

NITE SKY FOR JULY-AUGUST 2011

Moon Phases: New 7/1, FQ 7/8, Full 7/15, LQ 7/23, New 7/30, FQ 8/6, Full 8/13, LQ 8/21, New 8/28.

Planets: Venus and Mercury are not visible in August. In evenings Saturn is SW in Vir. & Pluto remains above the Sag. Teapot Lid. After midnight Neptune is between Cap. & Aqu., Uranus is near Circlet in Psc, Jupiter is in E below Ari. And Mars is in NE in Gem.

Events: The July KVAS monthly meeting will be at 7:30 PM on Friday the 15th, See www.KVAS.Org for location.

CEPHEUS (SEE-fee-us) The legendary King of Joppa is inconspicuous but It's easy to locate since his 5 brightest stars face the bottom of the "W" in Cassiopeia, wife of Cepheus with daughter Andromeda below. Delta Cep, with a period of 5.36 days is the prototype double star for the short period Cepheid Variable Stars & Zeta and Epsilon Cep. to the right of it match Delta's brightness limits of 3.5 & 4.4 Mag.. Mu Cep. (period 730 days) Is a an intense red (giant) Mira-type pulsating star (Mag. 3.4-5.1) called the Garnet Star

PEGASUS (PEG-a-sus) The Winged Horse is the Flying Horse of Greek mythology and it can be found by looking for The Great Square. Note that the bright star in the NE corner of the square is Alpha And., and Alpha Peg. (Markab, Arabic for Saddle) is the lower SW corner. M15 is a top GC for scopes, some 34,000 ly away. NGC 7331 is its brightest spiral galaxy but only 9th Mag. A group of 5 interacting galaxies including NGC 7320 IS Stephen's Quintet 280x10-6 ly away.

AQUARIUS (ah-KWAIR-ee-us) The Water Bearer dates from ancient Babylonia near Del. the dolphin, Eri. the river, Ser. the sea serpent, and Psc. The fish. The easiest asterism is the Water Jar in the top center which looks like the Mercedes Benz emblem. Two bright Globular Clusters are M2 & M72. Two good PN are the Saturn Neb (NGC 7009) & the Helix Neb, (NGC 7293).

CAPRICORNUS (kap-reh-KOR-nuss) The Sea Goat is an ancient constellation named by the Babylonians to represent a goat with a fish's tail. Complex "Double" Alpha Capricorni has a separation of 6.3 arc min. but it is not a true double as Alpha 1 is 490 ly, distant while Alpha 2 is only 36 ly away. Both stars are true binaries and A.2 has a third star. Beta (Dabih) is a true double, sep.=3.4 arc min. M30 is a medium-quality GC, mag.=7.5

PISCUS AUSTRINUS (PIE-sis OSS-trih-nuss) The Southern Fish, known by the ancient Persians has only one bright white star Fomalhaut (Alpha, The Solitary One, Arabic for Mouth of the Fish) is pronounced FOE-mal- ough. It is Spectral Class A3 V, 22 ly away, 14 times more luminous than the Sun, and about twice as large and is the 19th brightest star.

BRO
7/15/11

