

Some things to observe in the early evening skies:
during November 2022

The Moon:

To view craters (with a small telescope or binoculars) the best time is around **first quarter Moon** which will be at the beginning and the end of November (about 6.00pm and later) looking South.

The Planets:

The planetary gas giants **Jupiter** and **Saturn** are on view throughout the early evenings low(ish) towards the South.

However on the 1st of the month **Saturn** will be just above the Moon while a few days later, on the 4th, the Moon will have drifted to be just below **Jupiter** (which is much brighter than Saturn). So using the Moon as a guide you really cannot miss the two planets. A pair of binoculars will show craters on the Moon and some of the moons of Jupiter (little tiny pinpricks of light all in a line). A small telescope will show the amazing sight of the rings around Saturn.

A few constellations to learn and recognise: (see the Skymap)

Constellations are just patterns of stars in the sky. They have LATIN (and English) names.

Among the many constellations you might view at this time of the year is the well known constellation of URSA MAJOR (The Great Bear), part of which is more commonly known as The Plough. See the attached photo.

Some see this as a saucepan and if you look low to the North you should see a pan with its handle off to the left (West). Follow the last two stars of the pan itself upwards and they point straight to the North (Pole) Star.

Binoculars will show that the second star from the end of the handle is in fact an easily seen double star (MIZOR and ALCOR) and a telescope shows that Mizor is itself a double star. See the attached photo.

Clear Skies!

Skymap for November 2022

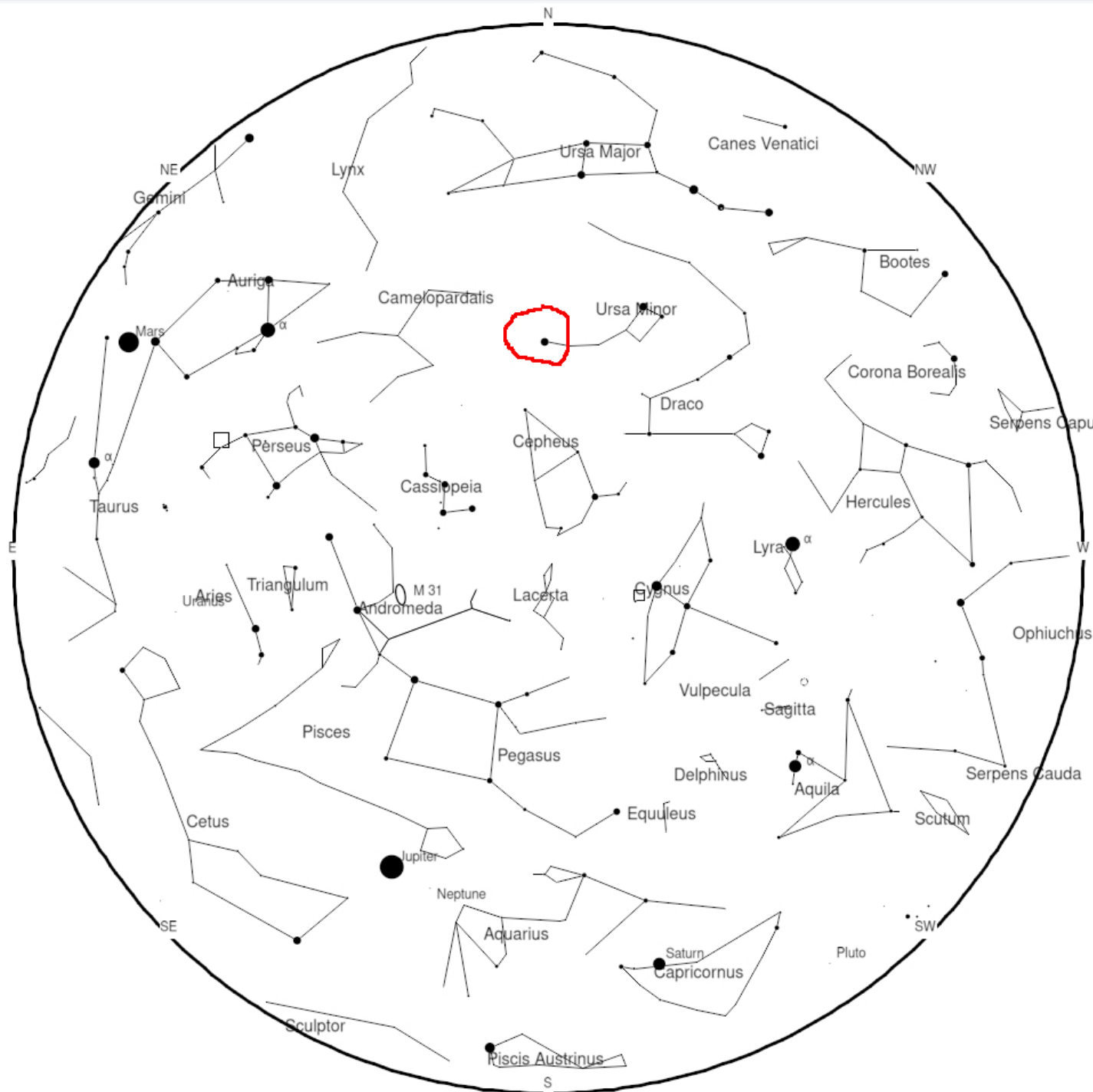
The map shows the night sky at about 7.00pm on the 15th of the month, when it should be dark enough to begin observing.

The Earth spins on its axis once every 24 hours.

This axis passes through the North (or Pole) Star so during the night (and throughout the year) all the constellations appear to rotate around this (almost) stationary star and so will drift westwards during the night (and from one night to the next). More Northerly ones never set.

The Pole star (circled on the map) is in the constellation of URSA MINOR (The Little Bear) and since it is always due North it has been a useful guide star for travellers in the past.

Hold the map with 'S' at the bottom when looking South and rotate with 'N' at the bottom when looking North etc.





The Plough .. part of Ursa Major (The Great Bear)

