

NITE SKY FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2010

MOON PHASES: New 10/7, FQ 10/14, Full 10/22, LQ 10/30, New 11/6, FQ 11/13, Full 11/21, LQ 11/28

10/10-21 Look ESE below Western side of Great Square of Pegasus and see moon with Jupiter below.

10/20 Periodic Comet Hartley 2 makes closest approach to earth at 0.1 AU.

10/25 Face West at dawn, about 6:30AM and see Moon and Pleiades adjacent to each other.

11/1-18 Best seeing of the Taurids meteor shower begins in October and continues into November.

11/7 Daylight savings Time ends at 2 AM. About 7:30 PM in SW see Antares, Mars, new Moon & Mercury.

11/21-22 Look NE about 8 PM to see Moon and Pleiades East of Auriga.

PERSEUS (PURR-see-us) The Hero who according to a famous myth saved Andromeda, the daughter of King Cepheus and Queen Cassiopeia, from the sea monster Cetus by flying on Pegasus the winged horse to rescue and subsequently marry her (6 adjacent Fall Constellations).

Alpha Persei, **Mirfak** is a remote creamy-yellow supergiant $m_v=1.8$, spectral type F5 Ib, distance 620 LY, with many smaller stars surrounding it. Beta Persei, **Algol** called the Demon Star is the most famous of the eclipsing variables with a period of 2 days, 20 hrs & 48 min. Algol A is blue star 3.7x more massive than the Sun $m_g=2.1$, type B8 V, 93 LY and Algol B is an orange subgiant 0.8 solar masses, $m_g=3.5$, type KO IV.

The spectacular open Double Cluster NGC 869 & 884 is magnificent with binoculars as is open cluster M34

TAURUS (TORR-us) The Bull was named 5,000 years ago by the ancient Chaldeans and has been worshipped by many civilizations. Alpha Tauri, **Aldebaran**, the eye of the bull is a bright red giant and slow irregular variable with $m_g=0.85$, 45x solar radius, type K5 III, 60 LY.

The two beautiful open clusters are the **Hyades** which form the bull's head and The **Pleiades** or Seven Sisters (M45). The Hyades is more evolved cluster some 600 million years old with 200 stars and it's the nearest cluster to Earth, 140 LY away. By contrast, the Pleiades is a young cluster containing many massive, hot, blue-white members with intense nebulosity and perhaps 500 total stars some 400 LY away.

M1 **The Crab Nebula** is the site of a huge supernova in 1054 which is recorded in Asian astronomy records. It can be seen on a dark night with a 4" telescope as an oval glow but larger telescopes and NASA pictures are required to see the complex beauty of the glowing gas clouds.

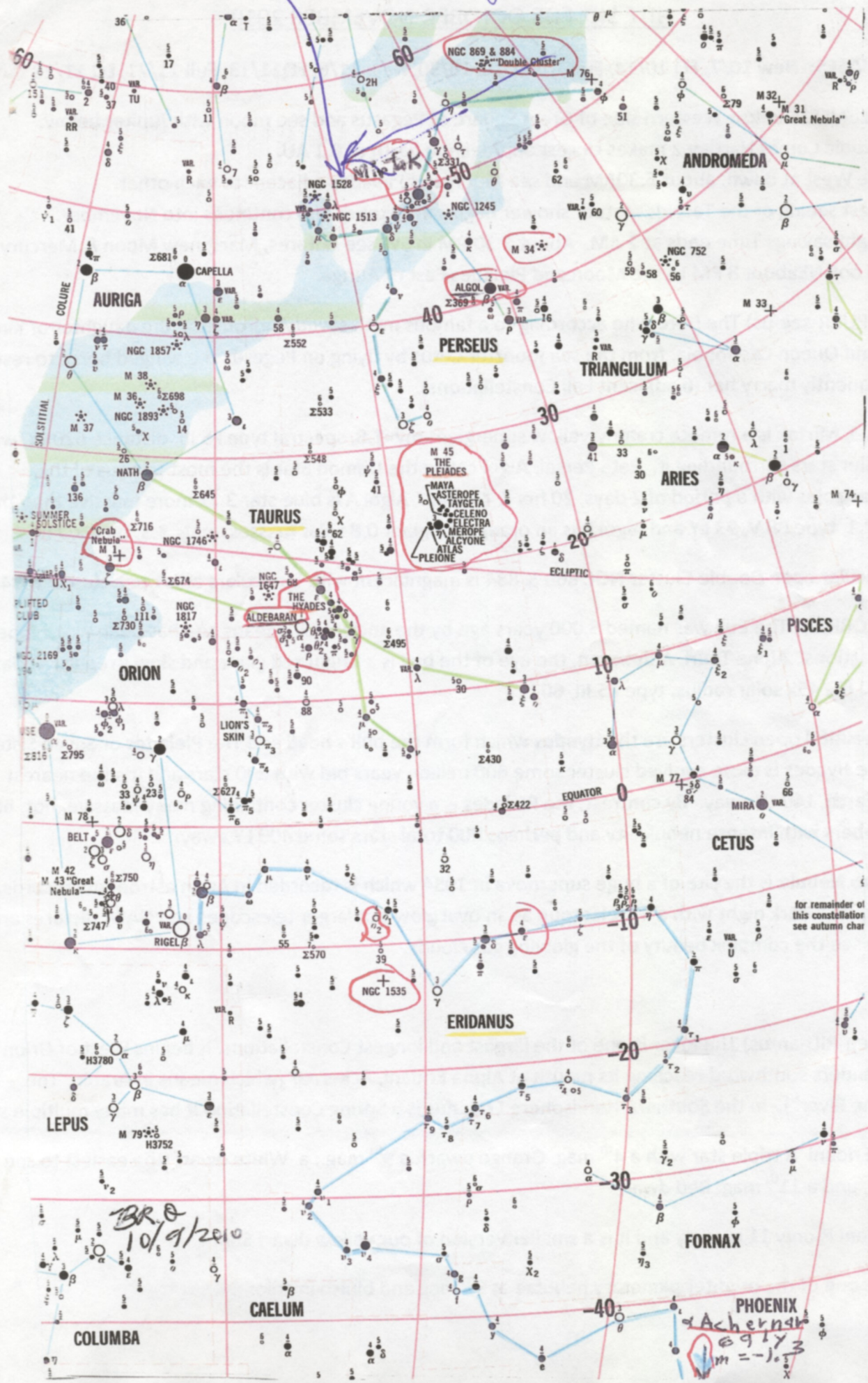
ERIDASUS (eh-RID-an-us) The River is one of the largest and longest Constellations. It begins West of Orion's Belt and wanders southward reaching its mouth at Alpha Eridani, Achernar (which means in Arabic "The mouth of the River"). In the Southern Hemisphere Eridanus is a Spring Constellation It has many multiple stars

Omicron 2 Eridani A triple star with a 4th mag. Orange dwarf, a 9th mag., a White dwarf (the easiest to see from Earth), and a 11th mag. Red dwarf

Epsilon Eridani is only 11 ly away and it is a smaller version of our yellow dwarf Sun.

NGC 1535 is one of the brighter planetary nebulae at 9th mag and bluish in color

Comet Hartley



for remainder of this constellation see autumn chart

BR 10/9/20

*Achernar
m = -1.3*