

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2011

Moon Phases: LQ 10/19, New 10/26, FQ 11/2, Full 11/10. LQ 11/18, New 11/25.

Events: Oct. 14-KVAS Monthly Meeting, Oct. 21-22 Black Water Falls Annual Star Party, Nov.18-KAVS Monthly Meeting. Nov.6 2 AM Daylight Savings Time ends.

PERSEUS (PURR-see-us) is The Hero from Greek Mythology who saved Princess Andromeda from the sea monster Cetus by flying on Pegasus the Winged Horse. Open clusters are M34 @ 1,400 ly. & Double Cluster NGC869 & 884 @7,000ly.. Algol is the classic eclipsing variable, period 2.867 days fades from 2,1 to 3,4 Mag.

TRIANGULUM (tri-ANG-gyu-lum) The Triangle is a small faint constellation known since ancient times. Its highlight is the faint face-on spiral Pinwheel Galaxy M33 @ 2,4M ly.

ARIES (AIR-eez) The Ram is another ancient Constellation from Greek Mythology. It was the first constellation in the Zodiac where the sun entered on the vernal equinox but earth's precession now has that point in Pisces. Aries has few objects of interest but Gamma is a beautiful double star (each blue-white with magnitude 4.8 & a separation of 8 arcsec.)

CETUS (HEAD) (SEE-tus) : The head of the Sea Monster contains the most famous long-period variable star Mira, the Beautiful, with magnitude varying from 3.4 to 9.3 over an eleven month period. M77 is a 9th Mag. spiral galaxy at70 million ly. Gamma is a striking white and yellow binary pair, of 3.5 & 7.3 Mag at a separation of 2.7 arcsec. For the rest of Cetus see the Aug.Sept. Nite Sky issue.

TAURUS (TORR-us) The Bull was first recognized by the ancient Chaldeans, some 5,000 years ago and it contains two of the largest open star clusters we can see, the Hyades and the Pleiades M45. The Hyades are only 150 ly. Away and form the Bull's head. The Pleiades are 410 ly. Away and contain the beautiful blue-white hot young stars called the Seven Sisters but there are a total of 500 stars covering an area four times the size of the full Moon. M1 is the Crab Nebula where a supernova exploded in 1054 AD & Aldebaran (Alpha) an orange giant star @ 65 ly.

