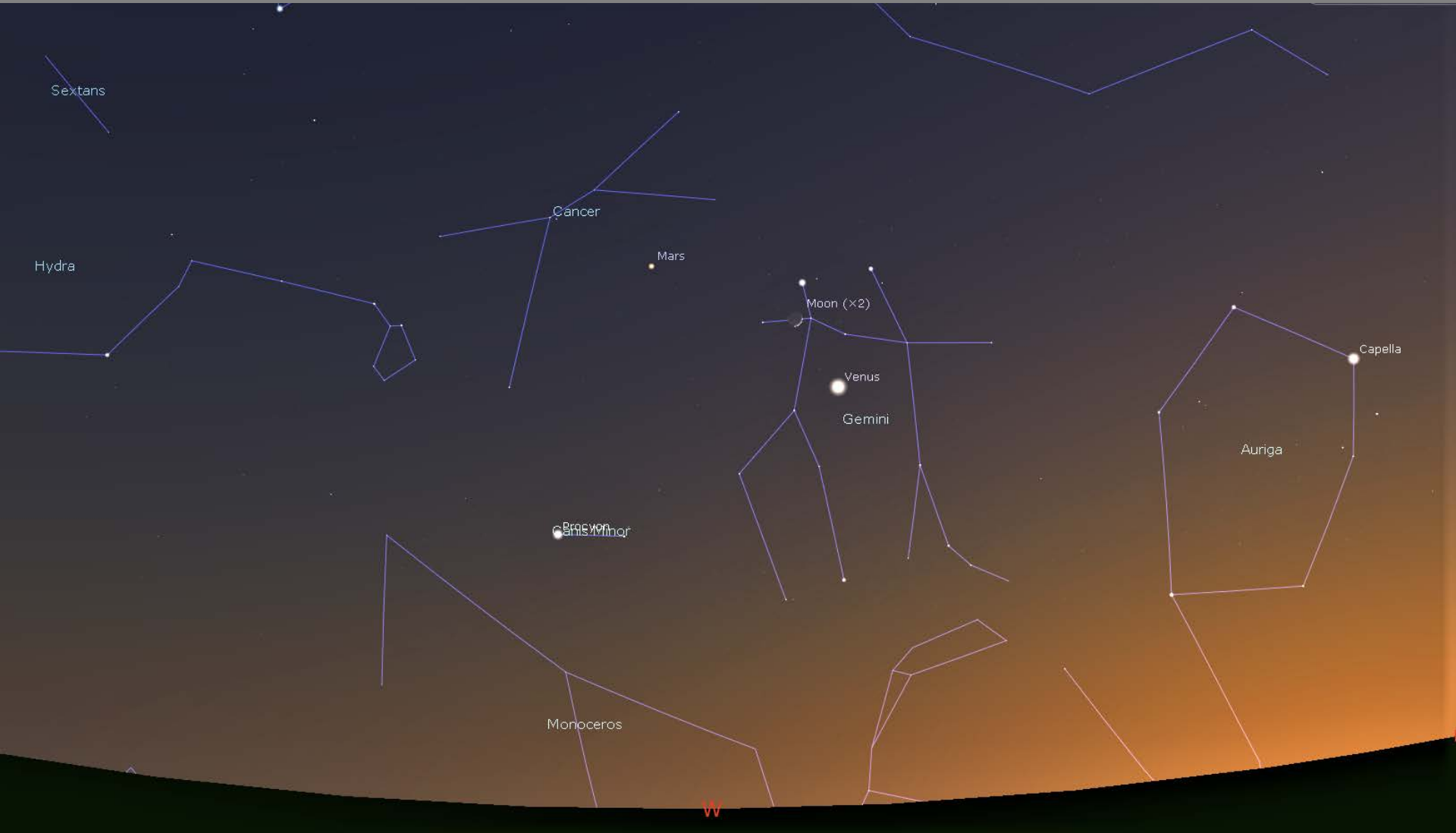
The Moon This Month

| Date | Phase | English | Mi'kmaq |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| May 5 | <i>Full Moon</i> | Frogs Croaking | <u>Sqoljuiku's</u> |
| May 7 | Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower peak | | |
| May 12 | <i>Last Quarter</i> | | |
| May 17 | Moon close to Jupiter at dawn | | |
| May 19 | <i>New Moon</i> | Trees Fully Leafed | <u>Nipniku's</u> |
| May 23-24 | Moon near Venus | | |
| May 24 | Moon near Mars | | |
| May 27 | <i>First Quarter</i> | | |



Binocular view (15x70) just before sunrise on 17 May

Nice wide-angle photo-op after sunset on 23 May

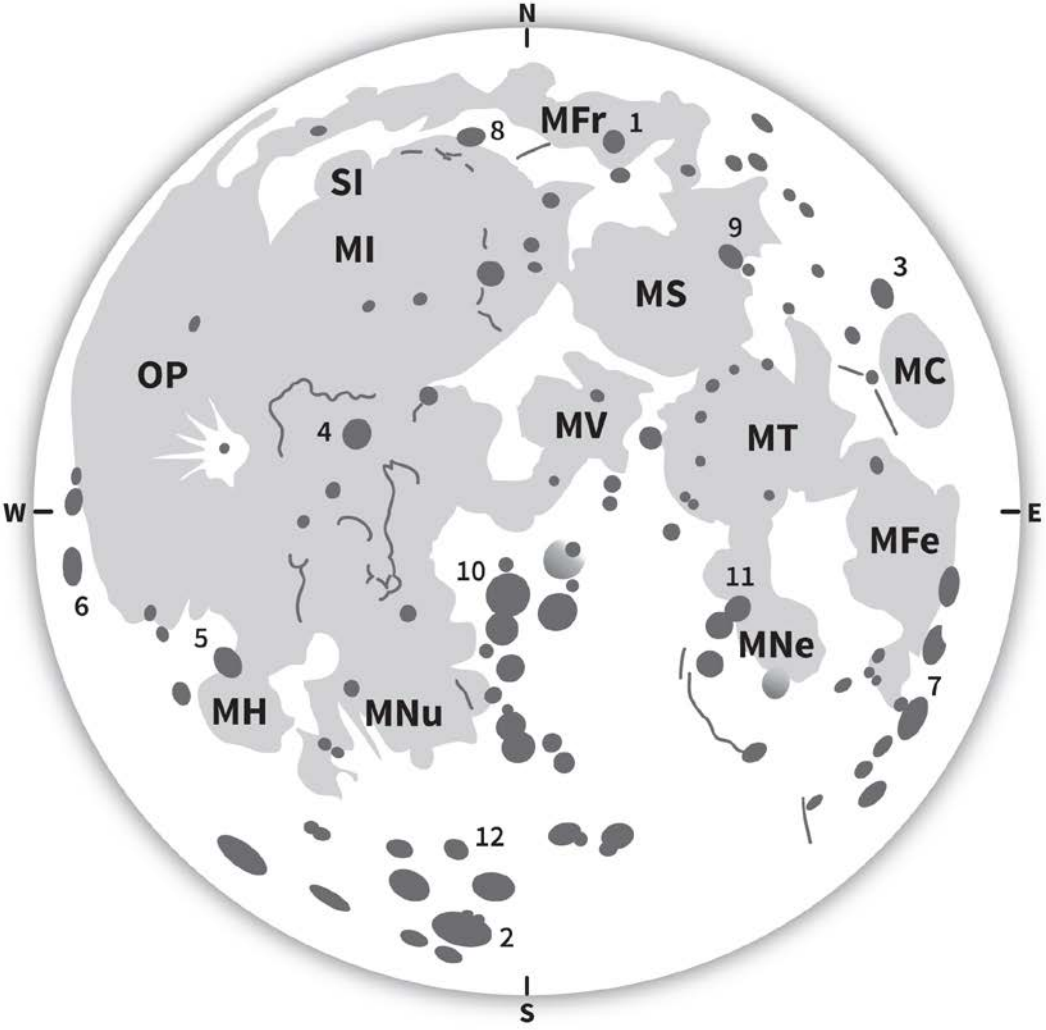


challenge

Another nice photo-op @ 10:00 p.m. on May 24



Suggested 100mm focal length with APS-C sensor



MARE

- MC: Mare Crisium
- MFe: Mare Fecunditatis
- MFr: Mare Frigoris
- MH: Mare Humorum
- SI: Sinus Iridum
- MI: Mare Imbrium
- MNe: Mare Nectaris
- MNu: Mare Nubium
- MS: Mare Serenitatis
- MT: Mare Tranquillitatis
- MV: Mare Vaporum
- OP: Oceanus Procellaru

best view May 26-28 after sunset

The Moon in

Explore the Universe

observe 3 of each in ⁶binos

CRATERS

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Aristoteles | 5. Gassendi | 10. Ptolomaeus |
| 2. Clavius | 6. Grimaldi | 11. Theophilus |
| 3. Cleomedes | 7. Petavius | 12. Tycho |
| 4. Copernicus | 8. Plato | |
| | 9. Posidonius | |

challenge

The Planets in May

Mercury-returns to morning sky (mag. 0.9) just before dawn by mid-May
-maximum western elongation of 25° on May 29

Venus -brilliant evening sky object (mag. -4.3)
-maximum northerly declination of 26° on May 9
-near waxing crescent Moon on May 23

Mars -mag. 1.5 object in Gemini
-near waxing crescent Moon on May 23
-near M44 on May 31

challenge

Jupiter -visible in morning twilight (mag. -2.1) by 2nd week of May
-near waning crescent Moon on May 17
-series of double shadow transits later in May (see Handbook)

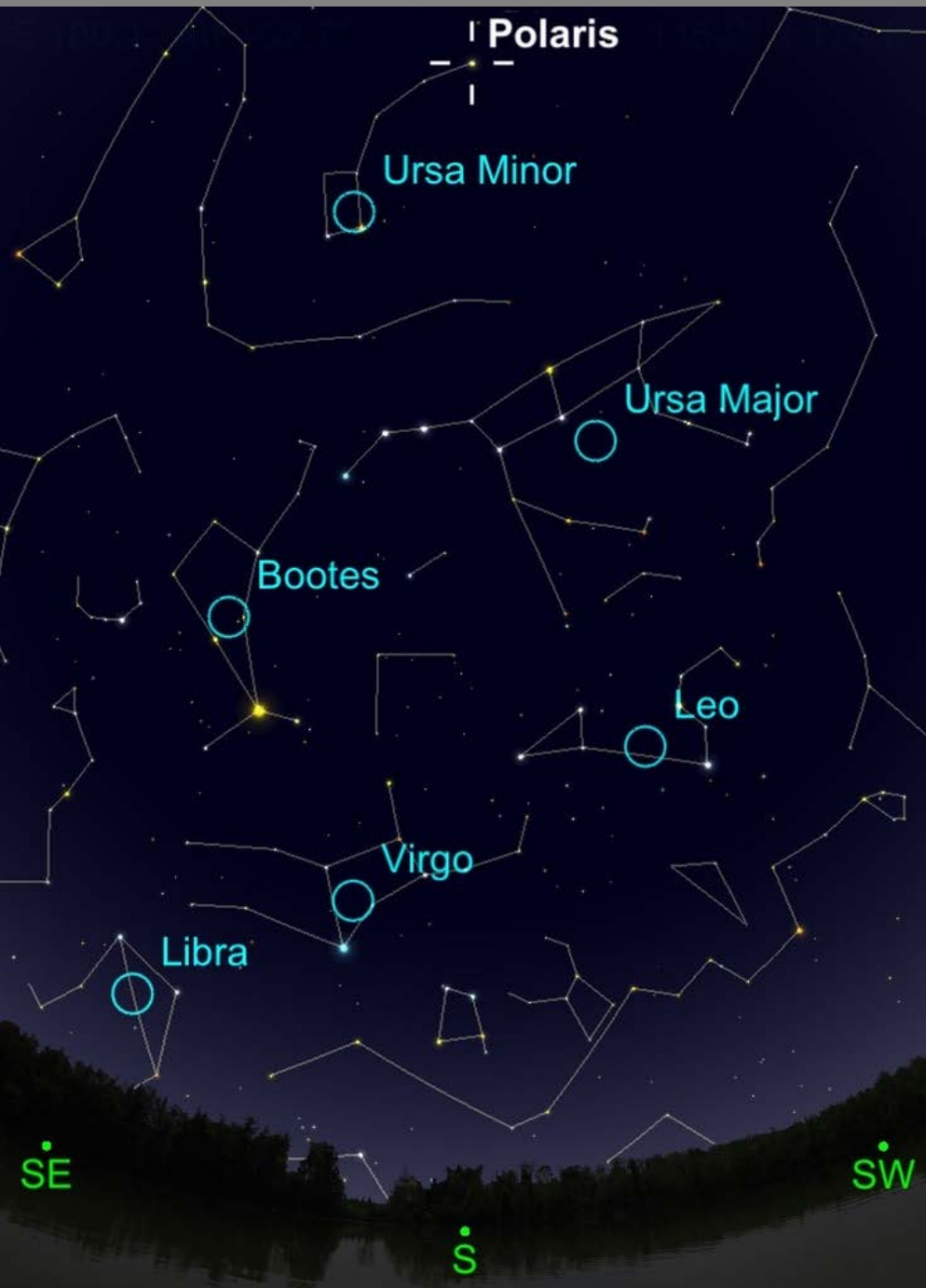
Saturn -visible in Aquarius in the pre-dawn sky (mag. 1.0)
-close to last quarter Moon on May 13

Uranus -too close to the Sun to be visible

Neptune-low in the East (mag. 7.9) in Pisces before dawn



The Beehive Cluster and Mars
View with 15x70 binoculars on May 31



Explore the Universe: Spring Constellations





Explore the Universe:

Spring Stars

Ranking:

#3 Arcturus

#14 Spica

#22 Regulus

#37 Dubhe

#48 Polaris

- Denebola

- Zubenelgenubi

- Zubeneshamali



Explore the Universe: Spring Deep-Sky

Messier 5 (NGC 5904)

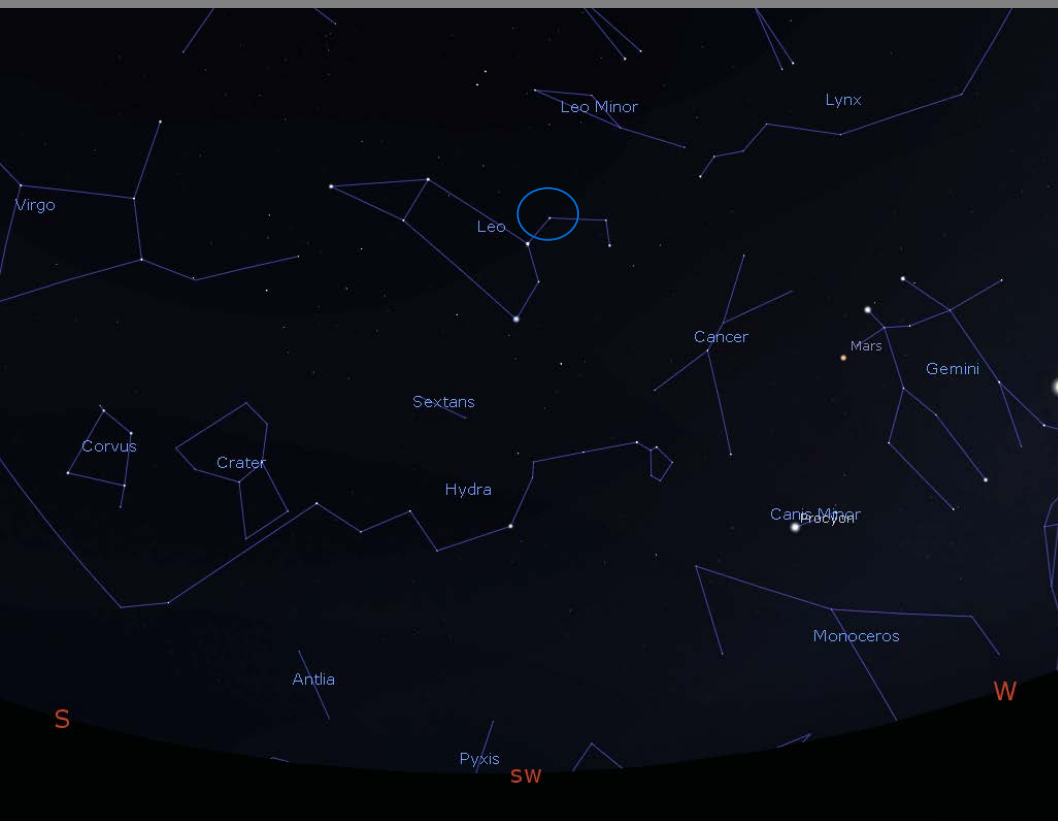
Ancient densely populated
globular cluster in Serpens
(view in binoculars in dark sky)

challenge



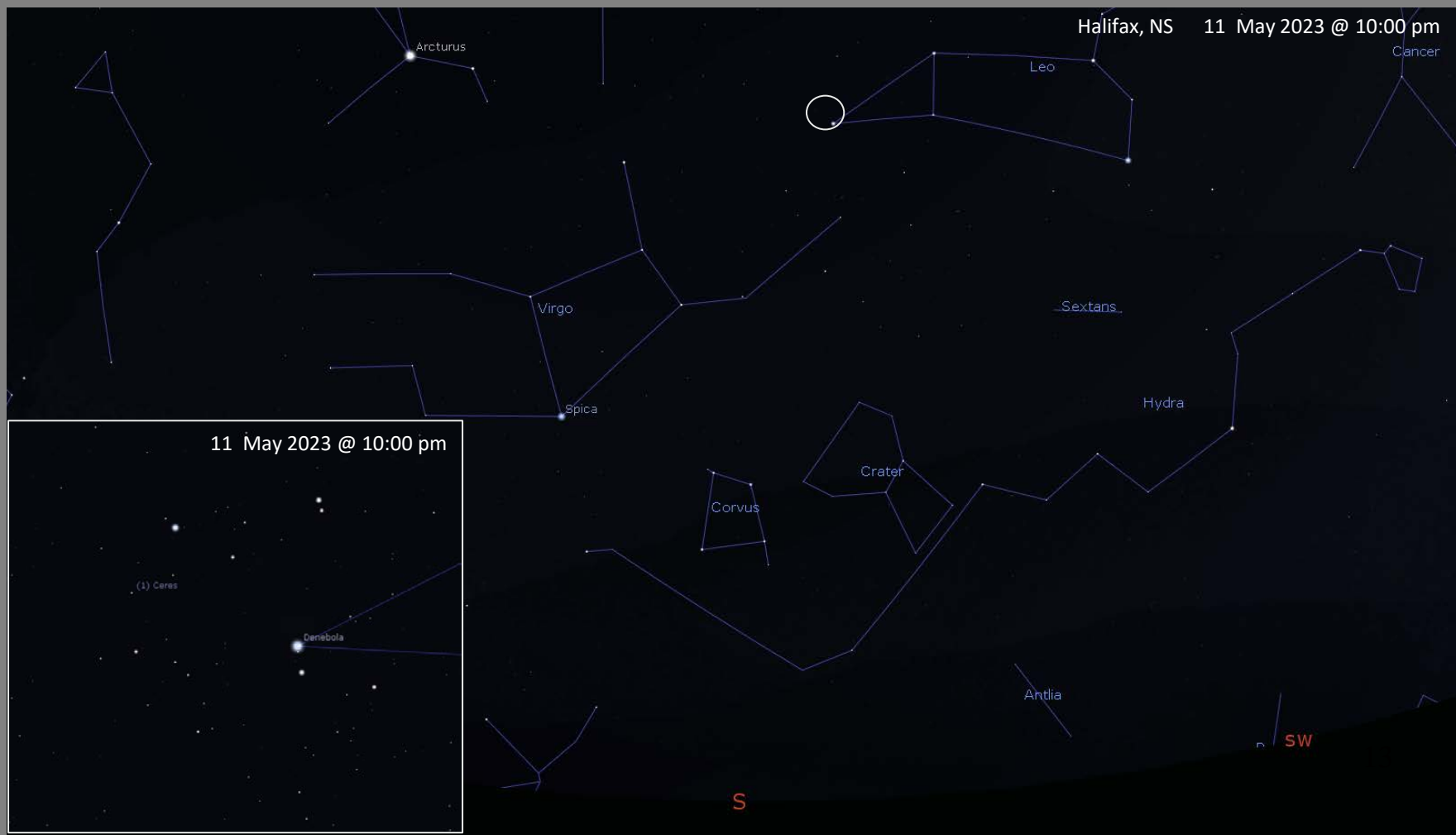
Explore the Universe: Double and Multiple Stars

- the Explore the Universe observing program contains 19 double stars and 1 triple star, all of which are binocular targets under dark skies
- Adhafera/Zeta Leonis (mag. 3.4) and 35 Leonis (mag. 5.9) are an optical double
- Adhafera comes from the Arabic "the braid/curl" referring to the lion's mane
- Adhafera and 35 Leonis are 174 light years from each other



Explore the Universe: Optional Solar System Observation

- the Explore the Universe observing program contains several optional solar system targets, one of which is the dwarf planet 1 Ceres
- Ceres (mag. 7.9) is currently located in Leo
- notice how, at a given time, the position of Ceres changes over several nights



Questions?



photos: David Hoskin