

What's Up?

August 1-31, 2026

Made with the 2026 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2026
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

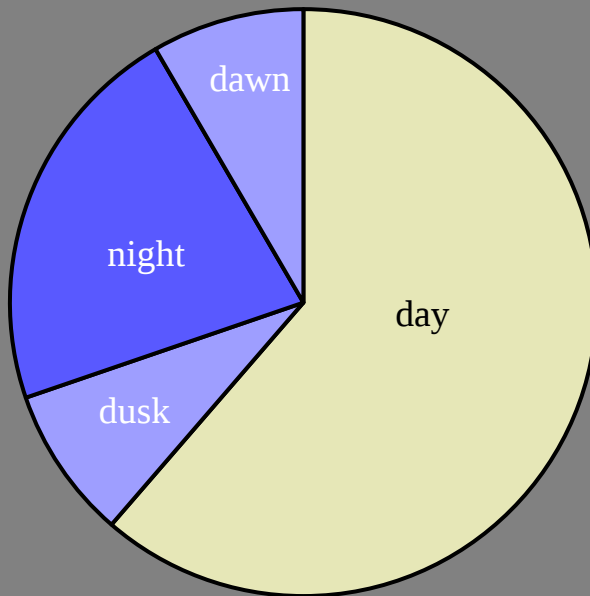
photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

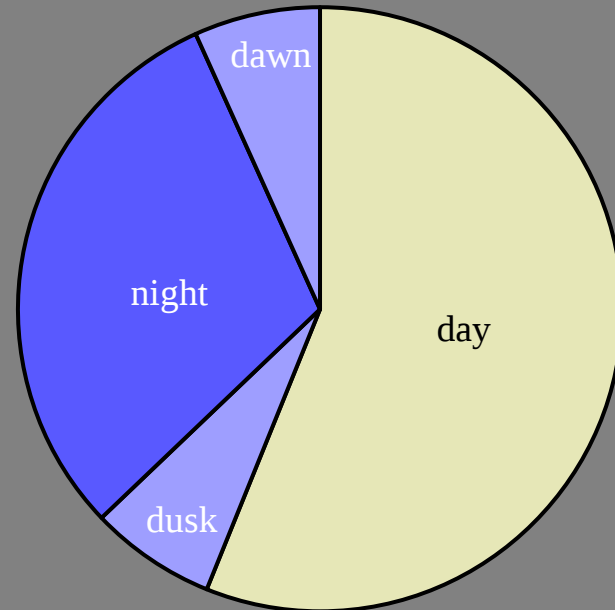
Today's Solar Activity

Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	“Noon”	Sunlight	Max Altitude
August 1	8:39 p.m.	10:43 p.m.	5.2 h	3:56 a.m.	6:00 a.m.	1:20 p.m.	14.6 h	63.2°
August 31	7:52 p.m.	9:37 p.m.	7.2 h	4:50 a.m.	6:35 a.m.	1:14 p.m.	13.3 h	53.8°

Halifax August 1

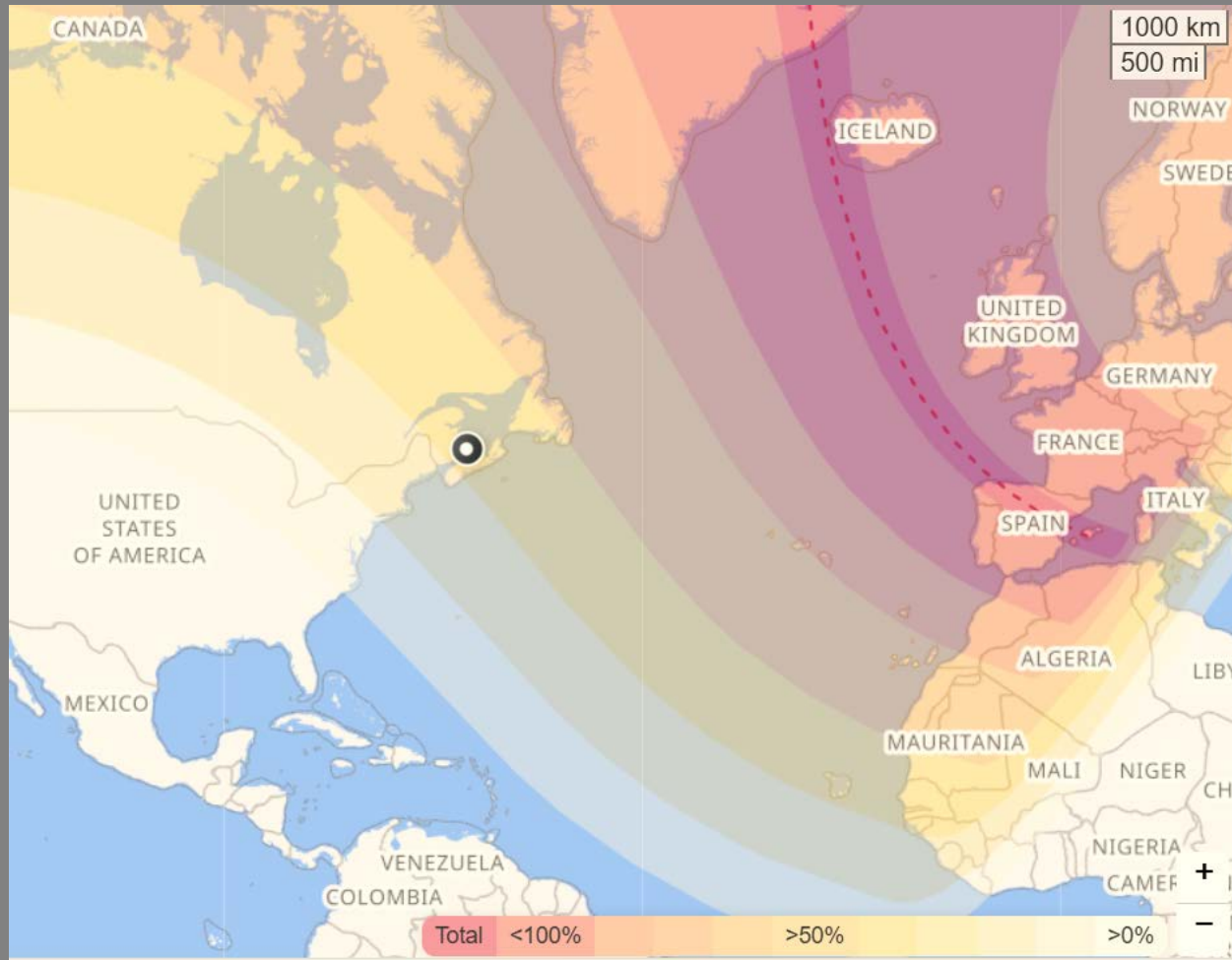


Halifax August 31



[YouTube: RASC Halifax](#)

Solar Eclipse This Month - Protect Your Eyes



- Partial solar eclipse visible from Halifax on August 12
- Begins at 1:58:18 p.m. ADT, ends at 3:58:26 p.m. ADT
- Maximum obscuration (31.13%) at 3:00:02 p.m. ADT

The Moon This Month

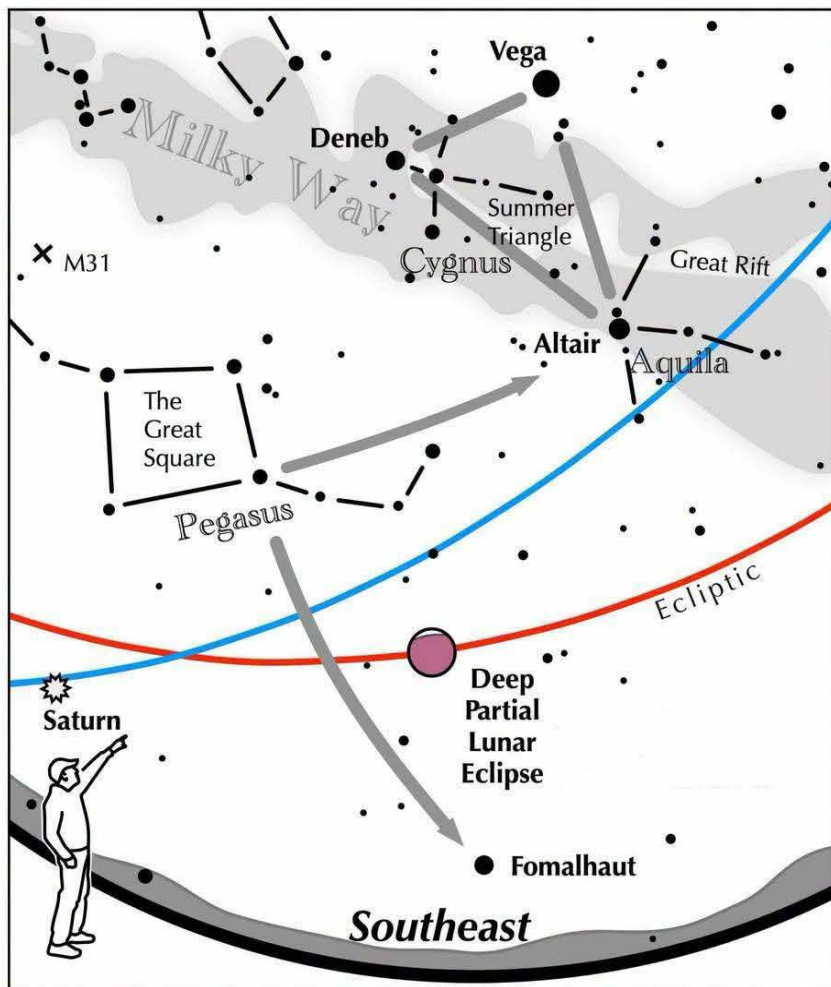
Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
August 3-4	Moon near Saturn		
August 6	<i>Last Quarter</i>	Birds Shedding Feathers	<u>Peskewiku's</u>
August 7	Moon near the Pleiades		
August 9	Moon near Mars		
August 10	Moon at perigee (363,300 km)		
August 11	Moon near Mercury		
August 12	<i>New Moon</i>	Berry Ripening	<u>Kisikewiku's</u>
August 12	Solar eclipse		
August 12	Perseid meteor shower peak		
August 15	Moon near Venus		
August 20	<i>First Quarter</i>		
August 20	Moon near Antares		
August 22	Moon at apogee (404,600 km)		
August 28	<i>Full Moon</i>		
August 28	Deep partial lunar eclipse		
August 30-31	Moon near Saturn		

View with 7x50 binoculars on 7 August at 5:30 a.m.

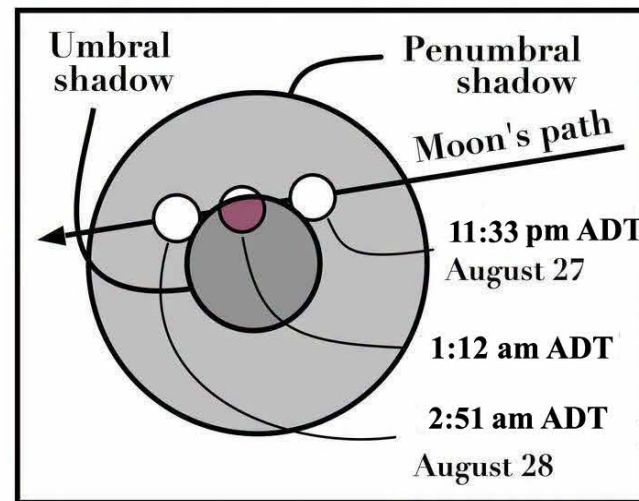


challenge

Lunar Eclipse This Month



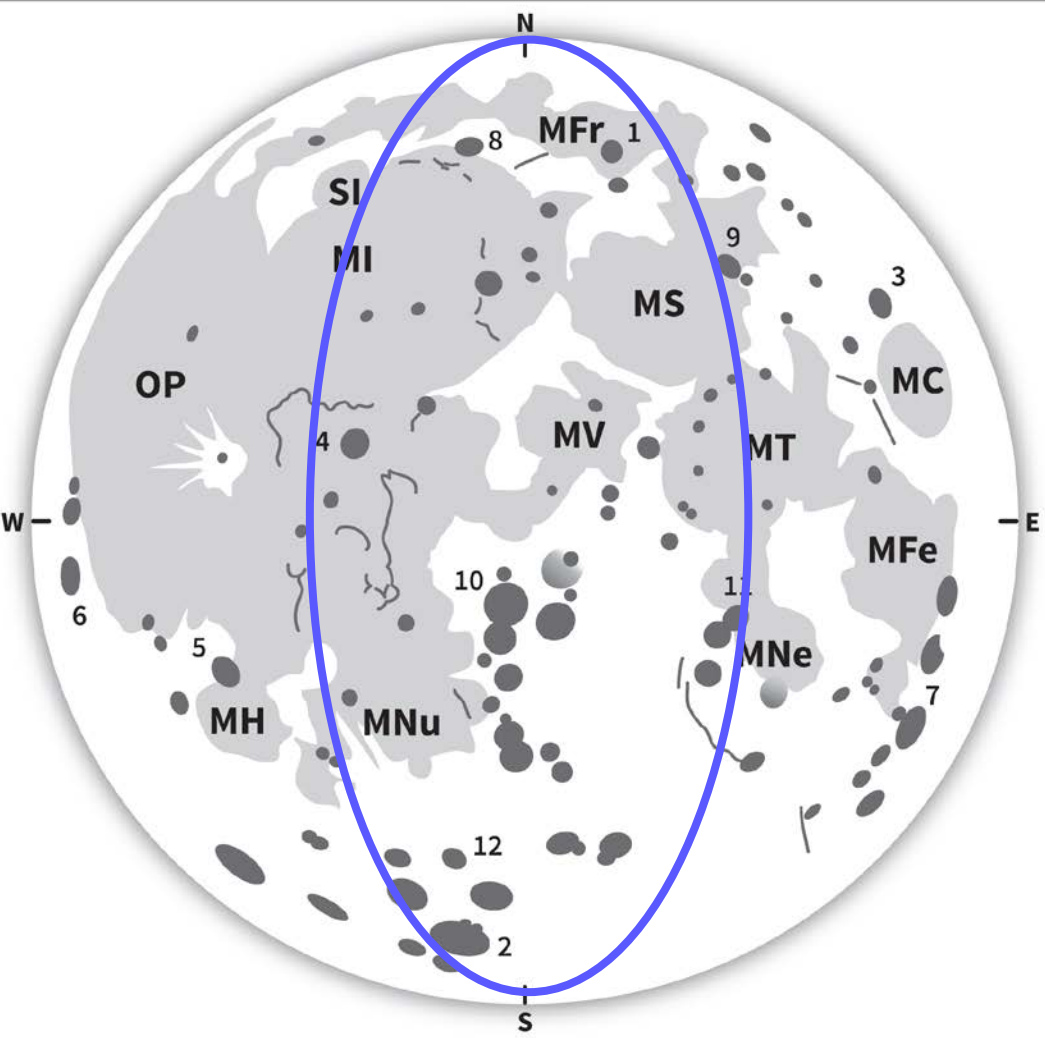
**View to the southeast
on August 27-28
Mid eclipse: Aug 28, 1:12 am ADT**



The Moon slides through a deep partial eclipse

In the late evening hours on August 27 into the early morning hours on August 28, the brilliant full moon slides into Earth's shadow.

- Even though the partial umbral eclipse begins at 11:33pm ADT on Aug 27, any dark bite might not be noticed for another 5 minutes.
- At mid eclipse (1:12 am ADT, August 28) when 93% of the moon lies in the umbral shadow, what color is the moon? How red is it?
- Do you notice that the shadow's edge is not straight, but curved?



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 Procellarum

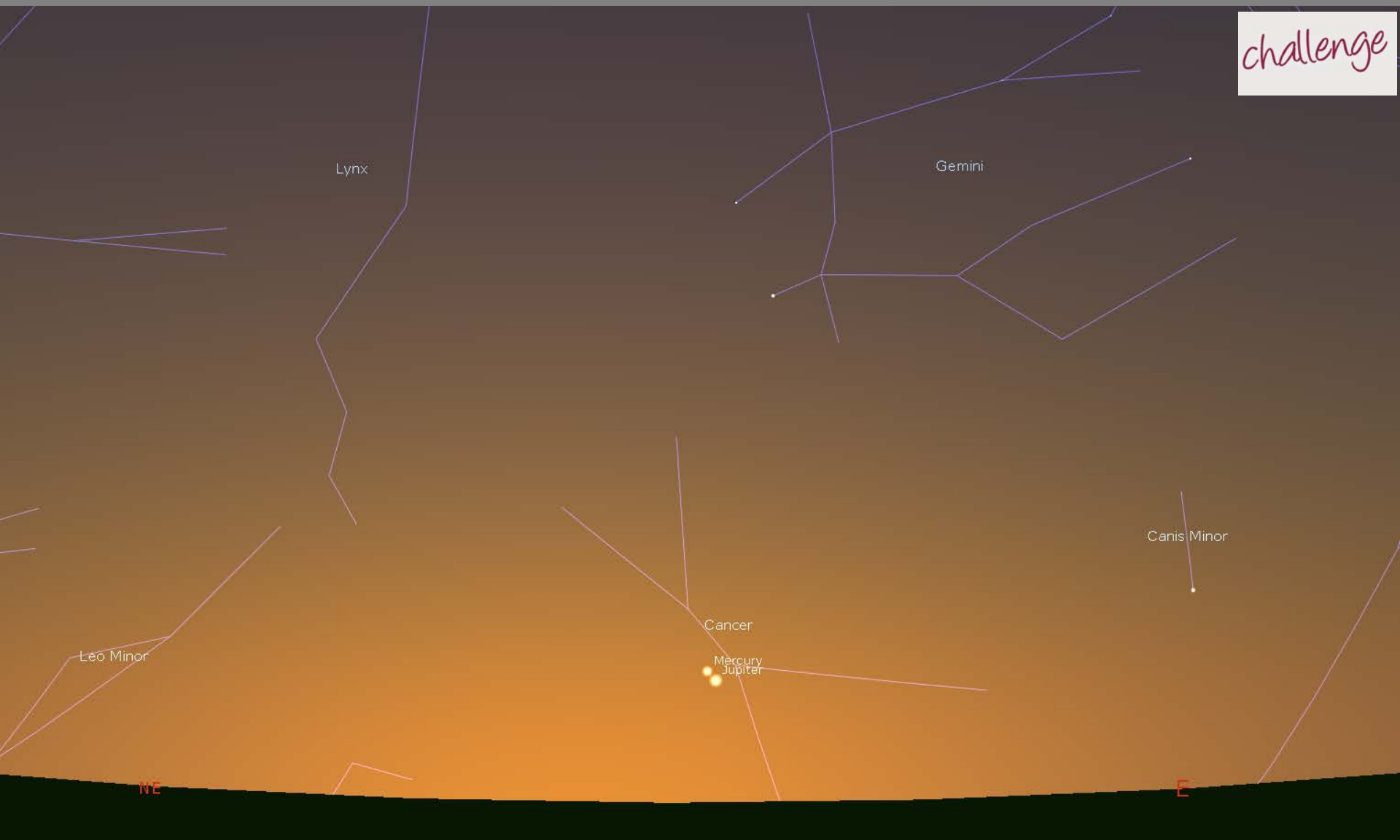
CRATERS

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

August 18 to 22

The Moon in
Explore the Universe
observe 3 of each in binos

challenge



- Close conjunction of Mercury and Jupiter on August 15 at 5:45 a.m.

Perseid Meteor Shower

Peaks August 12

Up to 120 meteors per hour

Excellent viewing due to the New
Moon phase

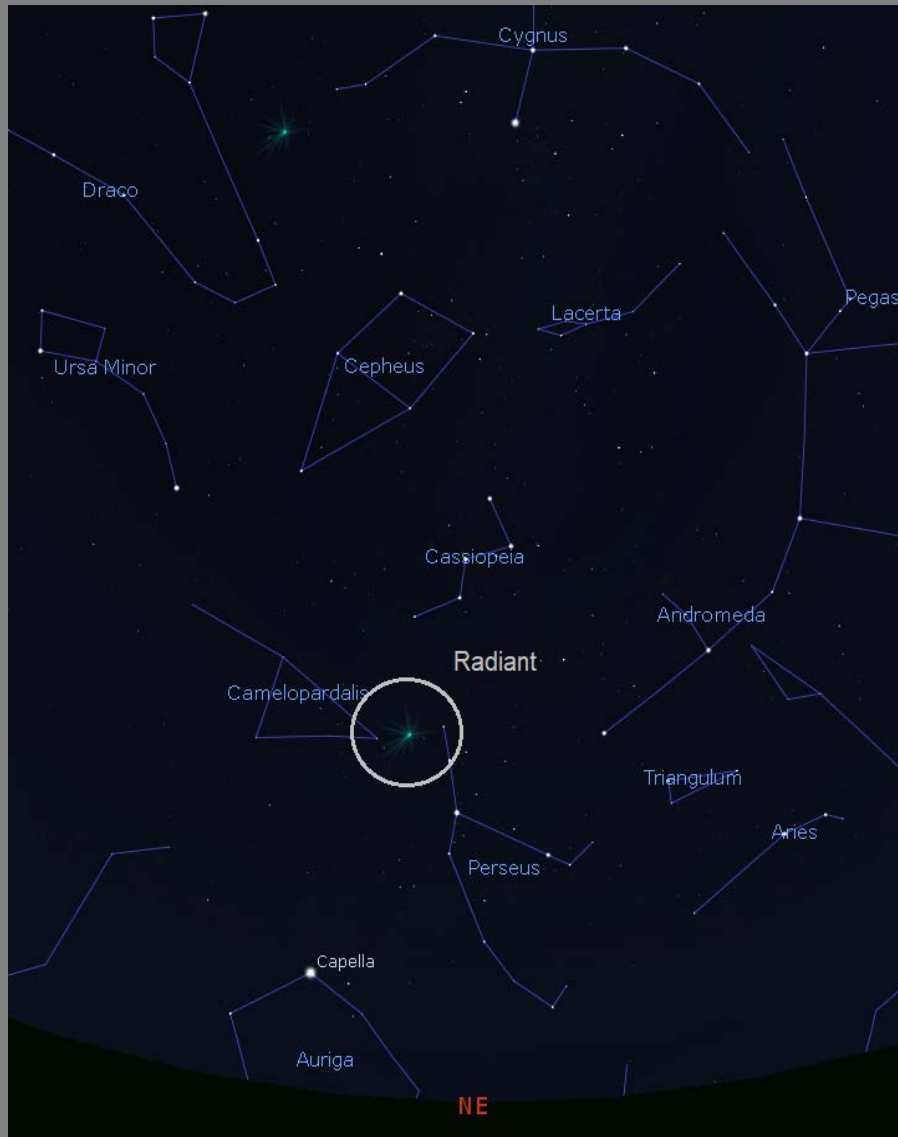
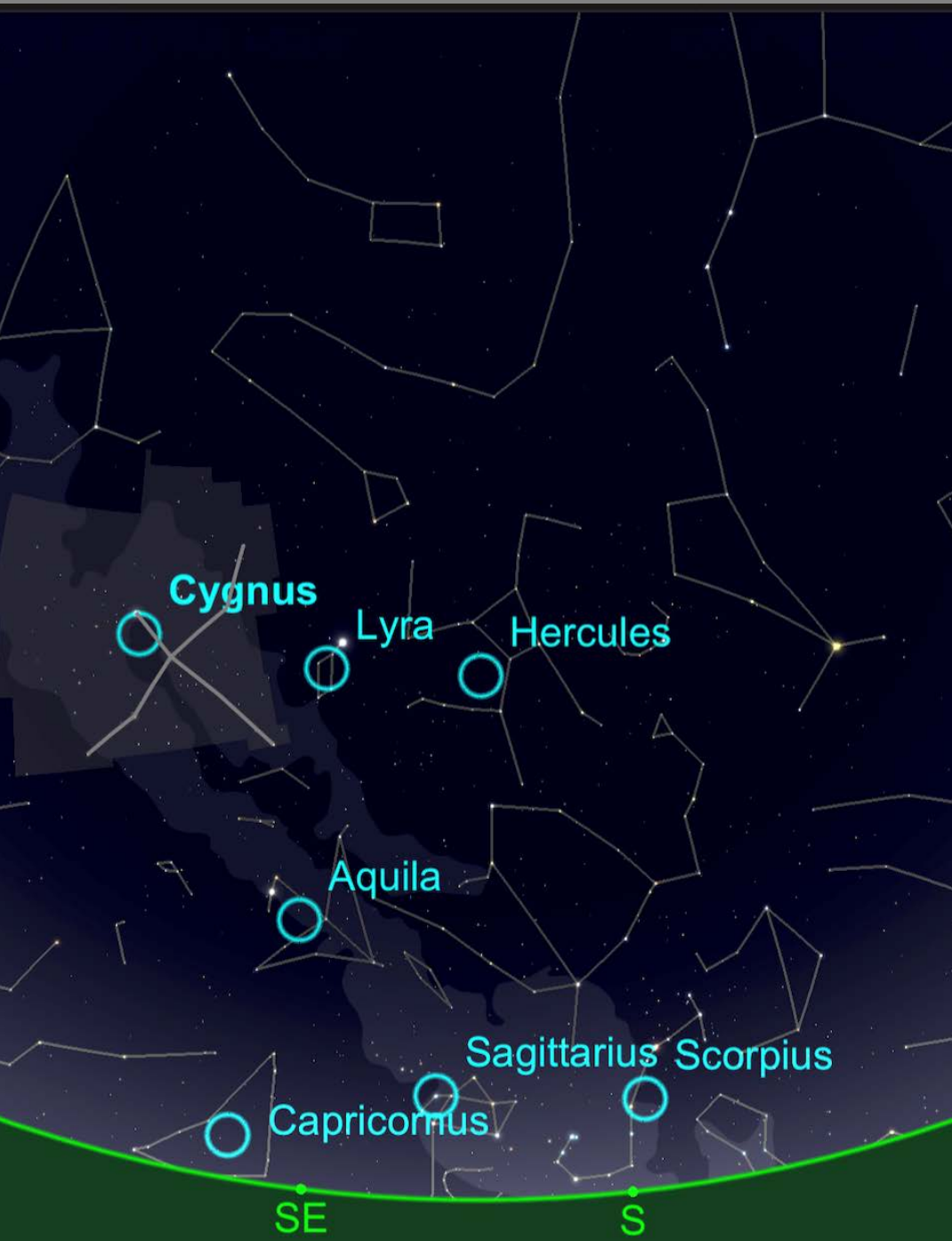


photo: David Hoskin



Explore the Universe: Summer Constellations





Explore the Universe:

Summer Stars

Ranking:

#5 Vega (N)

#12 Altair (N)

#15 Antares (N)

#20 Deneb (N)

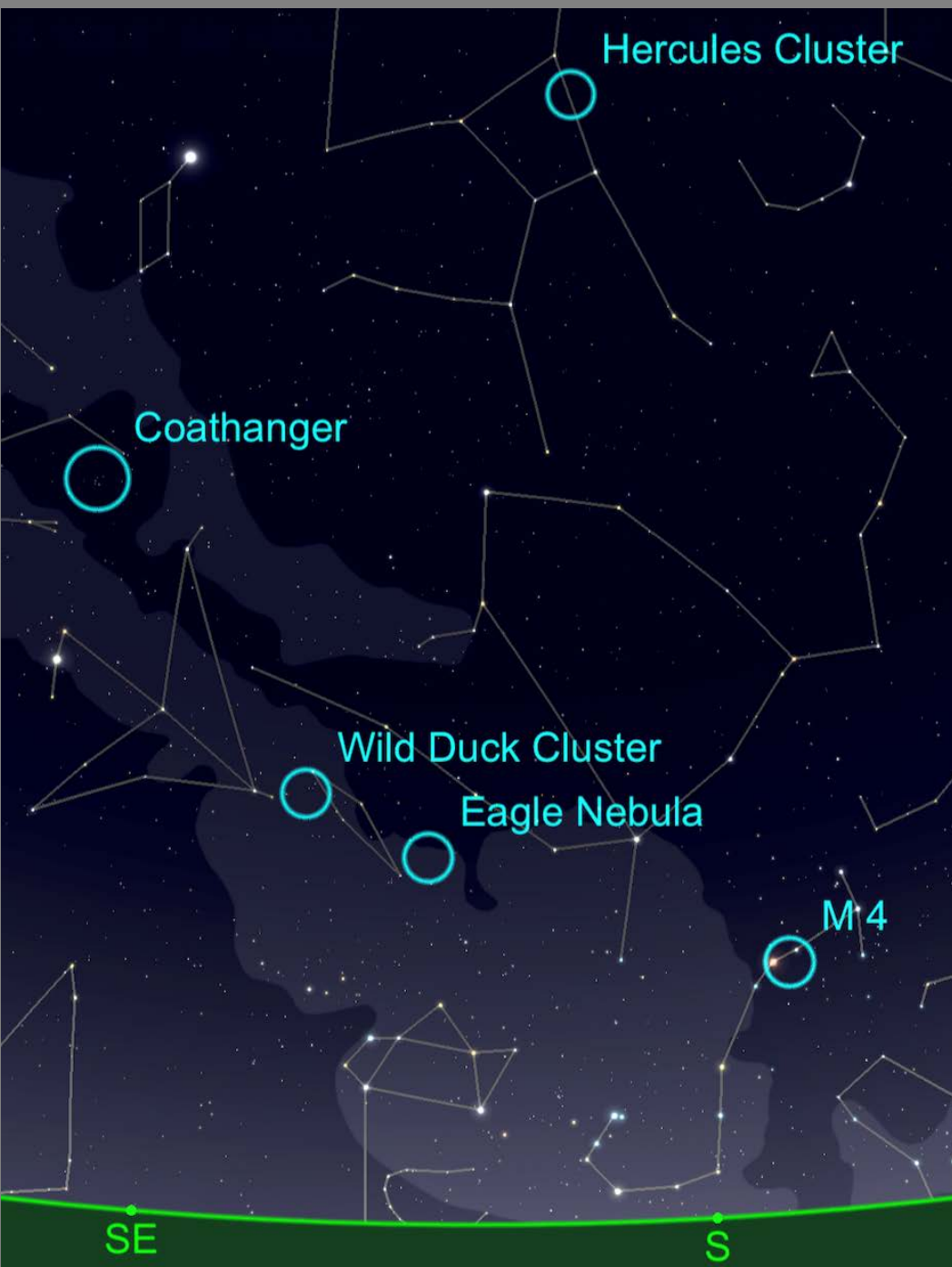
- Rasalgethi (A)

- Algedi

- Dabih

-Nunki (N)

- Albireo



Explore the Universe:

Summer Deep-Sky

Wild Duck Cluster

(Messier 11)

Densely populated open
star cluster 6,200 LY away
in the constellation of
Scutum



photo: David Hoskin



Explore the Universe: Summer Double Stars

ϵ^1 Lyr and ϵ^2 Lyr

"Double Double"

Each is also a double star
Split with a telescope (needs
good seeing)

challenge

ϵ^1 Lyr

ϵ^2 Lyr

photo: David Hoskin

Questions?

observing@halifax.rasc.ca



photo: David Hoskin