



What's Up?

October 1-31, 2026

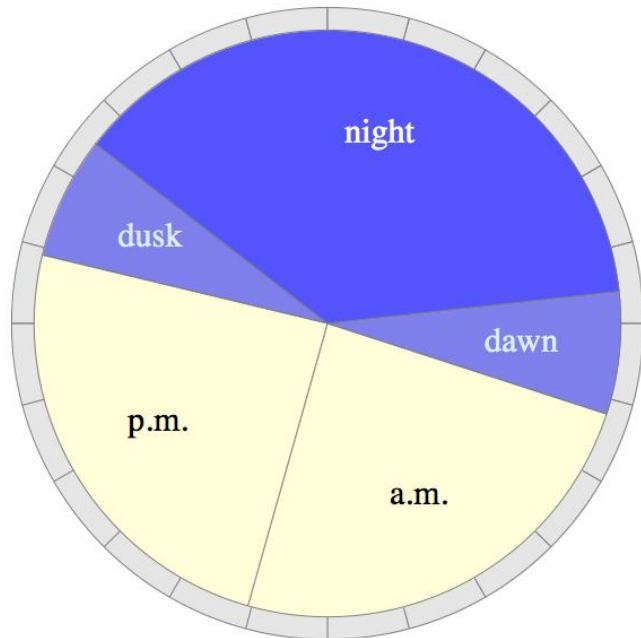
Made with the 2026 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2026
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

The Sun This Month

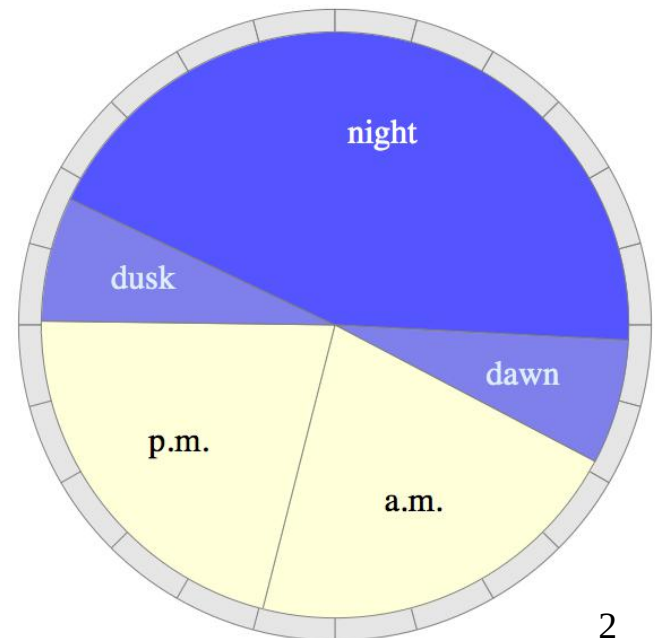
[Today's Solar Activity](#)

Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	“Noon”	Sunlight	Max Altitude
Oct 1	6:54 p.m.	8:31 p.m.	9.1 h	5:34 a.m.	7:12 a.m.	1:03 p.m.	11.7 h	42.0°
Oct 31	6:04 p.m.	7:43 p.m.	10.5 h	6:12 a.m.	7:50 a.m.	12:57 p.m.	10.2 h	31.1°

Halifax Oct 01



Halifax Oct 31



2

[YouTube: RASC Halifax](#)

The Moon in October

Date (AST)	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
Oct 1	Moon at perigee (369,300 km)		
Oct 3	<i>Last Quarter</i>	Mate Calling	Wikumkewiku's
Oct 5	Moon near Mars and M44		
Oct 6	Moon occults Jupiter		
Oct 10	<i>New Moon</i>	Animal Fattening	Wikewiku's
Oct 14	Moon near Antares and M4		
Oct 16	Moon at apogee (404,600 km)		
Oct 18	<i>First Quarter</i>		
Oct 23, 24	Moon near Saturn		
Oct 26	<i>Full Moon</i>		
Oct 27	Moon passes through M45		
Oct 28	Moon at perigee (364,400 km)		

OCTOBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			 1 WANING GIBBOUS	 2 WANING GIBBOUS	 3 THIRD QUARTER	 4 WANING CRESCENT
 5 WANING CRESCENT	 6 WANING CRESCENT	 7 WANING CRESCENT	 8 WANING CRESCENT	 9 WANING CRESCENT	 10 NEW MOON	 11 WAXING CRESCENT
 12 WAXING CRESCENT	 13 WAXING CRESCENT	 14 WAXING CRESCENT	 15 WAXING CRESCENT	 16 WAXING CRESCENT	 17 WAXING CRESCENT	 18 FIRST QUARTER
 19 WAXING GIBBOUS	 20 WAXING GIBBOUS	 21 WAXING GIBBOUS	 22 WAXING GIBBOUS	 23 WAXING GIBBOUS	 24 WAXING GIBBOUS	 25 WAXING GIBBOUS
 26 FULL MOON	 27 WANING GIBBOUS	 28 WANING GIBBOUS	 29 WANING GIBBOUS	 30 WANING GIBBOUS	 31 WANING GIBBOUS	



Waning gibbous Moon near Mars and M44, Oct 5 @ 5:30 a.m.
7x50 binoculars (FOV 7.1°)



Waning crescent Moon occludes Jupiter

Oct 6 @ 5:30 -6:45 a.m.

15x70 binoculars (FOV 4.4°)

challenge



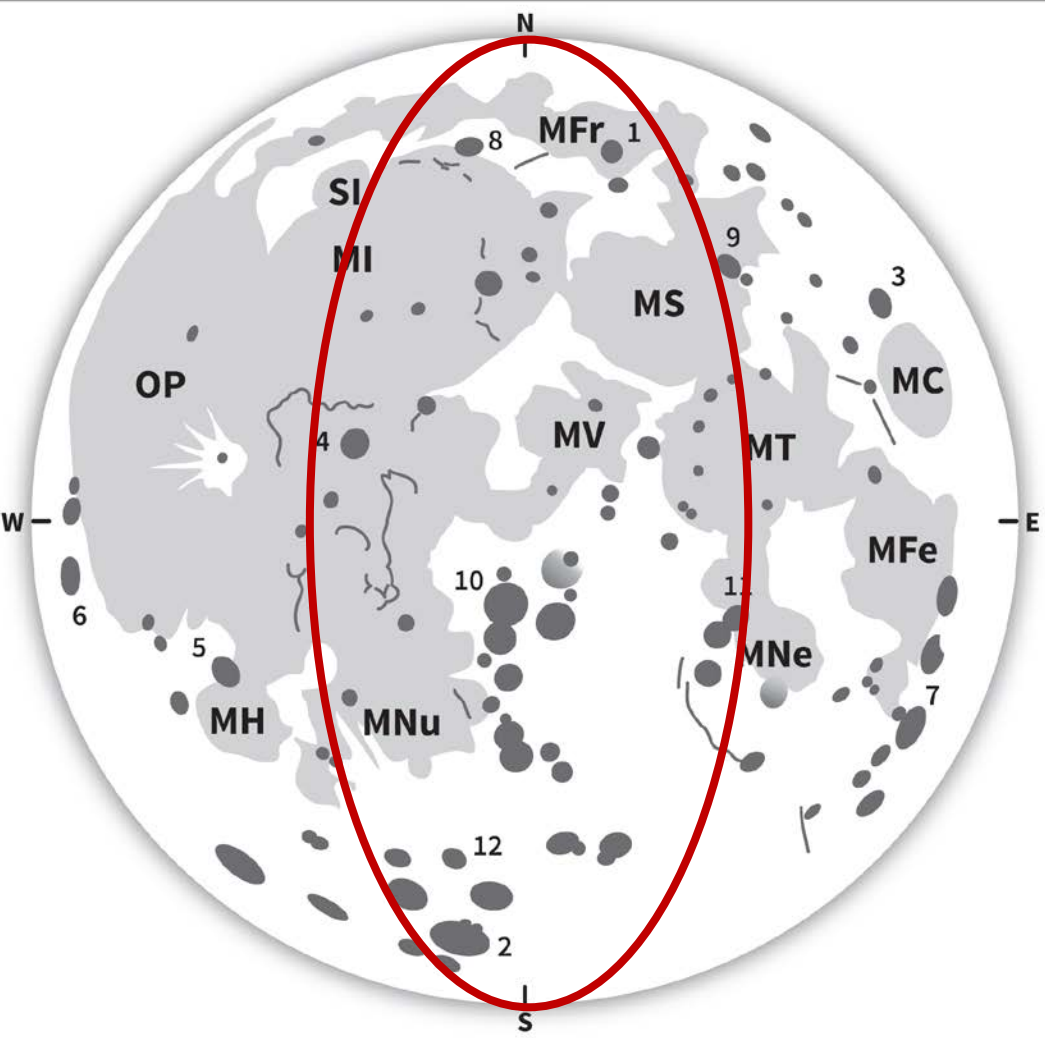
Thin crescent Moon near Antares and M4, Oct 14 @ 8:00 p.m.
7x50 binoculars (FOV 7.1°)



The waning gibbous Moon passes through M45

Oct 27 @ 9:00 p.m.

15x70 binoculars (FOV 4.4°)



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

October 16-20

The Moon in

Explore the Universe

observe 3 of each in binoculars

CRATERS

1. Aristoteles

2. Clavius

3. Cleomedes

4. Copernicus

5. Gassendi

6. Grimaldi

7. Petavius

8. Plato

9. Posidonius

10. Ptolomaeus

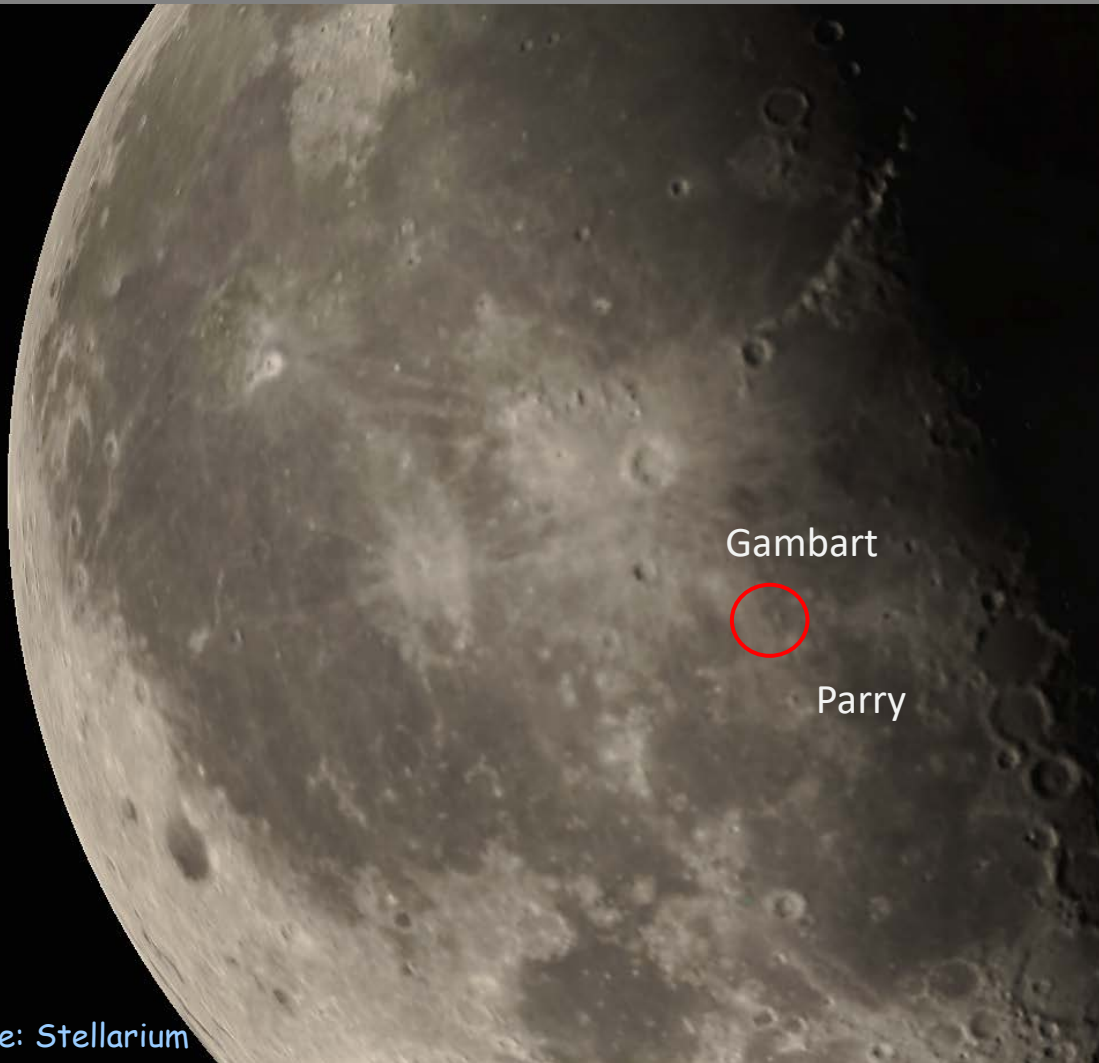
11. Theophilus

12. Tycho

challenge

Curtiss Cross

challenge



Look at about just after Last Quarter on Oct 3 for this
clair-obscur effect

Lunar V and Lunar X

V →

X →

photos: David Hoskin

Ukert

La Caille
Bianchinus
Purbach

Look at 1:37 a.m. AST on Oct 18 for this clair-obscur effect

Southern Taurids Meteor Shower

Peaks October 13-14

5-10 meteors per hour

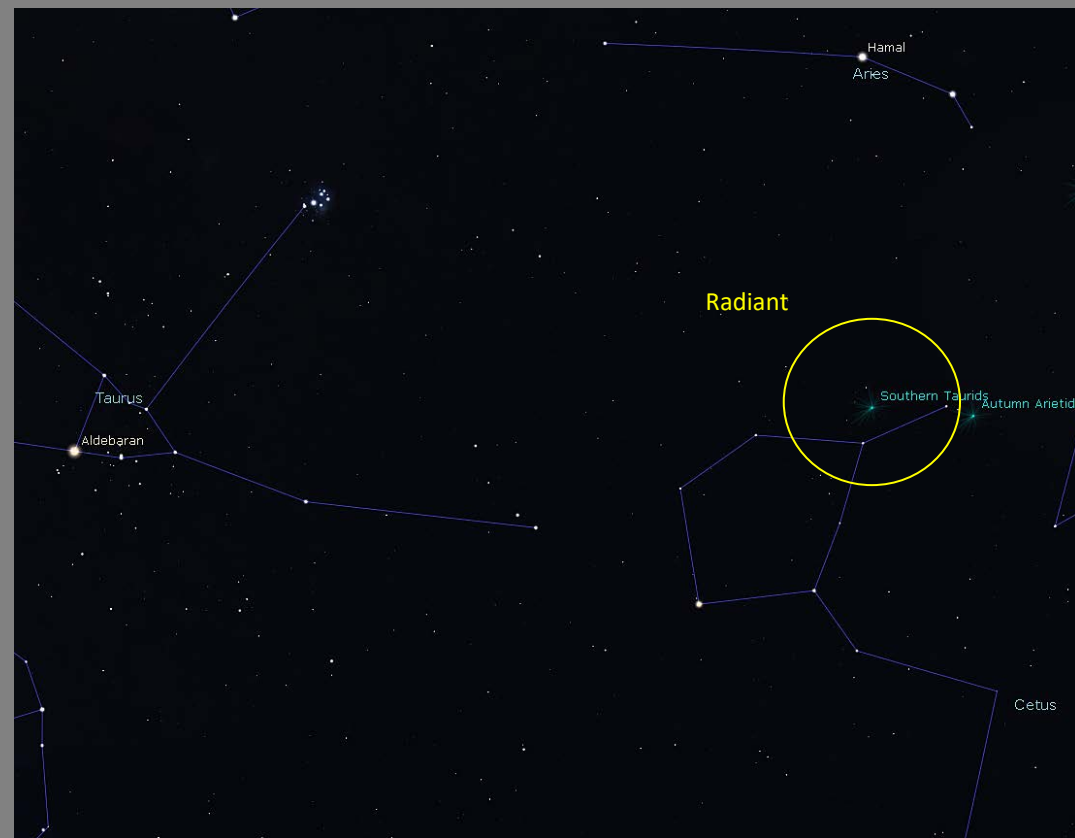
Source is debris from Comet
2P/Encke

Best after midnight

Noted for long, glowing tails

Active from mid-September
to November 20

Fireball peak November 4-5



Orionids Meteor Shower



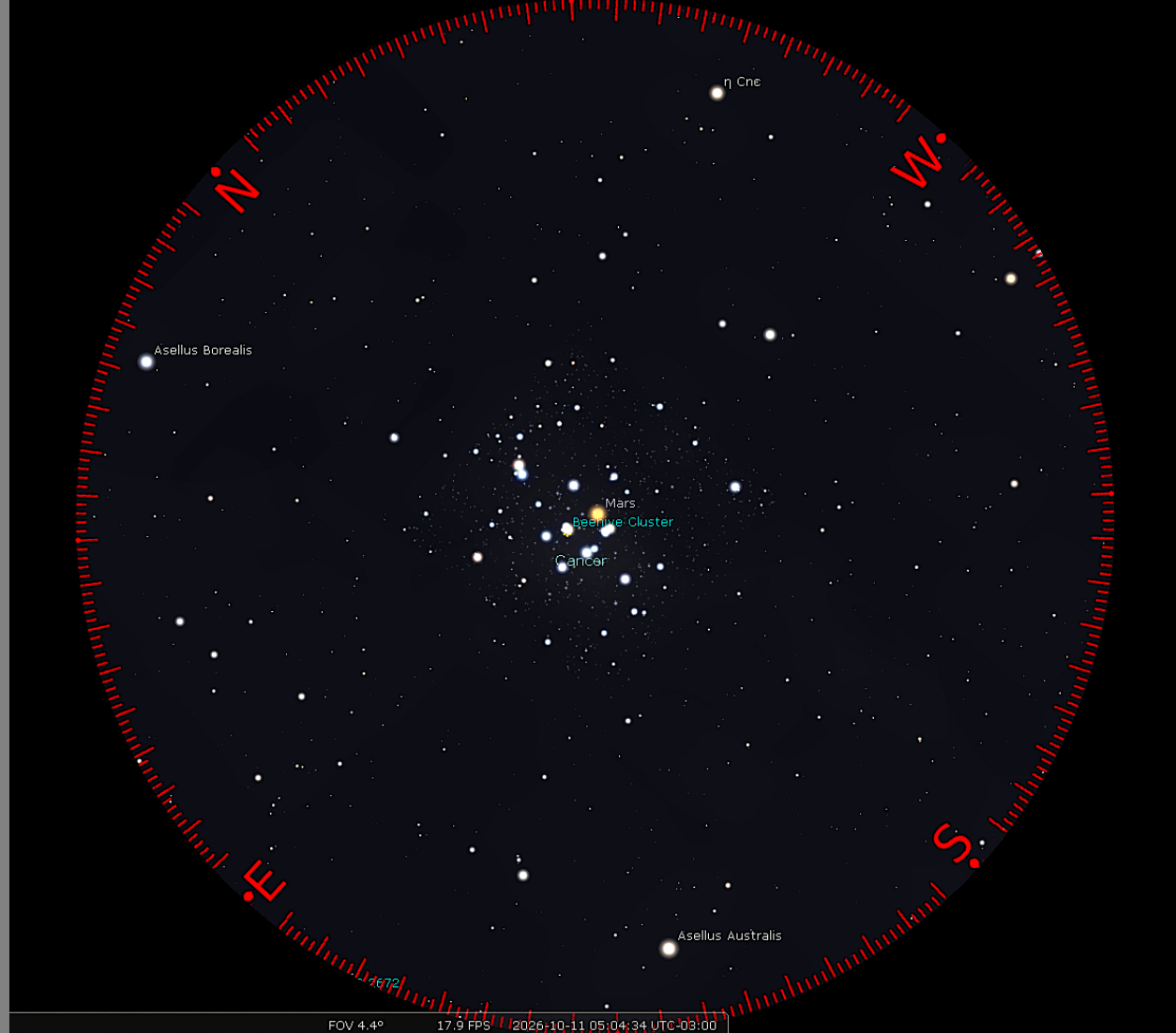
Peaks October 21

20-30 meteors per hour

Source is debris from Comet

1P/Halley

Best between midnight and dawn



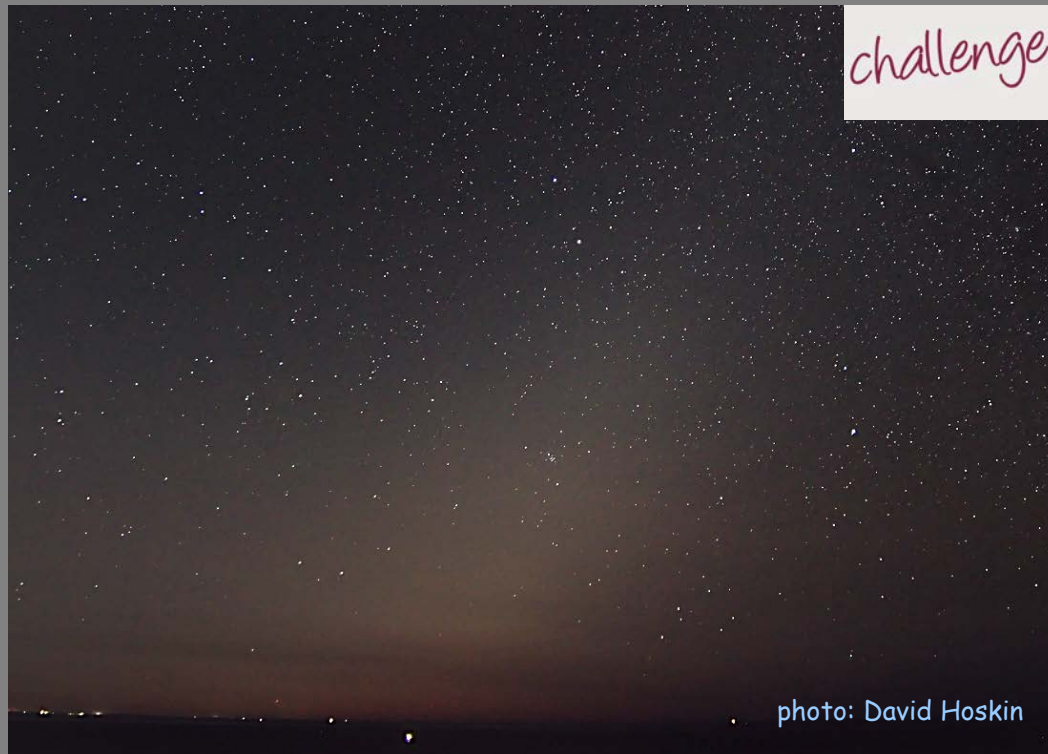
Mars passes through M44 on Oct 10-12

Oct 11 @ 5:00 a.m.

15x70 binoculars (FOV 4.4°)

Zodiacal Light

- pyramid of light in the western sky just after the end of twilight (February, March) or in the eastern sky just before the start of morning twilight (September, October)
- dust concentrated in the plane of the ecliptic and towards the Sun reflects sunlight
- best seen at a dark observing site on a moonless night when the ecliptic is at a high angle relative to the horizon (Oct 8-24 @ 5:00-6:00 a.m. recommended)

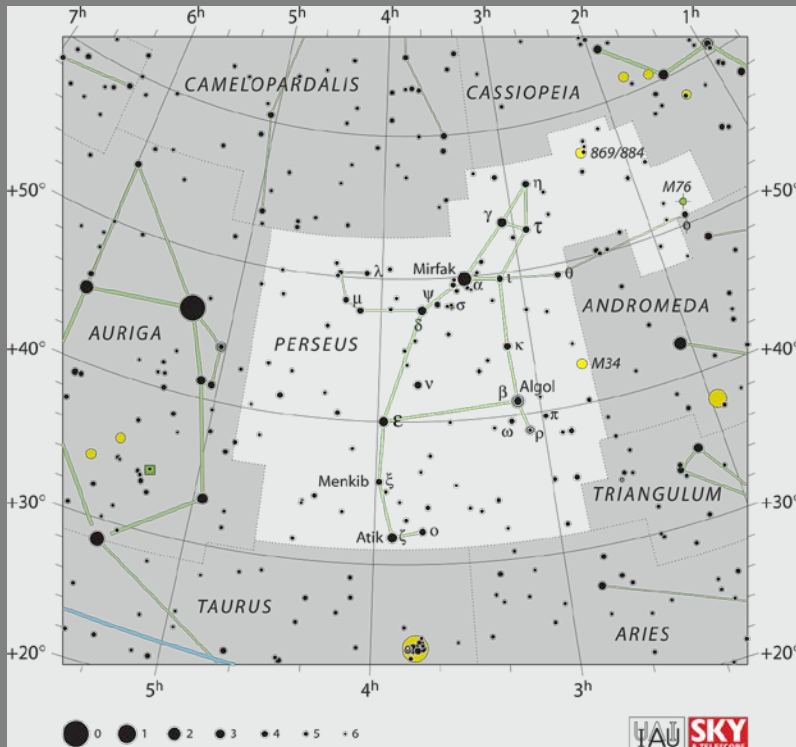
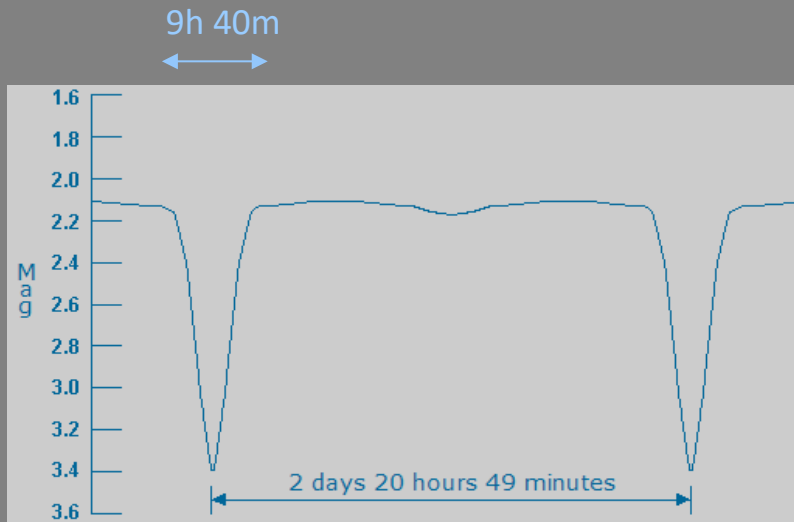


challenge

Algol (β Persei)

Oct 14 maximum 8:19 p.m. (mag. 2.2)

Oct 15 minimum 1:09 a.m. (mag. 3.2)



Explore the Universe: Autumn Constellations

Pegasus

Andromeda

Cassiopeia

Perseus

Aries





Explore the Universe:

Autumn Stars

Ranking:

#35 Mirfak (N)

Hamal (N)

Alpheratz (N)

Algol

Schedar (N)

Markab

Sheratan

N = Navigation

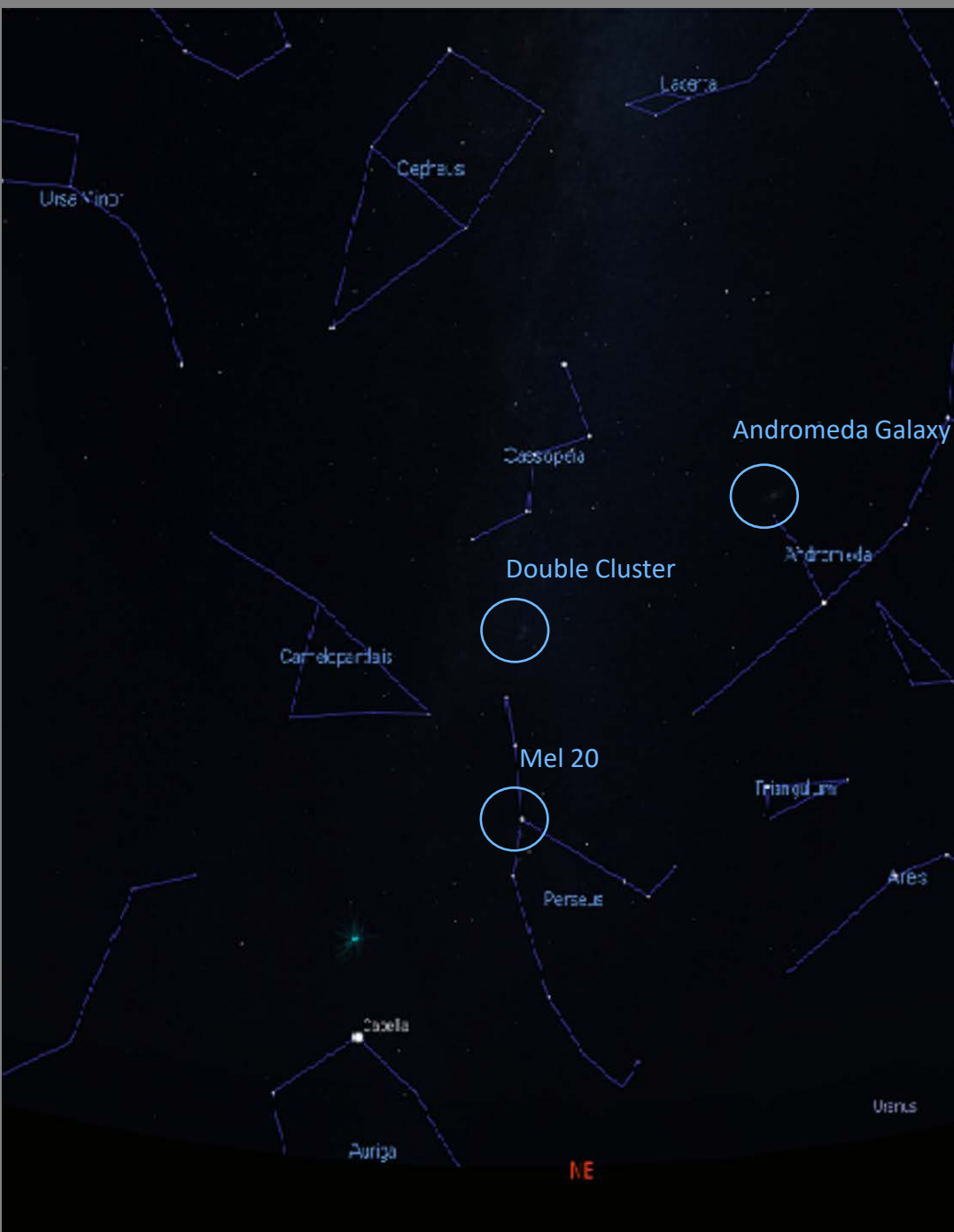
all good for Syn Scan alignment

Explore the Universe: Autumn Deep-Sky Objects

Melotte 20 (Alpha Persei Cluster)

Open star cluster in Perseus

Mirfak is most luminous member



challenge





Explore the Universe: Double Star

$\alpha 1$ & $\alpha 2$ Capricorni (4.4, 3.7, 378")

Wide binocular optical double

$\alpha 2$ Cap (Algedi) is a yellow giant

$\alpha 1$ Cap (Prima Giedi) is a yellow
supergiant



Questions?

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photo: David Hoskin