

What's Up?

January 1-31, 2026

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

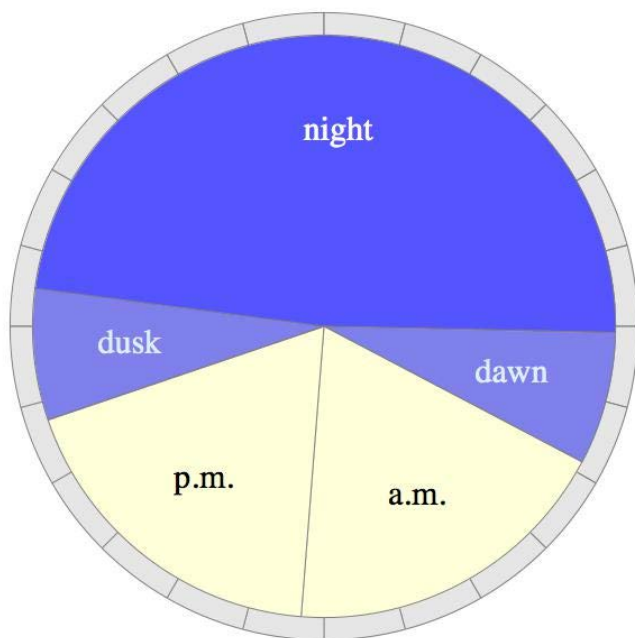
photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

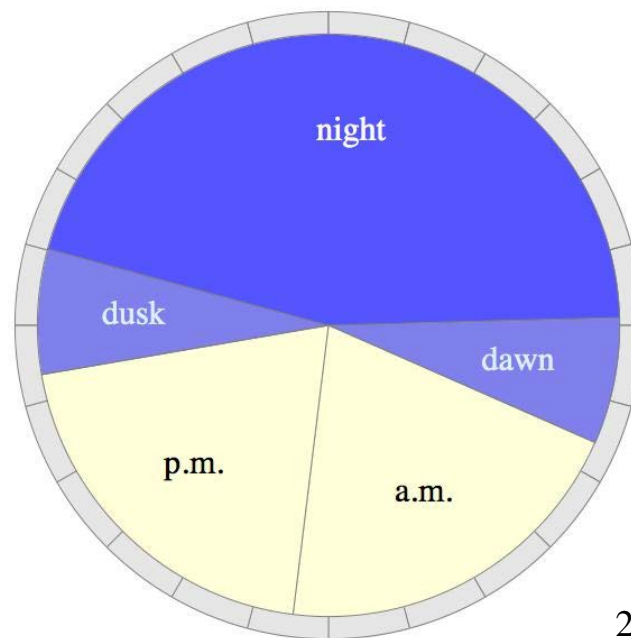
Solar Activity

Date	Sunset	Astronomical Twilight Ends	Darkness	Astronomical Twilight Begins	Sunrise	Transit “Noon”	Sunlight	Max Altitude
Jan 1	4:44 pm	6:30 pm	11.6 h	6:05 am	7:51 am	12:17 pm	8h 53m	22.4°
Jan 31	5:21 pm	7:02 pm	10.9 h	5:53 am	7:34 am	12:27 pm	9h 47m	28.1°

Halifax Jan 01



Halifax Jan 31



The Moon This Month

Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
Jan 1	Moon at perigee (360,300 km)		
Jan 3	<i>Full Moon</i>	Winter/Chief Moon	<u>Kesikewik'us</u> or Kjiku's
Jan 3	Quadrantid Meteor Shower Peak		
Jan 3	Moon near Jupiter		
Jan 4	Moon near Beehive Cluster (M44)		
Jan 10	<i>Last Quarter</i>		
Jan 13	Moon at apogee (405,400 km)		
Jan 14	Moon near M4 and Antares		
Jan 18	<i>New Moon</i>	Tom Cod Spawning	<u>Punamujuiku's</u>
Jan 22	Moon near Saturn		
Jan 26	<i>First Quarter</i>		
Jan 27	Moon near Pleiades (M45)		
Jan 29	Moon at perigee (365,900 km)		
Jan 29	Moon near M35		
Jan 30	Moon near Jupiter		



Jan 3

- Moon near Jupiter
- around 6:30 p.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)

Jan 30

- Moon near Jupiter
- around 7:00 p.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)



Jan 4

- Moon near M44
- around 8:00 p.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)



Jan 14

- Moon near M4 and Antares
- around 6:00 a.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)



Jan 22 around 6:30 p.m.
Moon near Saturn



Jan 27

- Moon near M45
- around 7:00 p.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)



Jan 29

- Moon near M35
- around 7:00 p.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)

MARE

MC: Mare Crisium

MFe: Mare Fecunditatis

MFr: Mare Frigoris

MH: Mare Humorum

SI: Sinus Iridum

MI: Mare Imbrium

MNe: Mare Nectaris

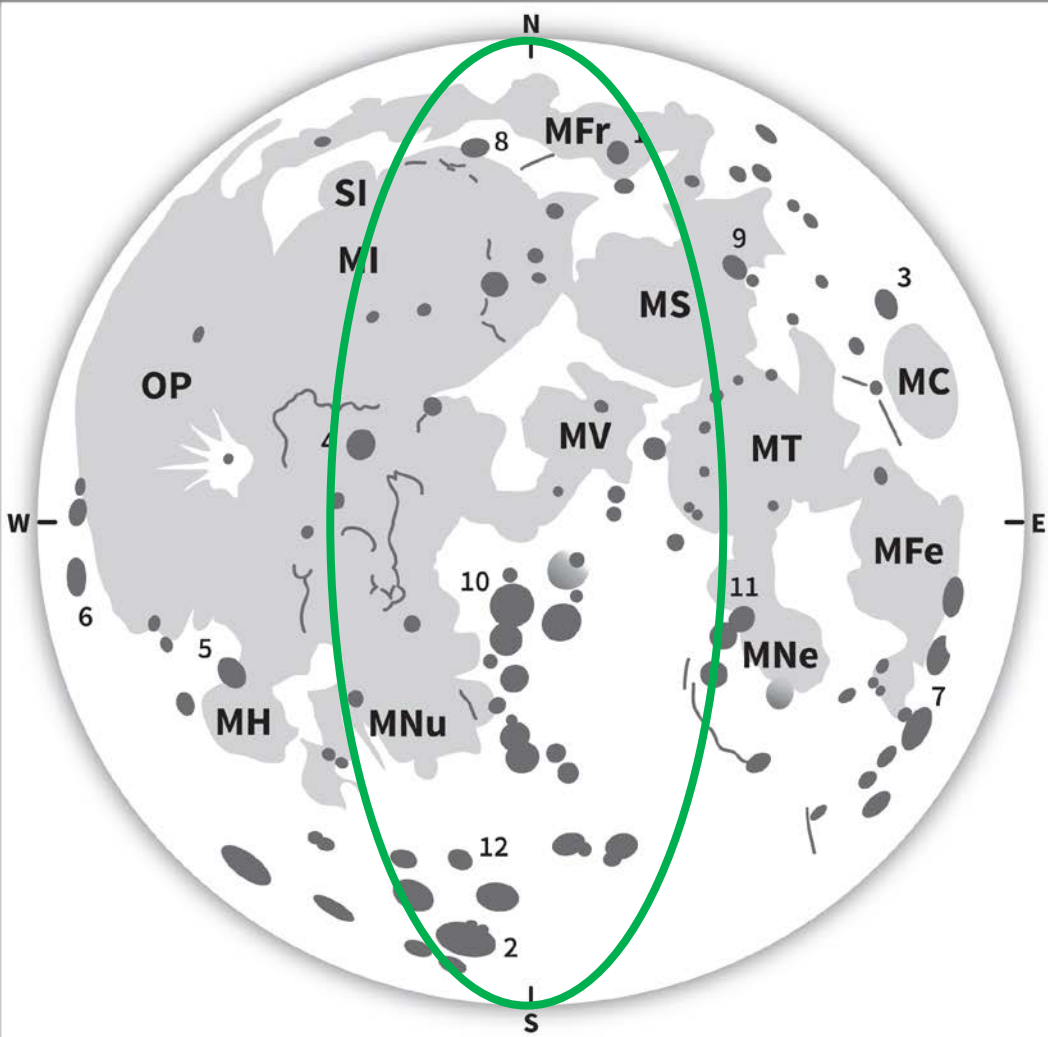
MNu: Mare Nubium

MS: Mare Serenitatis

MT: Mare Tranquillitatis

MV: Mare Vaporum

OP: Oceanus Procellarum



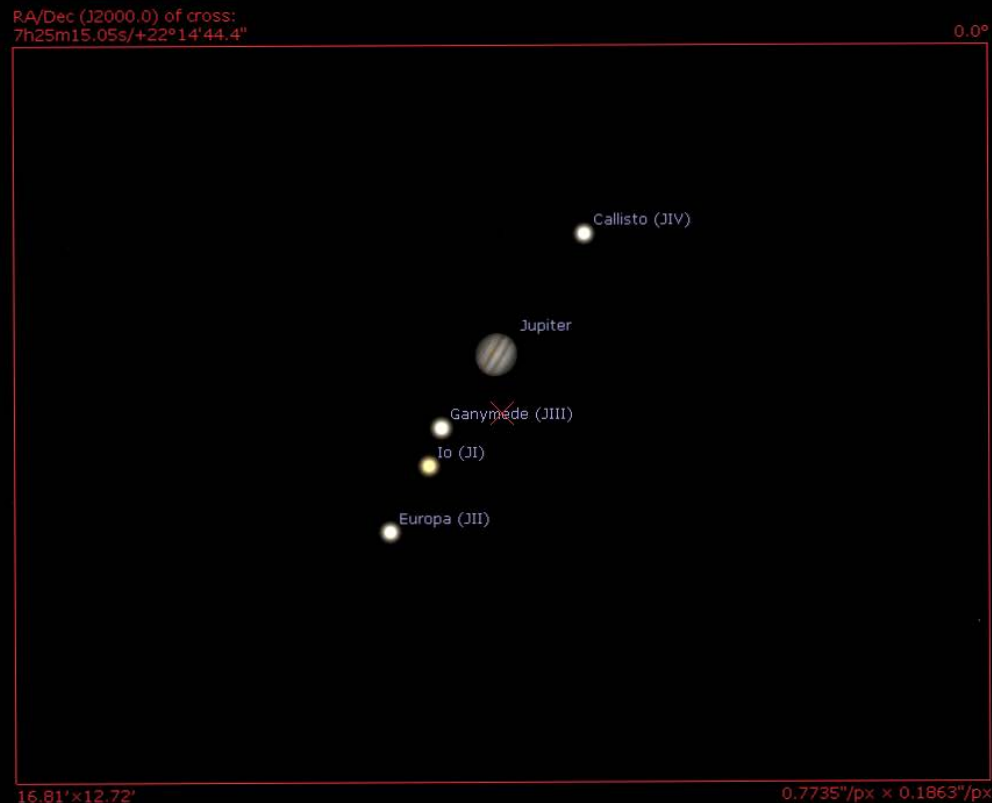
CRATERS

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

First Quarter: Jan 26

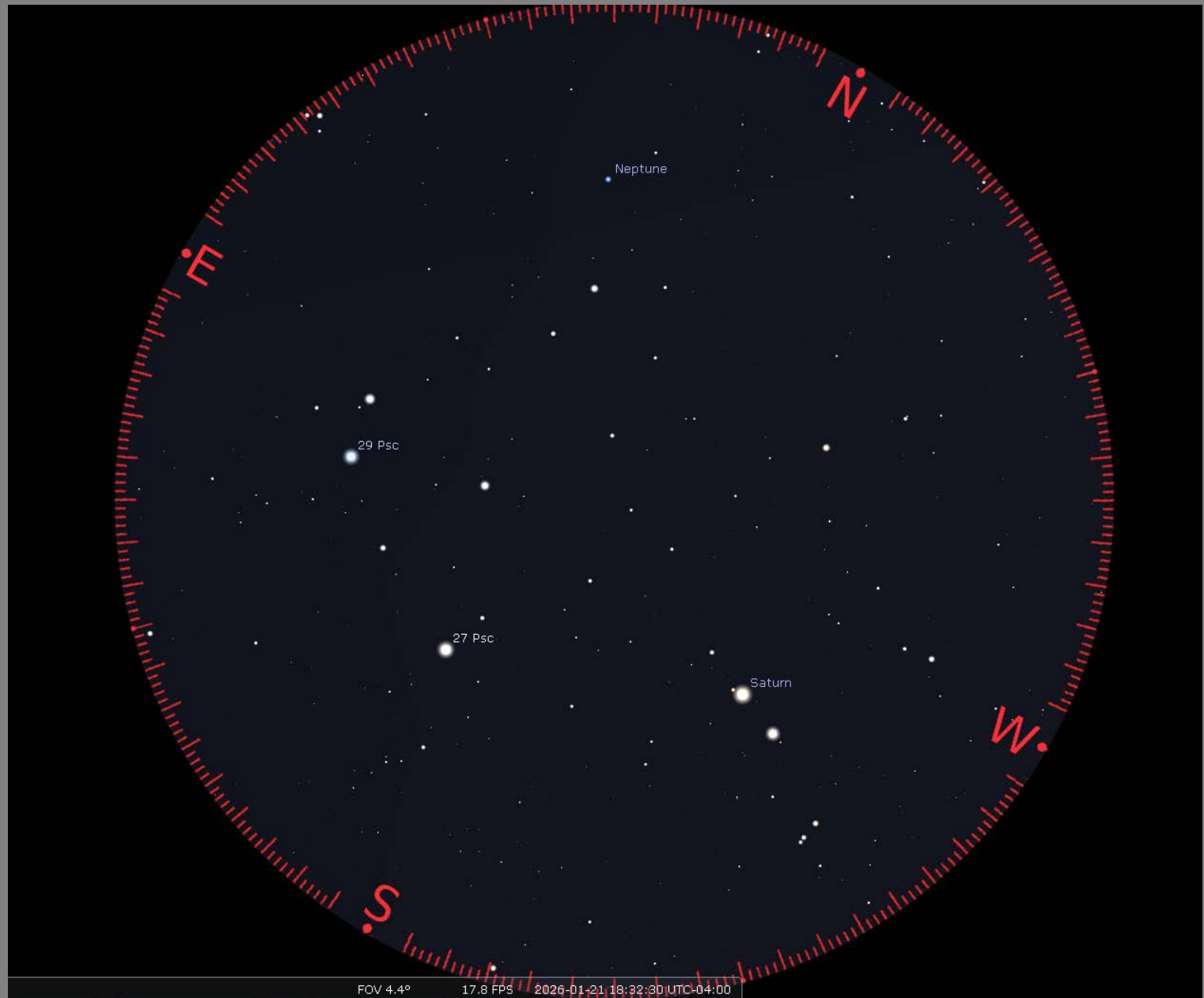
The Moon in
Explore the Universe
observe 3 of each in binos

challenge



FOV 0.351° 48.4 FPS 2026-01-10 21:02:44 UTC-04:00

Jupiter at opposition on Jan 10
200mm C8 SCT with ASI224MC camera @ 9 p.m.



Jan 21 around 6:30 p.m.

View Saturn and Neptune with 15x70 binoculars

The Quadrantid Meteor Shower

- Quadrantid radiant is in Bootes, active from Dec 28 to Jan 12
- Predicted peak Jan 3 at 6 pm AST, view before dawn on Jan 3 and 4
- Light from the full Moon will obscure all but the brightest meteors so best expected rate is less than 10 per hour
- look for fireballs that are often seen in this meteor shower



Explore the Universe:

Winter Constellations

Auriga

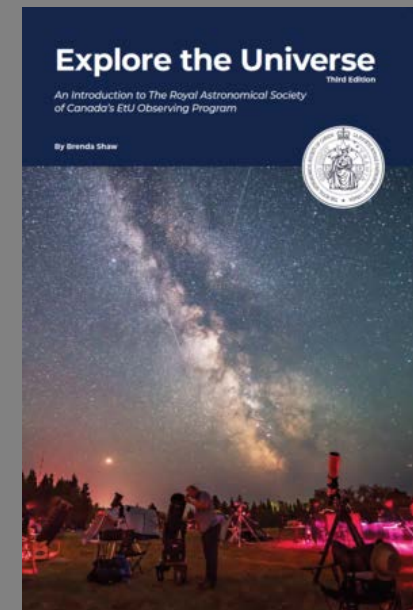
Gemini

Taurus

Orion

Canis Major

Canis Minor





Explore the Universe:

Winter Stars

Ranking:

#1 Sirius (N)

#6 Capella (N)

#7 Rigel (N)

#8 Procyon (N)

#10 Betelgeuse (N)

#13 Aldebaran (N)

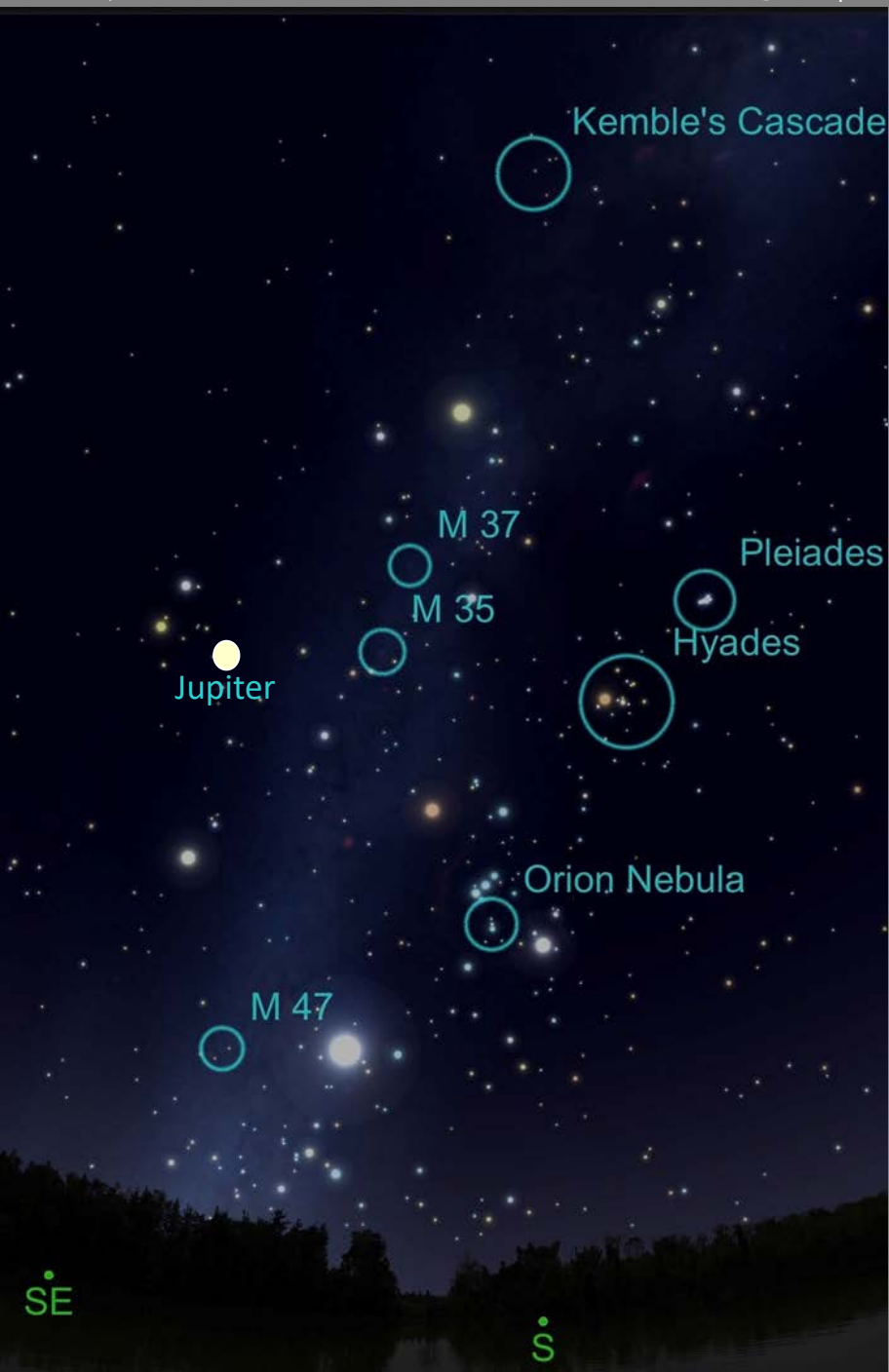
#16 Pollux (N)

#45 Castor

Gomiesa

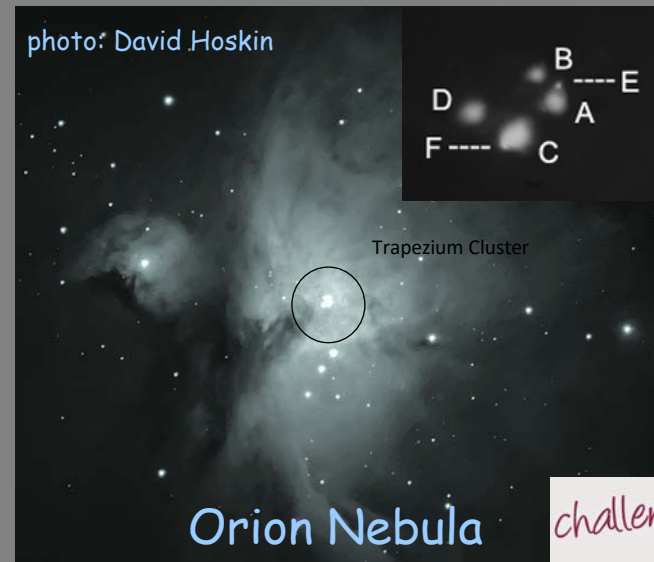
N = Navigation

all good for Syn Scan alignment



Explore the Universe:

Winter Deep-Sky Objects



challenge

Explore the Universe: Winter Double Stars

Delta Cephei (3.5-4.4, 7.5, 41")

Cepheid variable star prototype

Period is 5.366 days

Delta Cep A (white-yellow)

Delta Cep C (blue)



photo: A Ayiomamitis

challenge

Questions?
observing@halifax.rasc.ca

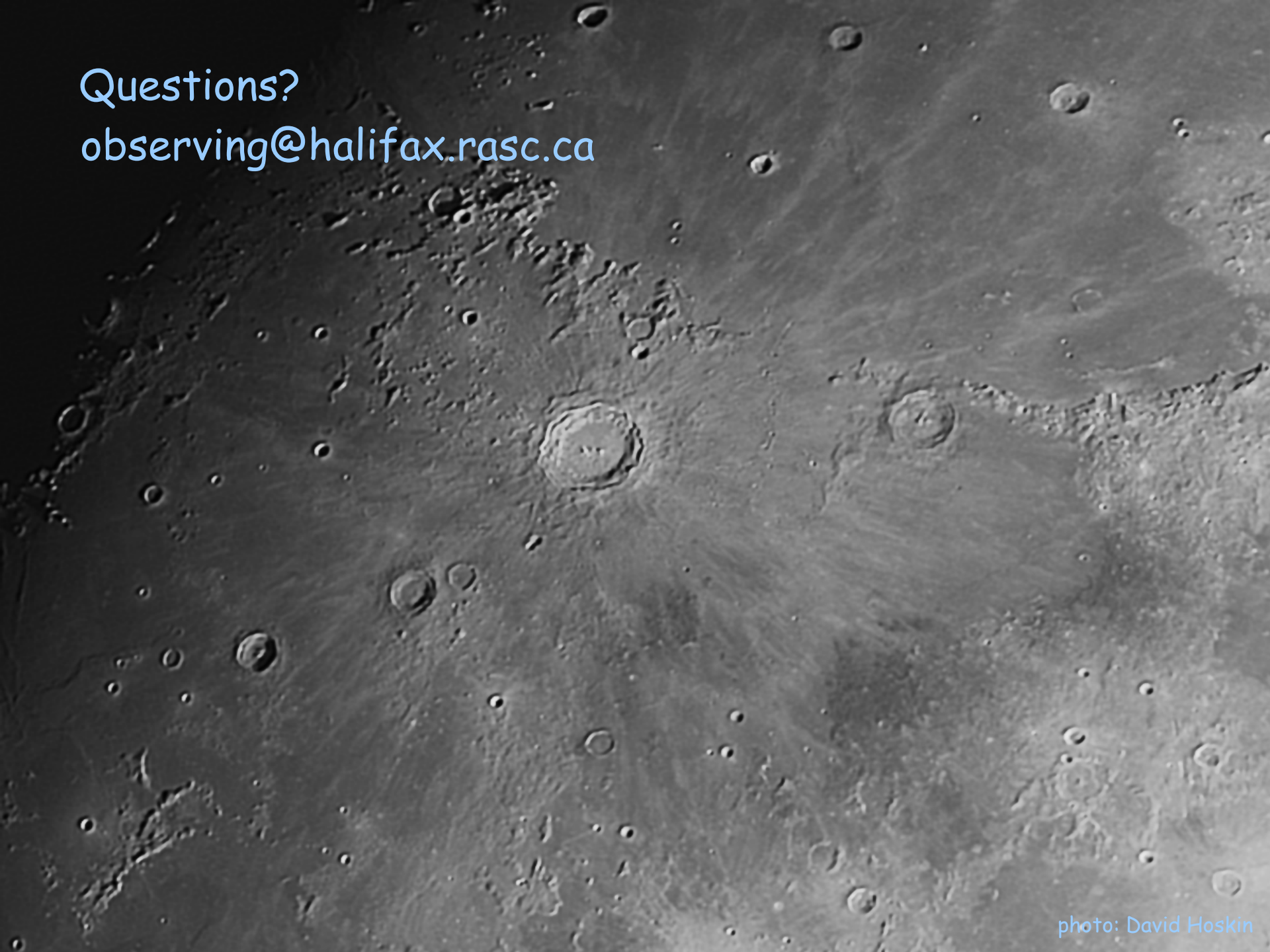


photo: David Hoskin