

Some things to observe in the early evening skies:
during January 2023 around 7.00pm

The Moon:

To view craters (with a small telescope or binoculars) the best time is around first quarter Moon which will be, as in December, at the very beginning and the end of the month (around 28 January) (about 6.00pm and later) looking South.

The Planets:

Unfortunately the lovely planet SATURN has now set in the West but bright JUPITER remains high(ish) in the sky to the South-Southwest throughout the month.

Fortunately MARS, the red planet, now begins to put in an appearance high in the sky to the Southeast and ending the month nearly due South. In fact it is just to the left of the nice cluster of stars known as the PLEIADES (or Seven Sisters)

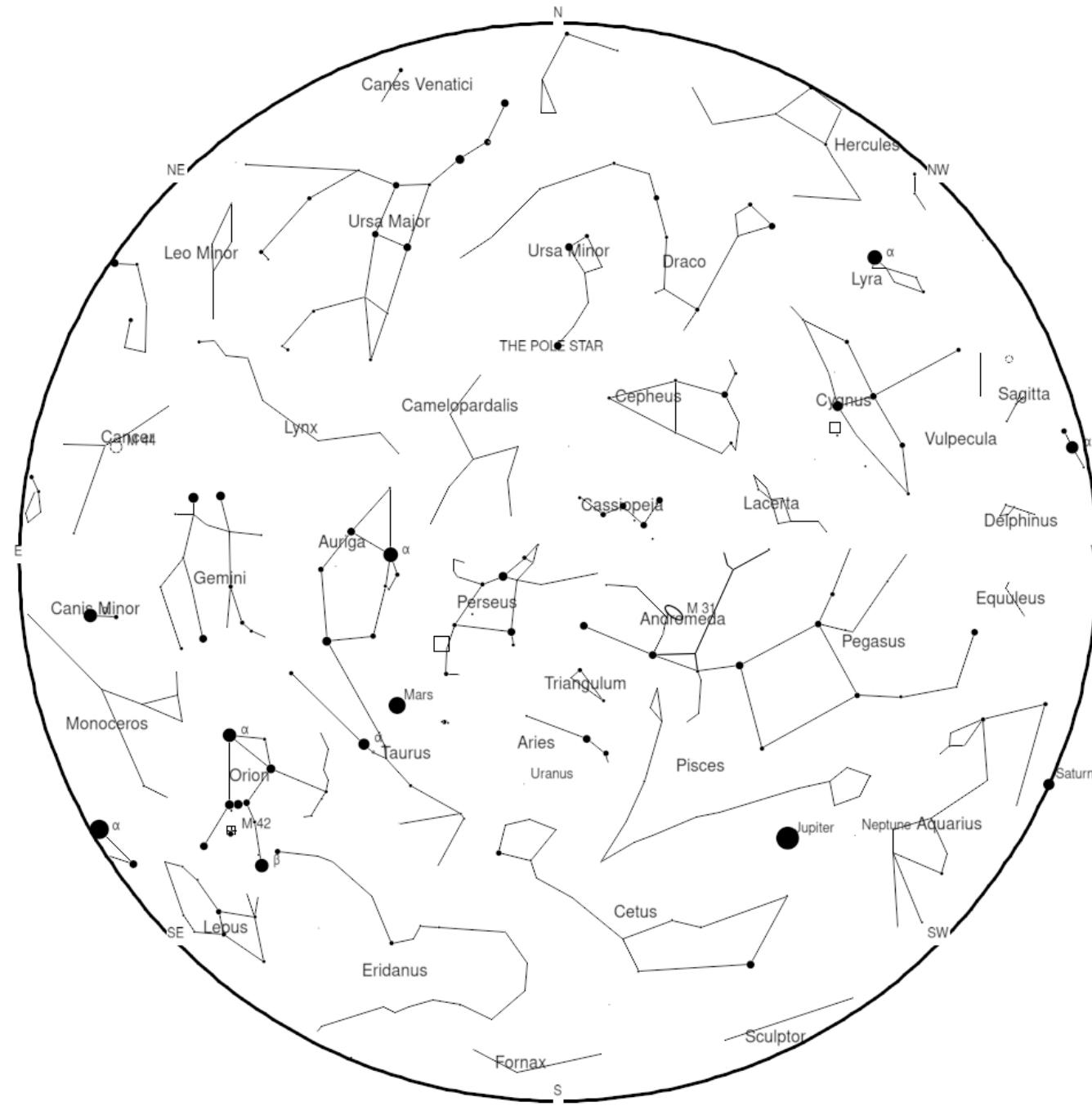
A few constellations to learn and recognise:
(see SKYMAP below)

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

Now among the many constellations you might view at this time of the year is CASSIOPIEA (legendary Greek Queen). Look high overhead in the sky and see the ‘W’ shape of this constellation. It’s just a lovely, easily recognisable star pattern. (see attached photo below)

Also the constellation of PERSEUS (legendary Greek hero). Just to the left (East) of Cassiopeia and not the most thrilling constellation BUT midway between the tip of Perseus and Cassiopeia there is a magnificent DOUBLE CLUSTER of stars .. just about visible with the naked eye on a dark, clear night and fairly easily seen through binoculars but really needs a small telescope to see it at its best! (see attached photos below)

Clear Skies!



Skymap for:

January 2023

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 all the constellations appear to rotate around this (almost) stationary star and so will drift during the night. More Northerly ones never set.

The Pole star (labelled 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.



CASSIOPIEA (legendary Greek queen)



To the left is PERSEUS (legendary Greek hero) and to the right is CASSIOPIEA
with the DOUBLE CLUSTER of stars in the upper centre (ringed)



The lovely Double Cluster of stars between Perseus and Cassiopeiae, best seen through binoculars or a small telescope

The skymap above was produced using free software available at:

<https://www.ap-i.net/skychart/en/start>

but you may prefer to plan your observing using this free software:

https://stellarium.org/en_GB/

which allows you to see what is out there at any time, any place any date! (also available as a 'STELLARIUM' app for mobile phones.)

There are also many apps for mobile phones (eg 'Sky Map') which allow you to point your mobile phone at the sky and you see on the screen what you are pointing at!