DAVIS PLANETARIUM

Starmap

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

601 Light Street · Baltimore's Inner Harbor
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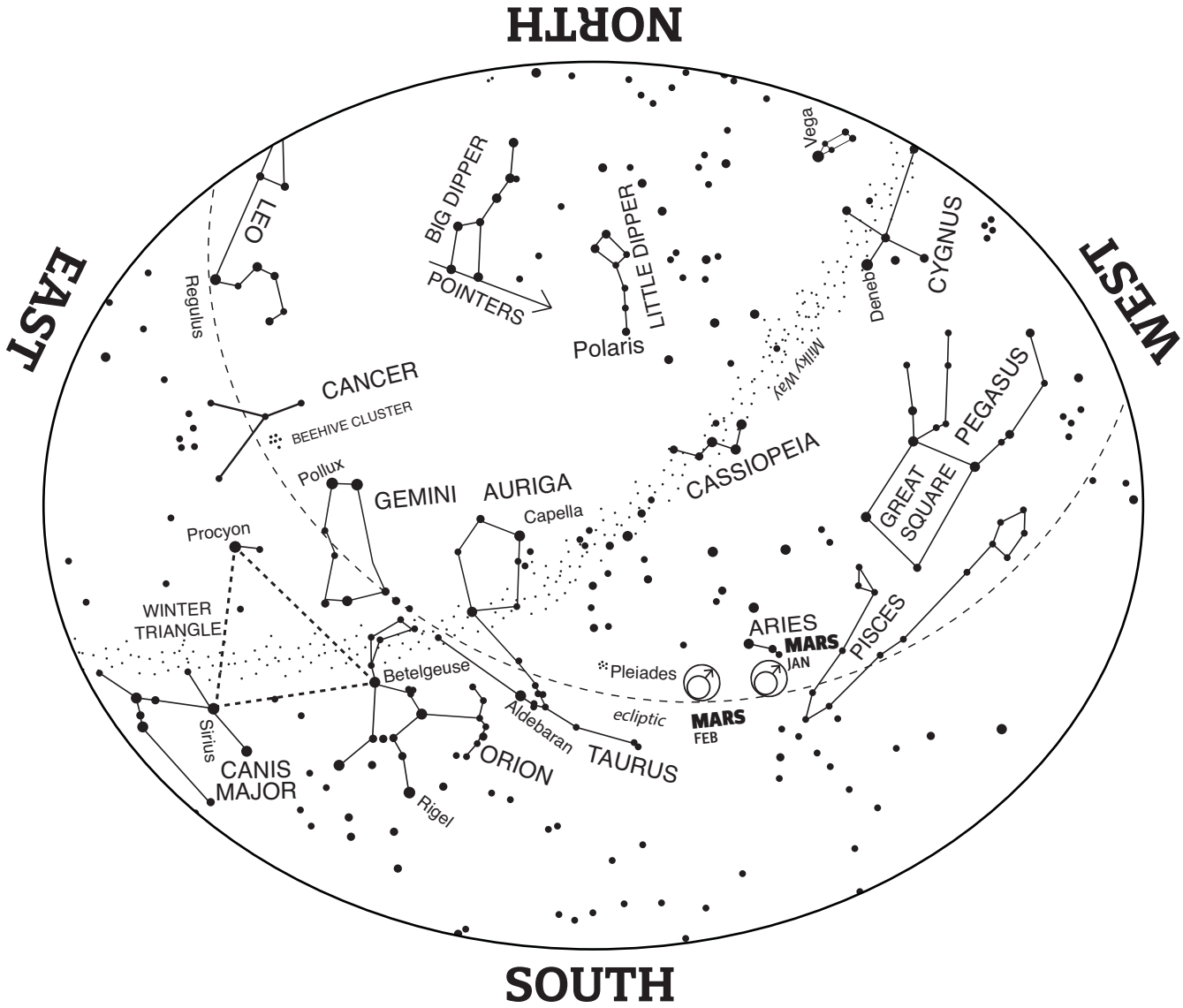

TO USE MAP:
Hold the map in front of you so that the direction you are facing is on the bottom. The stars on the lower half on the map will match up with the stars in the sky. The center of the map is directly overhead in the sky. Constellation and star pattern names are all capitalized. Names of stars have only the first letter capitalized. The map is valid within an hour of:
8:30pm Mid-Jan. EST
6:30pm Mid-Feb. EST

MAGNITUDE is a measure of a star's brightness. The lower the number, the brighter the star

- 1st or brighter magnitude star
- 2nd magnitude star
- 3rd magnitude star
- 4th or fainter magnitude star

ECLIPTIC:
The imaginary path of the Sun through the year. Constellations of the Zodiac surround the Ecliptic and the Moon and planets appear along it.

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IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY SKY

Jan 2
Earth at Perihelion

Jan 3
Quadrantid meteors peak
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

◑ **Jan 6**
Last quarter Moon

Jan 9
Mercury near Saturn and Jupiter
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

Jan 11
Moon near Venus

● **Jan 13**
New Moon

◐ **Jan 20**
First quarter Moon near Mars
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

Jan 23
Moon near Aldebaran

Mercury at greatest elongation

Saturn conjunction with Sun

○ **Jan 28**
Full Moon

Jupiter conjunction with Sun

Jan 29
Moon near Regulus

◑ **Feb 4**
Last quarter Moon

Feb 8
Inferior conjunction of Mercury

● **Feb 11**
New Moon

Feb 18
Moon near Mars

◐ **Feb 19**
First quarter Moon

Feb 23
Mercury near Saturn (Morning)
(See ***Celestial Highlights***)

Moon near Pollux

Feb 26
Moon near Regulus

○ **Feb 27**
Full Moon

CELESTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Quadrantid meteors peak January 3 – Meteoroids are bits of debris from comets that when they burn up passing through Earth's atmosphere create a quick flash or streak of light called a "meteor" or "shooting star." A meteor shower is a high frequency of meteors that seem to come from one area of the sky. Meteor showers are usually named for the constellation that they radiate from, but in the case of the Quadrantids (named after, Quadrans Muralis) the constellation is no longer on modern star maps. Instead look for Quadrantid meteors from the night of January 2 to morning of January 3 near the Big Dipper.

Moon near Mars, January 20 and February 18 – On January 20 the Moon and Mars do what astronomers call an *appulse*, when two astronomical objects appear close to one another in the sky. This happens again on February 18. Look for them in the southeast after sunset. They will be up until midnight when they set in the west.

Planet groupings – After sunset on January 9 three planets, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mercury, are seen grouped together forming a triangle low in the southwestern sky. Jupiter will be the brighter of the three and at the top of the triangle, with Mercury as the next brightest lower to the left, followed by Saturn up and to the right of Mercury. (See Figure 1.) Early morning on February 23, less than an hour before sunrise the planets can be seen low on the southeastern horizon. Mercury and Saturn are low in the southeast with Jupiter not far below them. Mercury then shifts down closer to Jupiter from one night to the next through the end of the month. Jupiter will be the brighter of the three, with Saturn as the next brightest. (See Figure 2.)

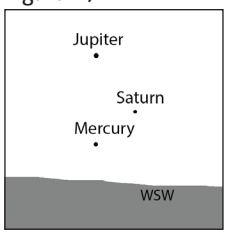

Fig. 1. West Southwest Jan. 9 at 5:40pm

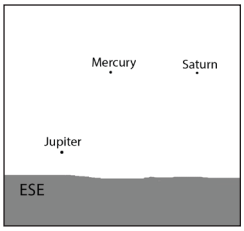

Fig. 2. East Southeast Feb. 23 at 6:09am

IN THE WINTER SKY

Winter Circle of Stars – The winter sky holds bright stars and familiar constellations that create a circular pattern in the sky. The stars of the "Winter Circle", can be traced in a clockwise spiral starting in the center with Betelgeuse then moving down and around to Rigel, Sirius, Procyon, Pollux and Capella to Aldebaran. As you trace the circle in the sky compare the brightness and color of the stars. The Moon passes through the Winter Circle a few times during January and February.

The bi-monthly STARMAP is available on the web at https://www.mdsci.org/learn/resources/starmaps/

CROSBY RAMSEY MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY INFO 410-545-2999

For the health and safety of our guests, the Observatory is temporarily closed.

MERCURY

When:
After sunset, January
Before sunrise, mid-February

Where:
Southwest to West, January
Low in East, February

Constellation:
Capricornus

VENUS

When:
Before sunrise, until January 15
Not visible, January 15 through February

Where:
Low in Southeast

Constellation:
Ophiuchus, Sagittarius, Capricornus

MARS

When:
Evening sky

Where:
South to Southwest

Constellation:
Pisces, Aries, Taurus

JUPITER

When:
After sunset, early January
Before sunrise, late February

Where:
Low in Southwest, January
Low in Southeast, February

Constellation:
Capricornus

SATURN

When:
After sunset, early January
Before sunrise, late February

Where:
Low in Southwest, January
Low in Southeast, February

Constellation:
Capricornus