WESTMINSTER ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC. (WASI)

WASI Update

WASI Update—November 2026 Contact the Secretary at secretary@westminsterastro.org

Our **membership meeting** will be **November 11** at Bear Branch Nature Center. This is our annual Telescope Buyers Workshop. With the popularity of the broad line of smart scopes of different brands we thought it would be useful to demonstrate the use and operation of electronic smart scopes.

I am asking volunteers who own any model of smart telescopes (like ZWO (Seestar), Unistellar, Vaonis, Dwarf Labs) to give a short (0-15 minutes) discussion on the 1) initial set up (includes describing the downloading of any applicable apps), 2) observing session set-up, 3) operation of the smart scope during observations, and 4) some examples of your results.

Please contact Curt (librarian@westminsterastro.org) to volunteer or to ask questions about the meeting.

This year we have a VERY special set of items for our FREE raffle (aka door prizes). As always, and in keeping with county regulations on such things, the tickets remain free and you must be present to win (or your stand-in must be present).

We will have loads of displays and literature to help you make those important decisions on equipment purchases. The highlight this year is on smart scopes (and binos).

There will be a 'swap' table(s) so bring CASH (& change) but also anything you want to SELL or trade with others.

We continue to appreciate any items worthy of door prizes for donations like books, astronomy merch or gear.

November 14 is our monthly planetarium show and **star party** at Bear Branch Nature Center. And the **members-only star party** there is **November 6-8**. The new moon is the **9th**.

Note that our December meeting will be the the annual holiday pot luck.

WASI Second Vice President Jeff Kretsch will be organizing some telescope clinics to help people get the most out of their equipment. He could use some help. For example, you might be accomplished at using the SkyMeadeCelestron AstroSeekerOrigin; share your expertise with others who have the same gear. Contact Jeff at jlkretsch@verizon.net.

We're looking for volunteers to present at upcoming membership meetings about, well, anything of astronomy interest. Maybe meteor showers, demos of your equipment, items of historical interest, the science of astronomy, etc. The sky is the limit (so to speak). Email Laurie to volunteer: treasurer@westminsterastro.org.

Outreach Events

WASI holds many events to introduce the public to the wonders of the night sky. We're always looking for members to help out with these. It's fun and who knows… you might encourage a youngster to become the next Carl Sagan. Questions? Email president@westminsterastro.org.

Here's this month's calendar. If you go to the calendar web page (https://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/events/wasi/) and click on an event it will give more details.

< November 2026 >

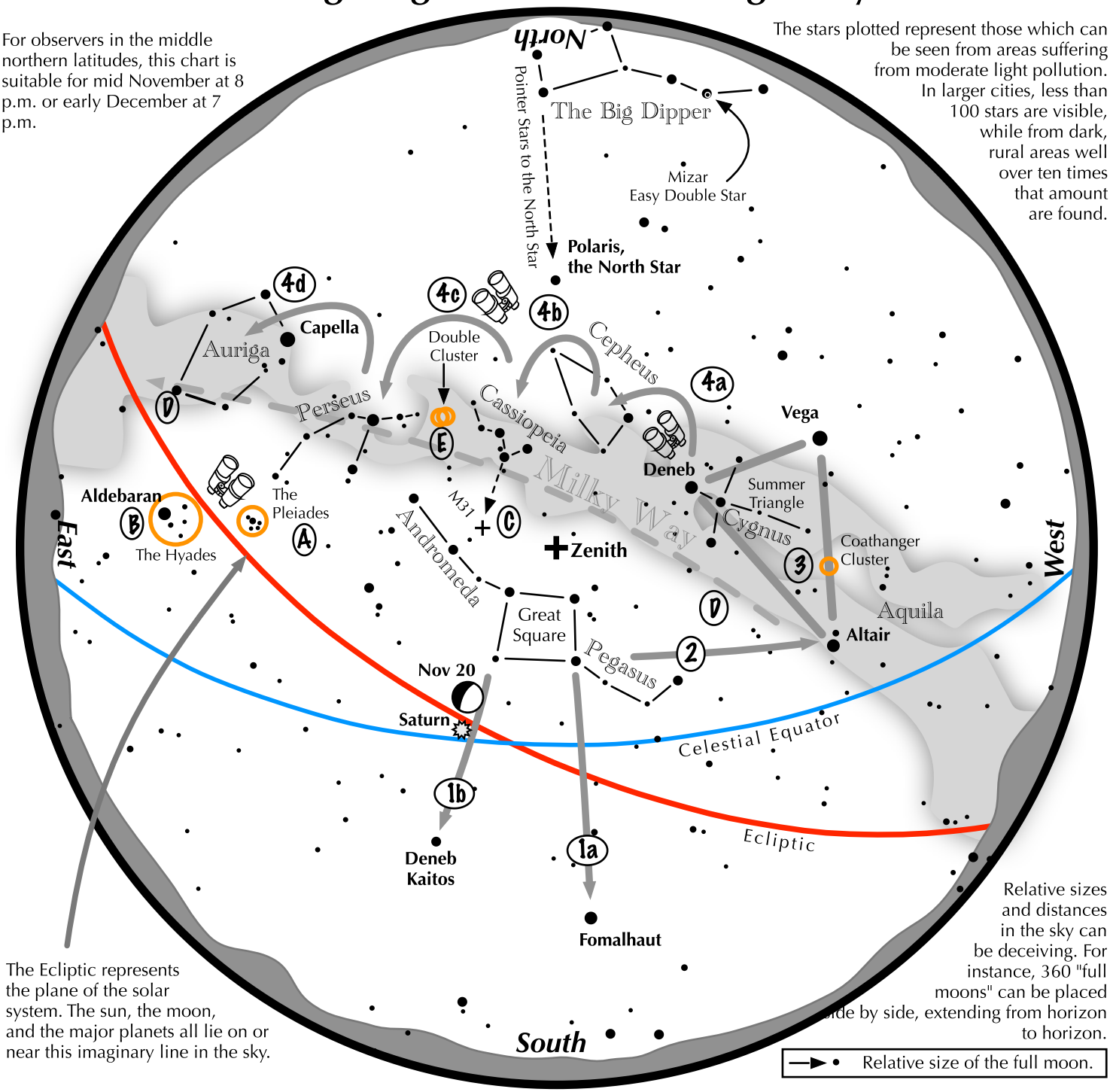
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 05:00 PM Officers' Meeting 06:07 PM Sunset	02	03	04	05	06 Members' Observing 07:00 PM Cub Scouts	07 Members' Observing
08 Members' Observing 05:00 PM Sunset	09	10	11 07:00 PM Meeting - open to public Veterans Day	12	13	14 07:00 PM Star Party & Planetarium
15 04:54 PM Sunset	16	17	18	19	20	21 05:00 PM Milkhouse Star Party 06:30 PM SD Star Party
22 05:00 PM Star Poetry 04:49 PM Sunset	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 04:46 PM Sunset	30	01	02	03	04	05

Navigating the November Night Sky

2026

For observers in the middle northern latitudes, this chart is suitable for mid November at 8 p.m. or early December at 7 p.m.

The stars plotted represent those which can be seen from areas suffering from moderate light pollution. In larger cities, less than 100 stars are visible, while from dark, rural areas well over ten times that amount are found.



The Ecliptic represents the plane of the solar system. The sun, the moon, and the major planets all lie on or near this imaginary line in the sky.

Relative sizes and distances in the sky can be deceiving. For instance, 360 "full moons" can be placed side by side, extending from horizon to horizon.

—►• Relative size of the full moon.

Navigating the November night sky: Simply start with what you know or with what you can easily find.

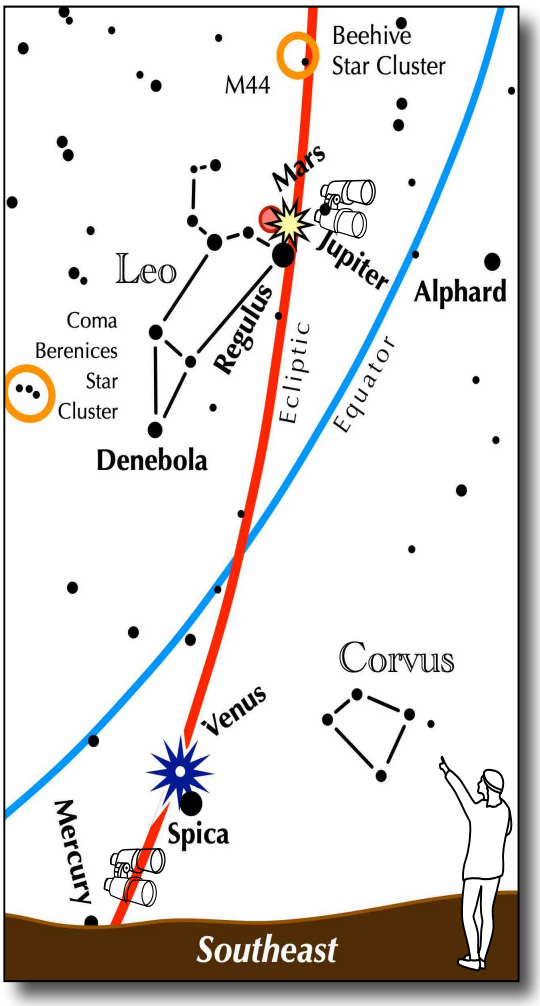
1. Face south. Almost overhead lies the "Great Square" with four stars about the same brightness as those of the Big Dipper. Extend a line southward following the Square's two westernmost stars. The line strikes Fomalhaut, the brightest star in the south. A line extending southward from the two easternmost stars, passes Deneb Kaitos, the second brighest star in the south.
2. Draw a line westward following the southern edge of the Square until it strikes Altair, part of the "Summer Triangle."
3. Locate Vega and Deneb, the other two stars of the Summer Triangle. Vega is its brightest member, while Deneb sits in the middle of the Milky Way.
4. Jump along the Milky Way from Deneb to Cepheus, which resembles the outline of a house. Continue jumping to the "W" of Cassiopeia, then to Perseus, and finally to Auriga with its bright star Capella.

Binocular Highlights

A and B: Examine the stars of the Pleiades and Hyades, two naked eye star clusters. **C:** The three westernmost stars of Cassiopeia's "W" point south to M31, the Andromeda Galaxy, a "fuzzy" oval. **D:** Sweep along the Milky Way from Altair, past Deneb, through Cepheus, Cassiopeia and Perseus, then to Auriga for many intriguing star clusters and nebulous areas. **E.** The Double Cluster.

Astronomical League *www.astroleague.org/outreach; duplication is allowed and encouraged for all free distribution.*

In the early mornings around November 15-18, try this activity:



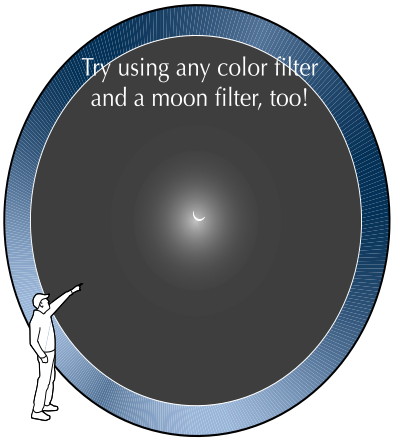
Count the bright celestial wonders strung along the ecliptic

1. Red Mars meets bright Jupiter high in the southeast ninety minutes before sunrise. Grouped with them is the brightest star in Leo, Regulus.

2. Much nearer the southeastern horizon shines brilliant Venus sitting just above the bright star Spica.

3. 40 minutes before sunrise, little Mercury pops above the horizon, far below Venus. Binoculars help spot it in the bright twilight.

Grab a quick look at **Venus** through any telescope. Its beautiful, thin, and brilliant crescent awaits! As the mornings pass, the crescent grows smaller, but thicker.

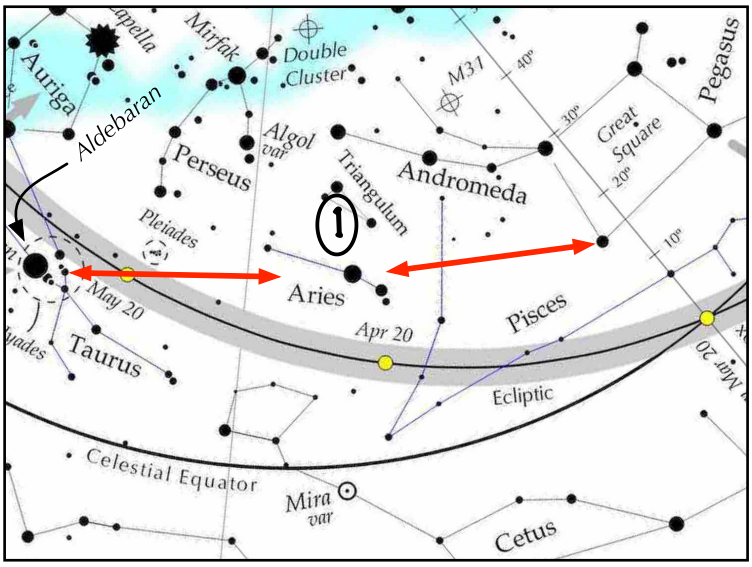


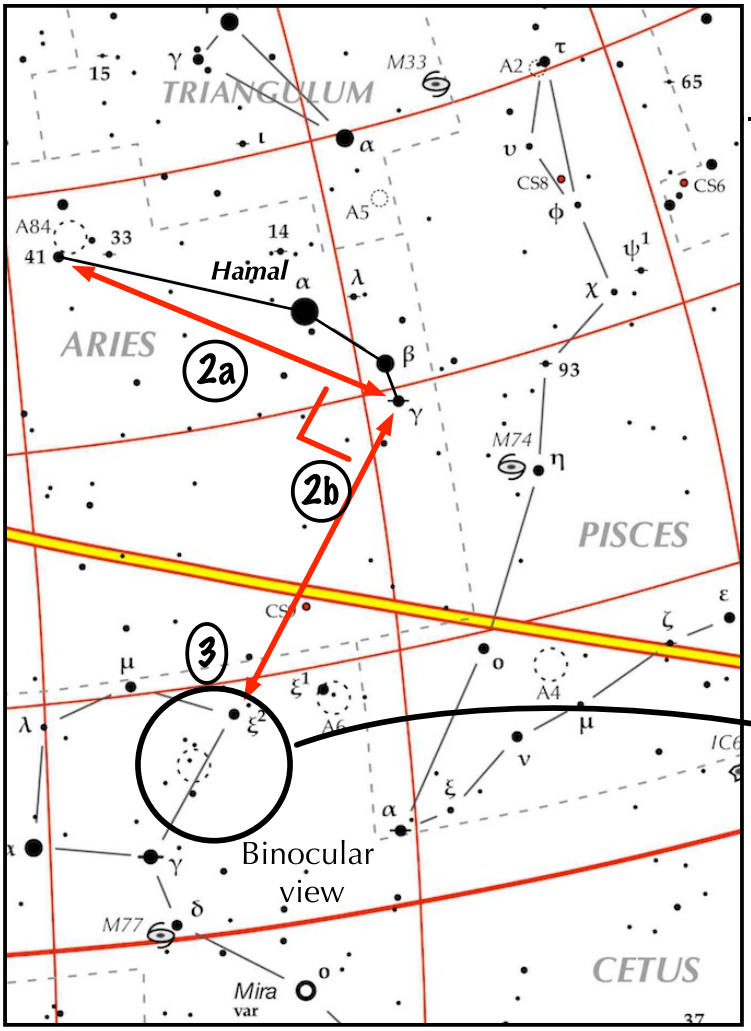
View in the southeast
on November 15-18
90 minutes before sunrise

What a great way to start your day!

The Questionmark, an asterism for binoculars

On the Astronomical League's Asterism list

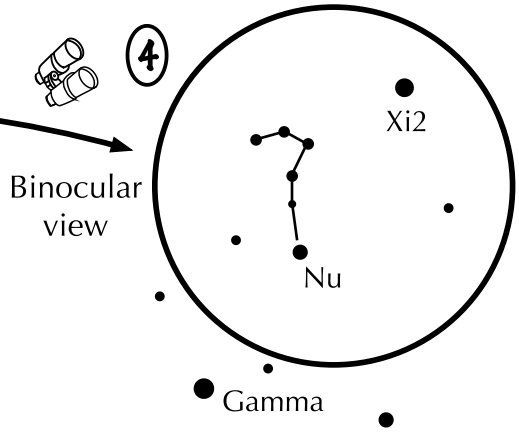




How to find ...

1. Find Aries, which sits mid way between the Great Square in Pegasus and bright star Aldebaran in Taurus. Moderately bright Hamal (Alpha Arietis) is easy to spot, lying near the midway point. Find the dimmer stars Gamma and 41 Arietis.
2. Draw a line from Gamma to 41 and make another line of similar length extending 90º to the south–southeast of Gamma.
3. That line ends near Xi2. It occupies the northwestern vertex of the pentagon of Cetus' head.
4. Place Xi2 near the northwestern edge of the binocular field. The stars of the Questionmark are near the center of the field. These stars are arranged by chance, they are nowhere near each other in three-dimensional space.

Asterism Observing Program



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