The Astrogator

Grand Strand Astronomers Club Newsletter

ISSUE #1 Volume #4
January 11, 2026

Contents

Grand Strand Astronomers Leadership

Ian Hewitt – Executive Officer
John DeFreitas – Treasurer
Gerald Drake – Secretary
Tim Kelly – Newsletter Co-Editor

Thoughts for the New Year

Well, it is 2026 already and I hope you've enjoyed the holiday season. I am looking forward to what our club can do in 2026. It seems there is interest from several organizations wanting to partner with us for astronomy outings. Great! This is what we do! Watch for announcements for opportunities to share astronomy with the public.

Note our meeting schedule featured in club business. Because of the moon phases it seems our indoor meetings now come later in the month while our outdoor sessions early in the month.

I've made some goals this year around astronomy using the Astronomical League's programs. Having a goal makes me more likely to get out of my easy chair and go look at the stars or planets. We'll see how I do with this.

Here's hoping you get more time with the telescope in 2026

2025 Recap

2025 was a good year for our club. Our membership increased to over 30, we had some great meetings and outings, and we were able to hold some public events.

In January we held our Third Outing with Playcard Environmental Learning Center in Loris.

We observed a lunar eclipse in March

Guest speaker Dr. Patricia Craig shared with us about updates on the Mars Rover in May. Excellent and informative. You can still find it on YouTube. We were joined in that meeting by astronomy clubs from Raleigh, Midlands, and Chapel Hill.

We held a public outing with Aynor Middle School in May that went well.

We saw comets last year. C/2025 A6 (Lemmon) was the most prominent in October. 3I/ATLAS was also notable but less visible than Lemmon.

The Auora Borealis was visible to us in South Carolina in November.

2026 promises to be eventful. Maybe we'll finally get to have the Messier Marathon.

Interesting Astronomy Quotes

Quintus Ennius (239-169 BC): " No one regards what is before his feet; we all gaze at the stars."

Isaac Newton, (1642–1727): "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."

Club Announcements

Dues for 2026

Our membership runs from January to December of each year, so now it is time to pay dues for 2026. Membership in the Grand Strand Astronomers is only $25.00 per year. Part of this goes toward your Astronomical League's membership and Reflector Magazine. The rest goes toward our minimal operating expenses. So, please rejoin if you haven't already. You can pay online by going to https://www.gsastro.org/joinrenew/.

You can also mail in a check to Grand Strand Astronomers, 1771 Alford Rd, Conway, SC 29526.

Meeting Dates for 2026

Each year, Ian puts together our meeting schedule based on the moon phases. The plan is to hold our indoor meetings at or near the full moon phase; and our outdoor observing events at or near the new moon phase. With that info, here are the proposed meeting and outing dates for the coming year:

January 17 – Hampton Plantation
January 29 – Indoor Meeting
February 14 – Hampton Plantation
February 26 – Indoor Meeting
March 14 – Hampton Plantation
March 26 – Indoor Meeting
April 18 – Hampton Plantation
April 30 – Indoor Meeting
May 16 – Hampton Plantation
May 28 – Indoor Meeting
June 13 – Hampton Plantation
June 25 – Indoor Meeting
July 11 – Hampton Plantation
July 23 – Indoor Meeting
August 8 – Hampton Plantation
August 27 – Indoor Meeting
September 12 – Hampton Plantation
September 24 – Indoor Meeting
October 10 – Hampton Plantation
October 22 – Indoor Meeting
November 11 – Hampton Plantation
November Indoor Meeting TBD
December 5 – Hampton Plantation
December Indoor Meeting TBD

Welcome New Members:

Alan Schmitt
Anthony Magliacane
Susana Cruz

Thank you for joining.

Going Digital:

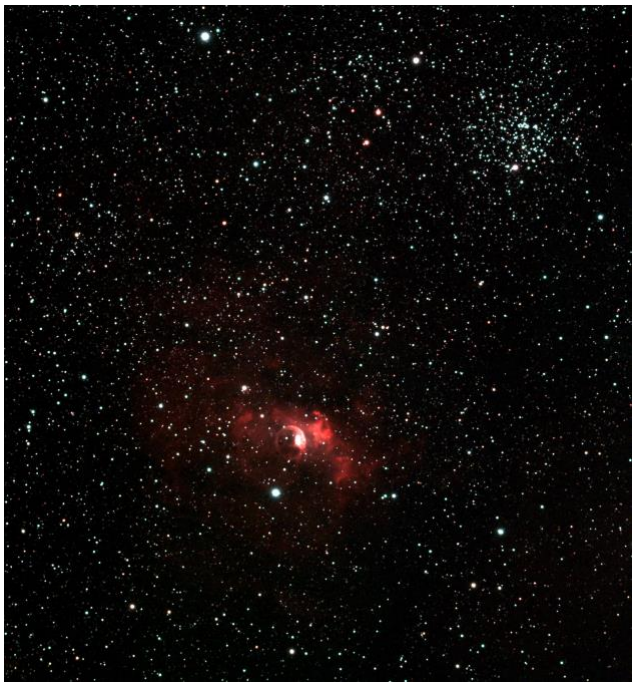
With postage prices increasing, mailing letters and membership cards is getting to be expensive; so, we'll now do everything by email. When you renew your membership, you'll receive a digital membership card that you can save to a smart phone or print it out like a business card. New members will receive their welcome letters now by email.

Astrophotography

By Ken Legal

Below is the Bubble Nebula (NGC7635) – 29 frames of 300 sec each.

Taken an 80mm f/6 triplet refractor and 0.8x field flattener, ZWO533MC Pro camera at 105 Gain & -10C, and a ZWO Duo Band filter. Guided with PHD2.



The Flame & Horsehead nebulae - 10 frames of 300sec each. Taken with the same equipment

Articles of Interest

Reprint from Astronomy Magazine published Jan.9,2026. Note that some of the dates have passed, but the info is still relevant.

CELESTRON

Sky This Week is brought to you in part by Celestron.

Image of Jupiter comprised of Hubble Telescope data. Credit NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Space Telescope Science Institute

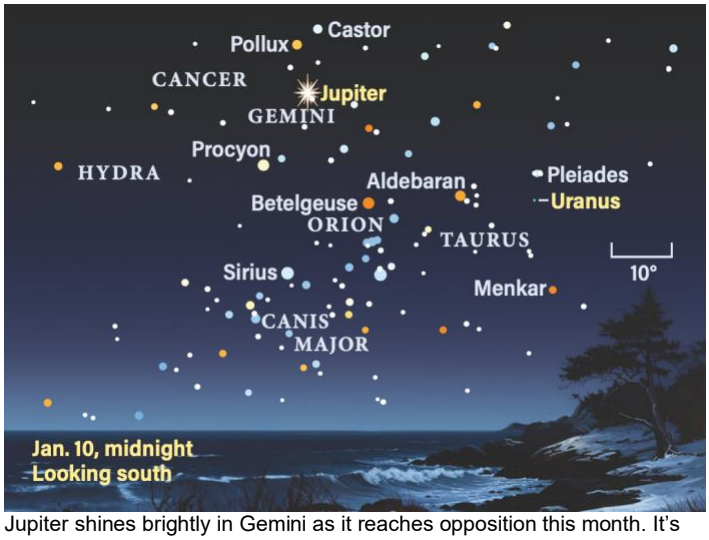
Friday, January 9
Mars is in conjunction with the Sun at 7 A.M. EST, invisible in our sky until mid-March.

The bright moon Titan lies near its parent world, Saturn, in the evening sky tonight. The largest of the ringed planet's moons, Titan is the only other solar system world known to host liquid on its surface, though its lakes and seas consist of hydrocarbons (like ethane and methane), not water.

The second-largest moon in the solar system after Ganymede, Titan is bigger than the planet Mercury and shines around magnitude 8.5, making it easy to spot even in smaller telescopes. Saturn this evening is about 35° high two hours after sunset, shining as the brightest light in the southwestern sky. Zoom in on Saturn with your telescope and Titan will appear just off the planet's northwestern limb. Over the next few days, the moon will quickly move west, pulling farther from the planet day by day.

Closer to the ringed world, several smaller moons may be visible in larger amateur scopes: 10th-magnitude Rhea, Tethys, and Dione. Around 8 P.M. EST, Tethys lies just off the eastern end of Saturn's rings, while Dione is off their western tip. Rhea is farther west, about 40" from Dione. All three should remain visible from much of the U.S., until Dione disappears in an occultation behind Saturn's southwestern limb around 9:20 MST (only visible in the western half of the U.S., and most easily seen from the West Coast).

Sunrise: 7:22 A.M.
Sunset: 4:53 P.M.
Moonrise: —
Moonset: 10:51 A.M.
Moon Phase: Waning gibbous (55%)
*Times for sunrise, sunset, moonrise, and moonset are given in local time from 40° N 90° W. The Moon's illumination is given at 10 P.M. local time from the same location.



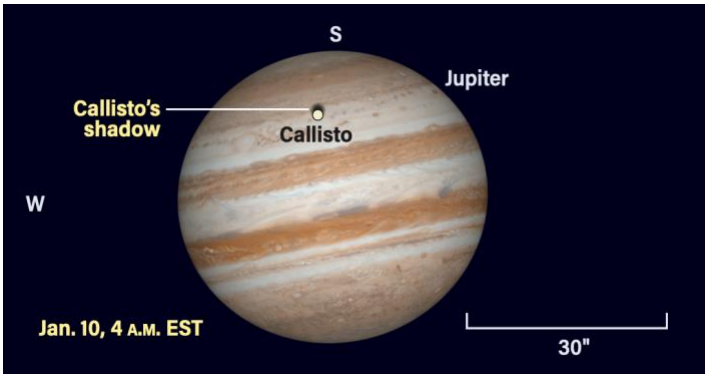
Jupiter shines brightly in Gemini as it reaches opposition this month. It's also a great time to view Uranus near the Pleiades in Taurus, though you'll need binoculars or a telescope. Credit: Astronomy: Roen Kelly

Saturday, January 10
The big event is finally here! Jupiter officially reaches opposition at 4 A.M. EST, and its moon Callisto is helping us usher in the big moment with a transit — moving simultaneously with its shadow across the face of the gas giant.

Jupiter is located in Gemini, sitting about 7° southwest of the star Pollux (Beta [β] Geminorum), which shines at magnitude 1.2. Glowing at magnitude –2.7, you absolutely can't miss Jupiter, which outshines even the Northern Hemisphere's brightest star, Sirius.

As the clock ticks over from midnight on the 9th to the early hours of January 10, Jupiter is high in the southern sky, some 70° above the horizon and located to the lower right of Pollux. Turn a telescope on the giant planet and you'll see that by 12:30 A.M. CST (early on the 10th for the eastern half of the U.S.; still late on the 9th for the Mountain and Pacific time zones), Callisto is closing in on Jupiter's southeastern limb. Europa is farther east, while Io (closer) and Ganymede lie to the gas giant's west.

Callisto reaches the limb and begins to transit just minutes before 2 A.M. EST on the 10th (11 p.m. PST on the 9th in this time zone only). Within 10 minutes, it's passed fully in front of the planet, moving from east to west. Two hours later, around 4 A.M. EST, Callisto is roughly central on the disk.



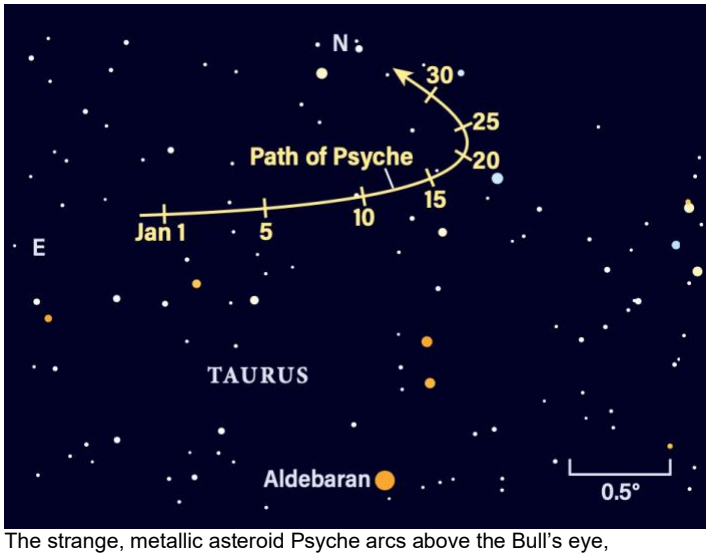
The day Jupiter reaches opposition, Callisto nearly blends with its shadow as they transit. Can you spot the shadow, just peeking out from Callisto's southern edge? Credit: Astronomy: Roen Kelly

At opposition, the Sun appears directly behind us as we look at Jupiter and from a viewpoint above the solar system, Earth stands directly between the Sun and the gas giant. That means as moons cross Jupiter on this date only, they directly overlap their shadows. With Callisto central on the disk, look closely at the moon's southern edge. Does this limb appear slightly darker or distended? This may be all the evidence of its shadow, also crossing the cloud tops at the same time, that you may see. You've got plenty of time to hunt for (or even try to photograph) it — Callisto's transit ends shortly after 6 A.M. EST, roughly an hour before sunrise on the East Coast.

Even if you're not an early riser, don't worry. At opposition, planets rise around sunset and set around sunrise, so both morning and evening observers have plenty of time to view them. As Gemini rises in the east after sunset, Jupiter appears roughly level with Pollux, standing to the right of this star (which hangs beneath Castor [Alpha (α) Gem] as the Twins climb above the horizon in the early evening).

Last Quarter Moon occurs at 10:48 A.M. EST.

Sunrise: 7:22 A.M.
Sunset: 4:54 P.M.
Moonrise: 12:04 A.M.
Moonset: 11:13 A.M.
Moon Phase: Waning crescent (45%)



The strange, metallic asteroid Psyche arcs above the Bull's eye, Aldebaran, this month. Credit: Astronomy: Roen Kelly

Sunday, January 11
The strange, metallic asteroid 16 Psyche is moving through Taurus the Bull this month. Tonight it is particularly easy to find as it slides north of the bright star Aldebaran.

Cataloged as Alpha Tauri, red giant Aldebaran shines at an easy-to-spot magnitude of 0.9, often envisioned as the Bull's bright eye. By 7 P.M. local time, this star stands 50° high in the east, following the Pleiades star cluster (M45) up into the sky and located above the Hunter Orion and his familiar belt.

Center binoculars or a low-power telescope on Aldebaran, then scan just 1.4° due north to find magnitude 10.5 Psyche. (At lower powers or in binoculars, you may be able to spot both star and asteroid in the same field of view.)

Psyche is currently moving westward (retrograde) against the background stars; later this month, however, it will reach a stationary point and turn around, then moving eastward (prograde) across the sky. It will return to a point north of Aldebaran in the first few days of February, so make sure to come back and check it out then!

Sunrise: 7:21 A.M.
Sunset: 4:55 P.M.
Moonrise: 1:06 A.M.
Moonset: 11:36 A.M.
Moon Phase: Waning crescent (36%)

Monday, January 12
Io now transits Jupiter, showing us how quickly our view can change — now that we are a few days past opposition, the moon and its shadow won't quite overlap, but instead Io's shadow will now trail it across the planet's cloud tops. (If you remember pre-opposition transits, such as Europa's last week, the shadow previously began to transit before the moon that cast it.)

The transit begins late this evening, when Jupiter is still rising in the eastern sky for much of the U.S. Around 10 P.M. EST, Io is closing in on the planet's eastern limb, with Ganymede much farther east. Europa and Callisto lie west of the planet, with the former closest to the gas giant.

Io's transit begins around 10:40 P.M. EST. Its shadow is following close behind, beginning its own transit just four minutes later. By 10:50 P.M. EST, both moon and shadow are visible against the cloud tops near the eastern limb. It takes them about an hour to reach the center of the disk. A little more than an hour later, Io's transit ends minutes before midnight in the Central time zone, with its shadow disappearing just a few minutes after midnight in the same time zone.

Sunrise: 7:21 A.M.
Sunset: 4:56 P.M.
Moonrise: 2:08 A.M.
Moonset: 12:01 P.M.
Moon Phase: Waning crescent (27%)

Tuesday, January 13
The Moon reaches apogee, the farthest point from Earth in its orbit, at 3:47 P.M. EST. At that time, our satellite will be 251,928 miles (405,439 kilometers) away.

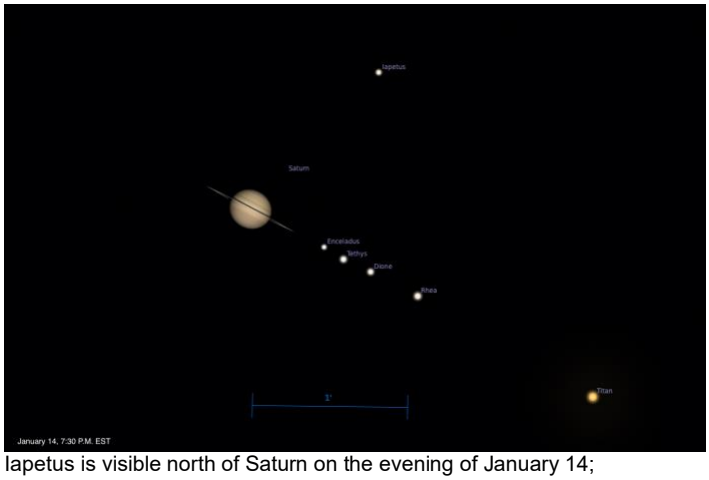
We're back at Jupiter yet again to catch a transit of the large moon Ganymede overnight tonight. You'll want to be ready to go with your telescope trained on the gas giant around midnight in the Eastern time zone. At that time, Ganymede is approaching Jupiter's southeastern limb, while Io is moving farther away from the planet on the eastern side. Europa lies far east of Jupiter, while Callisto is alone far to the planet's west.

Ganymede reaches the limb and begins to transit at 12:34 A.M. EST (January 14th in EST only). Due to Ganymede's larger orbit, its shadow takes longer than Io's to appear, slipping onto the cloud tops at 12:58 A.M. EST.

Everyone has plenty of time to watch the event as the pair crosses Jupiter for nearly three hours. By 4 A.M.

EST (now the 14th across the U.S.), Ganymede's transit has just ended while its shadow remains visible on the cloud tops, still approaching the limb. The shadow transit finally ends around 4:20 A.M. EST.

Sunrise: 7:21 A.M.
Sunset: 4:57 P.M.
Moonrise: 3:10 A.M.
Moonset: 12:32 P.M.
Moon Phase: Waning crescent (19%)



Iapetus is visible north of Saturn on the evening of January 14; additionally, if you look at the right time, you'll see several of the ringed world's other moons lined up to the west. Credit: Stellarium/Oleg Pluton

Wednesday, January 14
The Moon is now in Scorpius, passing close to the Scorpion's deep red heart, magnitude 1.1 Antares. You can catch the pair in the early-morning sky, standing some 15° high in the southeast an hour before sunrise.

At that time, the waning Moon sits 3.5° to the upper right of Antares, near the 3rd-magnitude star Sigma (σ) Scorpii. Only the western limb of our satellite remains illuminated by the Sun, though the rest of its darkened face may show off some earthshine, as sunlight bounces off Earth and lights up the portions of the Moon already experiencing night. It's sure to be a lovely pairing that astrophotographers won't want to miss.

The Moon will pass 0.6° due south of Antares later today at 3 P.M. EST.

Saturn's two-toned moon Iapetus reaches inferior conjunction today. Telescopic observers may be able to catch the 11th-magnitude moon some 1.2' due north of Saturn this evening. The best time to look is early evening — about 90 minutes after sunset, Saturn is still more than 30° high in the southwest, glowing at magnitude 1.0. It's easy to pick out as the brightest point of light here.

At 7:30 P.M. EST, the eastern half of the U.S. gets a special treat: In addition to Iapetus being easy to spot (thanks to its proximity to the planet), several of the ringed world's other moons are perfectly lined up west of Saturn at this time. Farthest away is bright, mid-8th-magnitude Titan, which sits 2.5' west of Saturn. Moving inward, you'll spot 10th-magnitude Rhea, Dione, and then Tethys, with the latter closest to the planet. Observers with larger scopes might also be able to pick up faint (12th-magnitude) Enceladus, which lies closer to Saturn still, between Tethys and the edge of the rings.

Sunrise: 7:21 A.M.
Sunset: 4:58 P.M.
Moonrise: 4:12 A.M.
Moonset: 1:10 P.M.
Moon Phase: Waning crescent (12%)

Thursday, January 15
First-magnitude Saturn crosses into Pisces today, readily visible to the naked eye as the brightest light in the southwestern sky as it sinks slowly toward the horizon a few hours after sunset. You'll want to catch the planet early in the evening, before it gets too low and the turbulent air nearer the horizon muddies the view.

Through a telescope, take some time to admire the planet's thin rings, now tilted by roughly 1.5° to our line of sight. While Saturn's disk stretches an impressive 15" across, the rings are nearly 38" from end to end.

Bright Titan still lies due west of Saturn, now a little less than 2' from the planet's center. The inner moons have changed locations significantly: 10th-magnitude Rhea is still west of the planet early in the evening, but disappears in an occultation behind the limb shortly before 7:30 P.M. EST. Similarly bright Dione and Tethys are now east of the planet, with the former closer to the rings than the latter. Twelfth-magnitude Enceladus, if it is visible in your scope, is also east of Saturn, but closing in on the ringed world's eastern limb for a transit beginning shortly after 8 P.M. EST, as Saturn is starting to get low for those on the U.S. East Coast. The small moon will likely be lost to view against the brighter disk.

Around 8 P.M. CST, Dione passes south of Tethys to Saturn's east, with the planet quite low in the Eastern

time zone (though experienced observers can still attempt the view). The pair may appear to briefly merge in most scopes around this time. After this, Dione will appear farther east of Saturn, with Tethys closer to the planet.

Sunrise: 7:20 A.M.
Sunset: 4:59 P.M.
Moonrise: 5:11 A.M.
Moonset: 1:55 P.M.
Moon Phase: Waning crescent (7%)

Friday, January 16
While bright Jupiter has kept our gaze in Gemini most evenings — and indeed, you can spot it just ½° from the magnitude 3.5 star Wasat (Delta [δ] Geminorum) this evening — there's much more in this region of the sky to enjoy.

Farther east, closer to the horizon and to the lower left of Gemini early in the evening as the constellations rise, Cancer the Crab holds at its heart the lovely open cluster M44. Often called the Beehive Cluster, this group is also called Praesepe, derived from the Latin word for manger. Shining at 3rd magnitude, M44 has been known since ancient times. It is a grouping of young stars some 730 million years old, located nearly 600 light-years from Earth. If you can spot it with the naked eye, it may appear as a misty patch of light. It contains at least a thousand stars, though only a few hundred of these are readily visible even under magnification in amateur instruments.

Sunrise: 7:20 A.M.
Sunset: 5:01 P.M.
Moonrise: 6:05 A.M.
Moonset: 2:48 P.M.
Moon Phase: Waning crescent (3%)

Clear skies and happy observing!

Introduction to Amateur Astronomy Online Course Offered

The Kalamazoo Astronomical Society is offering a free online Introduction to Amateur Astronomy Course. See info below. If you attend all 5 sessions you'll get a certificate. I took this in 2022 and found it enjoyable and helpful. You can register at: https://kasonline.org/amastro.html

Events and Outings

Club Meetings:

Our January indoor meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29, at 7:00 PM via zoom. The zoom link will be provided by email, but it is also on the club's website: gsastro.org under events.

Club Outings:

Our next Hampton Plantation outdoor observing event is Scheduled for Saturday, January 17 at sundown. This of course is weather dependent.

Comments and suggestions for the newsletter are welcomed. Send comments to gsastro@info.com or directly to me at gwdrake2018@gmail.com.

STAR CHART FOR MID-LATITUDES OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

What's Out Tonight?

OPTIMIZED FOR 1½ HOURS AFTER SUNSET
but can be used after that for several more hours.

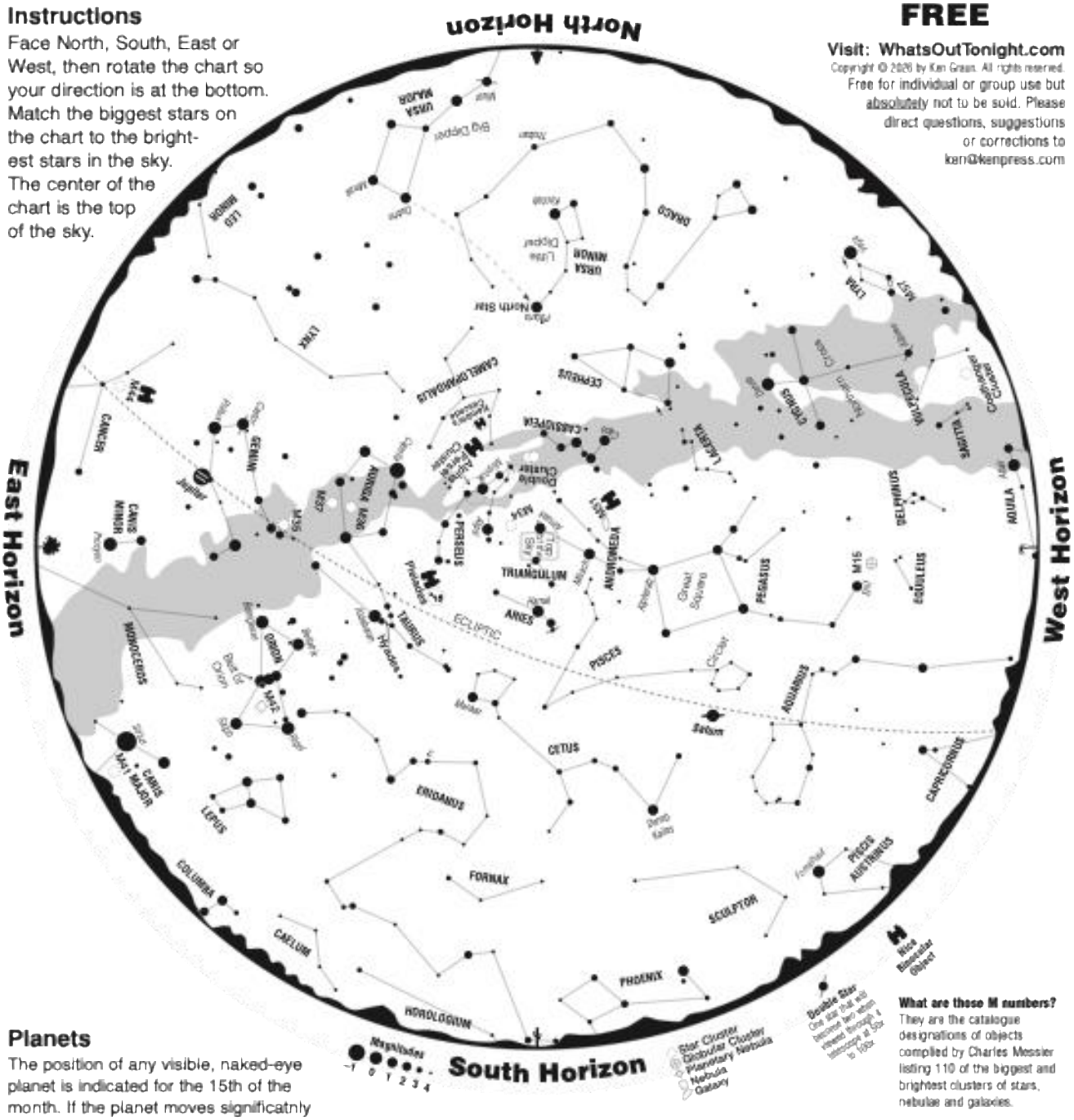
January 2026 Sky Chart

Instructions

Face North, South, East or West, then rotate the chart so your direction is at the bottom. Match the biggest stars on the chart to the brightest stars in the sky. The center of the chart is the top of the sky.

FREE

Visit: WhatsOutTonight.com



What are those M numbers?
They are the catalogue designations of objects compiled by Charles Messier listing 110 of the biggest and brightest clusters of stars, nebulae and galaxies.

Planets

The position of any visible, naked-eye planet is indicated for the 15th of the month. If the planet moves significatnly during a month, other positions will be noted with dates. The **ECLIPTIC** is the path of the Sun through the sky but the planets and Moon move along it, too. It passes through the constellations of the zodiac.

January 2026 Planet Notes (15th of each month)

Venus sets with the Sun so it is not visible. **Mars** sets with the Sun so it is not visible. **Jupiter**, at magnitude −2.7, in Gemini, rises in the east at sunset. **Saturn**, at magnitude +1.2, in Pisces, sets in the west around 10 PM.

Distances planets are from Earth the 15th of this month:
Venus: 159,000,000 miles, **Mars**: 223,000,000 miles
Jupiter: 394,000,000 miles, **Saturn**: 924,000,000 miles.

January Notes

Cygnus still lingers from summer, "standing" on the western horizon. High in the west is PEGASUS, which contains the **Great Square**. The **Andromeda Galaxy** is closeby in ANDROMEDA. On the eastern horizon is *Sirius*, the brightest star in the whole sky. Above are the bright constellations of ORION, TAURUS, AURIGA and GEMINI tht dominate the sky. And, atop them all, high in the eastern sky is the **Pleiades,** best viewed with binoculars. **Orion's belt** of 3 stars are easy to see and point toward Sirius. The names of these stars, from the top are: *Mintaka*, *Alnilam* & *Alnitak*. Nearby are the blood-red eye of TAURUS, the Bull and the even redder, *Betelgeuse*, physically one of the largest stars in the sky.

SELECTED Clusters, Nebulae, Galaxies +

ly = Light year, a unit of distance. 1 ly = 6 trillion miles.
Our Moon (and Sun) spans 30' (30 arc minutes) or 1/2°.

- **Alpha Persei Cluster**. Distance: 600 ly / Diameter: 31 ly / Mag 1.2 / Spans 3° / 30 stars. In PERSEUS.
- **Andromeda Galaxy**. Companion to our Milky Way Galaxy. Distance: 2,400,000 ly / Diameter: 120,000 ly / Mag 3.5 / Spans 3° x 1°. In ANDROMEDA.
- **Castor Double Star**. Favorite double star. Need a telescope with 50x to 100x to see Castor separate into two stars. Magnitudes of two stars are 1.9 and 3.0. In GEMINI.
- **Double Cluster**. Two side-by-side clusters. Distances: 7,200 ly / Diameters: 63 ly / Mag 3.5 / Span 1° / 320 stars total. Best in a telescope but visible with eyes in dark skies. In PERSEUS.
- **M15**. Globular Cluster. Distance: 34,000 ly / Diameter: 122 ly / Mag 6.2 / Spans 13'. In PEGASUS
- **M35**. Cluster. Distance: 3000 ly / Diameter: 24 ly / Mag 5 / Spans 28' / 200 stars. In GEMINI.
- **M34**. Large Cluster. Distance: 1,400 ly / Diameter: 14 ly / Mag 5.2 / Spans 35' / 60 stars. Try with binoculars, too. In PERSEUS.
- **M36**. Cluster. Distance: 3,700 ly / Diameter: 13 ly / Mag 6.0 / Spans 12' / 60 stars. Try with binoculars, too. In AURIGA.
- **M37**. Cluster. Distance: 4,200 ly / Diameter: 29 ly / Mag 5.6 / Spans 24' / 150 stars. Try with binoculars, too. In AURIGA.
- **M42**. **Orion Nebula.** Brightest nebula in the northern sky. About 30 ly in diameter and 1,760 ly away. Mag 4 / Spans 1°.
- **M44**. **Beehive** Cluster. Distance: 610 ly / Diameter: 16 ly / Mag 3 / Spans 1.6° / 50 stars. In CANCER.
- **Pleiades**. Cluster. Spans about 2° in sky or 4 Moon diameters. To the eyes, it looks like a little dipper but it is NOT the Little Dipper! Distance: 440 ly / Diameter: 15 ly / Mag 1.2 / 100 stars. In TAURUS.

Observing Tips for above Objects

If possible, observe at a dark location and when the Moon is not bright. A bright Moon will make it more difficult to see the stars and impossible to see clusters, nebulae and galaxies. Only a small telescope at lower magnifications, around 50x, is required to see the objects listed above. The planets and Moon are best observed with a telescope around 50x or more! To get a feel for the size of objects, the Moon extends 30' (30 arc minutes). The binocular objects are best with binoculars because these objects are large in size—telescopes have too much magnification.

Meteor Showers

QUADRANTIDS. Peaks around **January 3** with 60–200 meteors/hour.

Brightest Stars

Aldebaran. In TAURUS. Magnitude +1. Distance: 65 ly. Orange Giant star 45 times the diamter of our Sun.

Betelgeuse. In ORION. Magnitude +0.56. Distance: 428 ly. Red Supergiant with a diameter 650 times the Sun's.

Capella. In AURIGA. Magnitude +0.1. Distance: 42 ly. Diameter: 15 times the Sun's. It's actually 4 orbiting stars.

Castor. In GEMINI. Magnitude +1.6. Distance: 52 ly. Favorite double star that is twice the diameter of the Sun.

Deneb Kaitos. In CETUS. Magnitude +2.0. Distance: 96 ly. Smaller Giant star with diameter 17 times the Sun's.

Mirach. In ANDROMEDA. Magnitude +2.1. Distance: 199 ly. Diameter: 89 times the Sun's.

Mirphak. In PERSEUS. Magnitude +1.8. Distance: 592 ly. Diameter: 64 times the Sun's.

Polaris. In URSA MINOR. Magnitude +2. Distance: 431 ly. 2,400 times brighter than the Sun. Supergiant star.

Pollux. In GEMINI. Magnitude +1.2. Distance: 34 ly. Diameter is 8.8 times the Sun's & 46 times brighter.

Rigel. In ORION. Magnitude +1.3. Distance: 3200 ly. Diameter: 222 times the Sun's. Blue-White Supergiant.

Sirius. Rising in CANIS MAJOR. Magnitude –1.44. Distance: 8.6 ly. The very brightest star in the whole sky but some planets, like Jupiter and Venus, are brighter. It has a diameter 1.8 times that of the Sun and is 23 times brighter. 7th closest star to us.

Mythology

FOR THE CENTRAL CONSTELLATIONS, NORTH TO SOUTH

King **CEPHEUS** and Queen **CASSIOPEIA** ruled Ethiopia. Their daughter **ANDROMEDA** is being rescued by **PERSEUS** from the Sea Monster, **CETUS**. Andromeda was to be sacrificed to Cetus because Cassiopeia boasted that her and her daughter's beauty surpassed the gods.

PEGASUS, the Winged Horse is the deliverer of Jupiter's thunderbolts. **PISCES** represents Venus and Cupid who changed themselves into Fishes tied with a length of string to stay together and escape the monster Typhoon.

AURIGA, the Charioteer supervised the royal livestock, including a goat that provided milk for growing Jupiter.

The **Pleiades** or Seven Sisters rise before **ORION**, out-of-reach of his amorous clutches. Orion is a great Hunter and battles the Bull, **TAURUS**. Below his feet is **LEPUS**, the Hare. **ERIDANDUS**, the River is before Orion, representing the water of life.

GEMINI is the warlike Twins, Pollux and Castor, protectors of seafarers. Pollux is immortal but Castor is not.

Moon Phases

- ○ **Full Moon**. Saturday, **January 3**, 4:02 am, CT
- ◐ **Third** or **Last Quarter**. Saturday, **January 10**, 9:48 am, CT
- ● **New Moon**. Sunday, **January 18**, 1:52 pm, CT
- ◑ **First Quarter**. Sunday, **January 25**, 10:47 pm, CT

What's Out Tonight?
January 2026 Sky Chart

Visit: WhatsOutTonight.com

Email: ken@kenpress.com • Phone: (520) 743-3200