Skywatchers

Newsletter of the China Lake Astronomical Society

JAN 05, 2026 CLAS MEETING 7:30

This Month Issue

C/2011 L4 (PANSTARRS) and Cresecent Moon over Ridgecrest — Ralph Paonessa

Monday, January 5, 2026 7:00 PM

January Meeting

Members Photo Program

Refreshments: 7:00 PM Announcements : 7:30 Program: 7:45

Program

CLAS Members

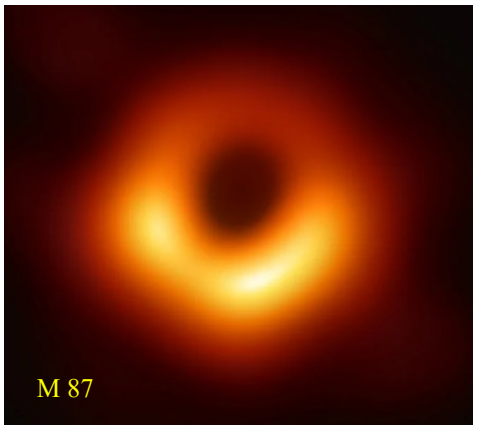
Annual Members Photography Program

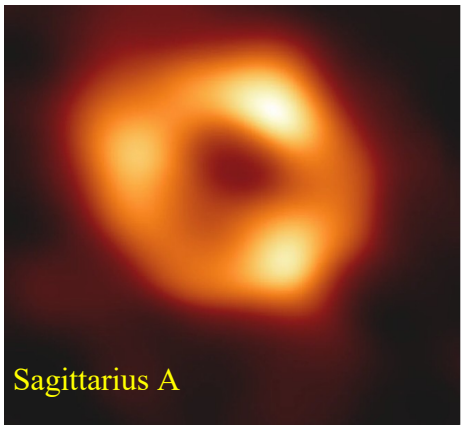
Come see a program of astrophotography from members of CLAS from the past year. Our stable of skilled photographers is growing every year and you can see some wonderful images of the night sky.

Maturango Museum

Meetings and programs are open to the public, and are held at Maturango Museum on the first Monday of every month (or the following Monday for holidays).

Scientists Race to Film Black Holes in 3D





The first photograph of a black hole arrived in 2019 like a revelation. That blurred orange ring surrounding the supermassive black hole M87*, 55 million light years away represented one of astronomy's greatest achievements, the first direct visual confirmation of objects so extreme that not even light escapes their gravitational grip.

Three years later, a second image captured Sagittarius A*, the black hole lurking at our own Galaxy's centre. Both photographs captivated billions of people and opened an entirely new scientific frontier.

Those groundbreaking images revealed only fragments of what black holes are actually doing. They were 2D snapshots, flat glimpses of far richer physics playing out around the universe's most extreme gravitational wells. The doughnut shaped glow showed superheated plasma circling the black hole, but couldn't reveal how that material moves, how magnetic fields channel energy into enormous jets, or how spacetime itself bends under such extraordinary gravity.

A new £4 million research project aims to fundamentally change that. Dr. Kazunori Akiyama, who co-led the imaging team that produced those first black hole photographs, is joining forces with Professor Yves Wiaux at Heriot-Watt University to create what they call "dynamic gravitational tomography."

A montage of the radio observatories that form the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) network used to image the Milky Way's central black hole, Sagittarius A. These include the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA), the Atacama Pathfinder EXperiment (APEX),*

Instead of still images, they will produce 3D movies showing how plasma flows and evolves around black holes across time.

The Event Horizon Telescope that captured the first images works by combining radio telescopes scattered across the globe, effectively creating a virtual Earth sized telescope with incredibly sharp resolution. But turning the incomplete data from this telescope network into coherent images requires sophisticated computational algorithms. Dr. Akiyama developed one of those imaging algorithms for the original black hole pictures.

Professor Wiaux has pioneered artificial intelligence techniques that reconstruct images from fragmentary data, methods now transforming multiple scientific fields. The new TomoGrav project will reveal dynamics that have remained hidden until now. Black holes spin, and that rotation determines how much energy can be extracted from infalling matter, powering the colossal jets that stretch across thousands of light years and influence how galaxies form and evolve. Scientists can observe these jets but cannot see how they form. Time resolved 3D maps of magnetic fields and plasma around black holes will reveal this process in action for the first time, showing how matter spiralling inward generates the magnetic fields that channel energy outward.

The research also promises to deliver the most stringent tests yet of Einstein's general relativity in extreme conditions. The team will work with the proposed Black Hole Explorer space mission, which aims to precisely map photon rings, light that has orbited a black hole multiple times before escaping. These measurements would probe gravity where it bends spacetime most severely.

Source: Mark Thompson. Science broadcaster and author. Mark is known for his tireless enthusiasm for making science accessible, through numerous tv, radio, podcast and theatre appearances, and books. He was a part of the award-nominated **BBC Stargazing LIVE TV Show** in the UK and his **Spectacular Science theatre show** has received 5 star reviews across UK theatres. In 2025 he is launching his new **podcast Cosmic Commerce** and is working on a **new book 101 Facts You Didn't Know About Deep Space** In 2018, Mark received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of East Anglia.
You can email Mark here

Brown Road Star Party Location

Dark Sky star parties are held on BLM land off Brown Road (Old Hwy 395) south of Ridgecrest.

The dirt road should not be a problem for cars.

From the intersection of China Lake Blvd and Hwy 395, cross 395 to Brown Rd and continue 2.3 mi.

Look for an orange cone and turn here to the left.

Follow this dirt road 0.4 mi. to the star party location.

NOTE: After dark, please **avoid using car bright headlights.**
At the location, use a red flashlight or other dim light pointed down.

China Lake Astronomical Society
Membership or Renewal 2025

Name:_____

Address:_____

City, State, Zip:_____

Phone:_____Email:_____

Yearly Membership $ 25 (*due in January*) Family $ 40 Youth 18 & under $ 10.
Checks or Money Orders accepted _____

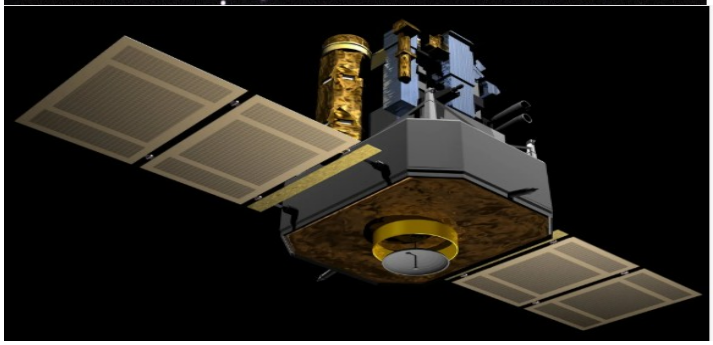
Contact Roger Brower 760-446-0454 (email brower@iwvisp.com)
Make Checks or Money Orders Payable to China Lake Astronomical Society.(CLAS)

Roger Brower, Treasurer
China Lake Astronomical Society
P.O. Box 1783
Ridgecrest, CA 93556.

The Interstellar Comet That's Spilling Its Secrets

By Mark Thompson - January 01, 2026 07:43 PM UTC | Planetary Science

Interstellar Comet 3I/ATLAS captured by the Gemini Multi-Object Spectrograph (GMOS) on Gemini North on Maunakea in Hawai' (Credit : International Gemini Observatory/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/B. Bolin)



When 3I/ATLAS swept past the Sun in late October 2025, it became only the third confirmed visitor from interstellar space ever detected. Unlike the mysterious 'Oumuamua, which revealed almost nothing about itself during its brief flyby in 2017, or even 2I/Borisov which appeared in 2019, this latest interstellar traveler arrived with perfect timing for detailed study.

Among those watching was an unlikely observer. The Solar and Heliosphere Observatory, or SOHO, has spent nearly 30 years staring at the Sun from its orbital position 1.5 million kilometres from Earth. But SOHO carries a camera called SWAN that wasn't designed to look at the Sun at all. Instead, it watches for a specific wavelength of ultraviolet light emitted by hydrogen atoms, creating an all sky map of hydrogen scattered throughout the Solar System. Nine days after 3I/ATLAS reached perihelion, its closest approach to the Sun on 30 October, SWAN began detecting a distinctive hydrogen glow surrounding the comet. This wasn't just any hydrogen. When sunlight strikes water molecules streaming from a comet's nucleus, it breaks them apart, releasing hydrogen atoms that then glow in ultraviolet light. By measuring this glow, astronomers can work backward to calculate how much water the comet is producing.

The measurements revealed something remarkable. On 6 November, when the comet had traveled out to 1.4 astronomical units from the Sun, it was spewing water at a rate of 3.17×10^{29} molecules per second. That's 317 followed by 27 zeros. To put it another way, imagine filling an Olympic swimming pool every few seconds, and you're getting close to the scale of water production from this relatively small icy nucleus.

What makes these observations particularly valuable is their timing. Most studies of 3I/ATLAS happened before perihelion, when the comet was approaching the Sun and beginning to heat up. The SWAN observations captured what happened afterward, as the comet moved away and its activity began declining. Over the following weeks, water production dropped steadily, falling to between 10 and 20 trillion trillion molecules per second by early December, about 40 days after perihelion.

This decrease follows a pattern that astronomers recognise from Solar System comets. As a comet moves farther from the Sun, the reduced heating means less ice sublimates from the nucleus, and activity winds down. The fact that 3I/ATLAS behaves this way suggests that despite traveling through interstellar space for potentially millions of years, it hasn't fundamentally changed from the icy bodies that formed in our own Solar System's distant past. The technique used to measure this water production has proven itself remarkably reliable. First developed over two decades ago and refined through observations of more than 90 different comet apparitions, the method combines SWAN's hydrogen measurements with daily readings of solar ultraviolet output and corrections for the Sun's rotation. Each piece of the calculation matters, because the fluorescence rate depends on how much ultraviolet light the Sun is emitting at any given moment. For 3I/ATLAS, these measurements serve a purpose beyond simple curiosity about a single comet. This object formed in a planetary system around another star, possibly billions of years ago. By studying its composition and behaviour, it's possible learn about the conditions in that distant stellar neighborhood, compare them to our own Solar System's formation, and better understand the diversity of planetary systems throughout the Galaxy. The comet's substantial water production also raises intriguing questions about its nucleus size and surface activity. Based on Hubble Space Telescope observations, the nucleus diameter is somewhere between 440 meters and 5.6 kilometers. If water is sublimating directly from the surface, a significant fraction of that surface would need to be active, possibly around 20 percent, which is much higher than the typical 3 to 5 percent seen in most Solar System comets.

3I/ATLAS now leaves our Solar System behind, travelling for millennia before approaching another star, but thanks to SWAN and the other instruments that studied it, we've captured a detailed snapshot of this messenger from the depths of space during its brief visit to our own neighborhood.

Source : Water Production of Interstellar Comet 3I/ATLAS from SOHO/SWAN Observations after Perihelion

Water Production of Interstellar Comet 3I/ATLAS from SOHO/SWAN Observations after Perihelion

M.R.Combi, T. Mâkinen, J.-L. Bertaux, E. Quemerais, S. Ferron, R. Lallement, W. Schmidt

The Solar Wind ANisotropies (SWAN) all-sky hydrogen Lyman-alpha camera on the Solar and Heliosphere Observatory (SOHO) observed the hydrogen coma of interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS, also called C/2025 N1 (ATLAS), beginning on November 6, 2025, 9 days after perihelion. Water production rates were calculated from each image of 3I/ATLAS using the methodology of Mäkinen & Combi (2005, Icarus 177, 217) and fluorescence rates calculated using the daily solar Lyman-alpha fluxes from the LASP database corrected for solar rotation. The method has been used for over 90 comet apparitions (Combi 2022; Combi et al 2019). A water production rate of 3.17 x 10^29 s^-1 was found on November 6 when the comet was at a heliocentric distance of 1.40 au and at a sufficient solar elongation angle. It decreased over time after that, down to 1-2 x 10^28 s^-1 around 40 days post-perihelion (December 8).

Comments: The Astrophysical Journal Letters (submitted), 14 pages, 1 Figure, 1 Table,
Subjects: **Earth and Planetary Astrophysics (astro-ph.EP)**; Astrophysics of Galaxies (astro-ph.GA)
Cite as: arXiv:2512.22354 **[astro-ph.EP]**
(or arXiv:2512.22354v1 **[astro-ph.EP]** for this version)
https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2512.22354

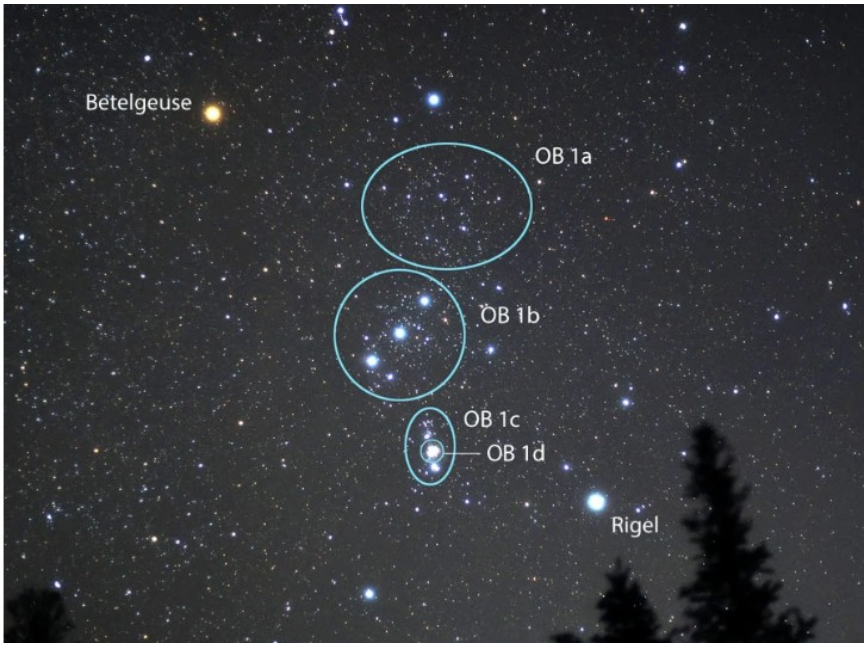
Submission history
From: Michael Combi [view email]
[v1] Fri, 26 Dec 2025 19:28:04 UTC (236 KB)

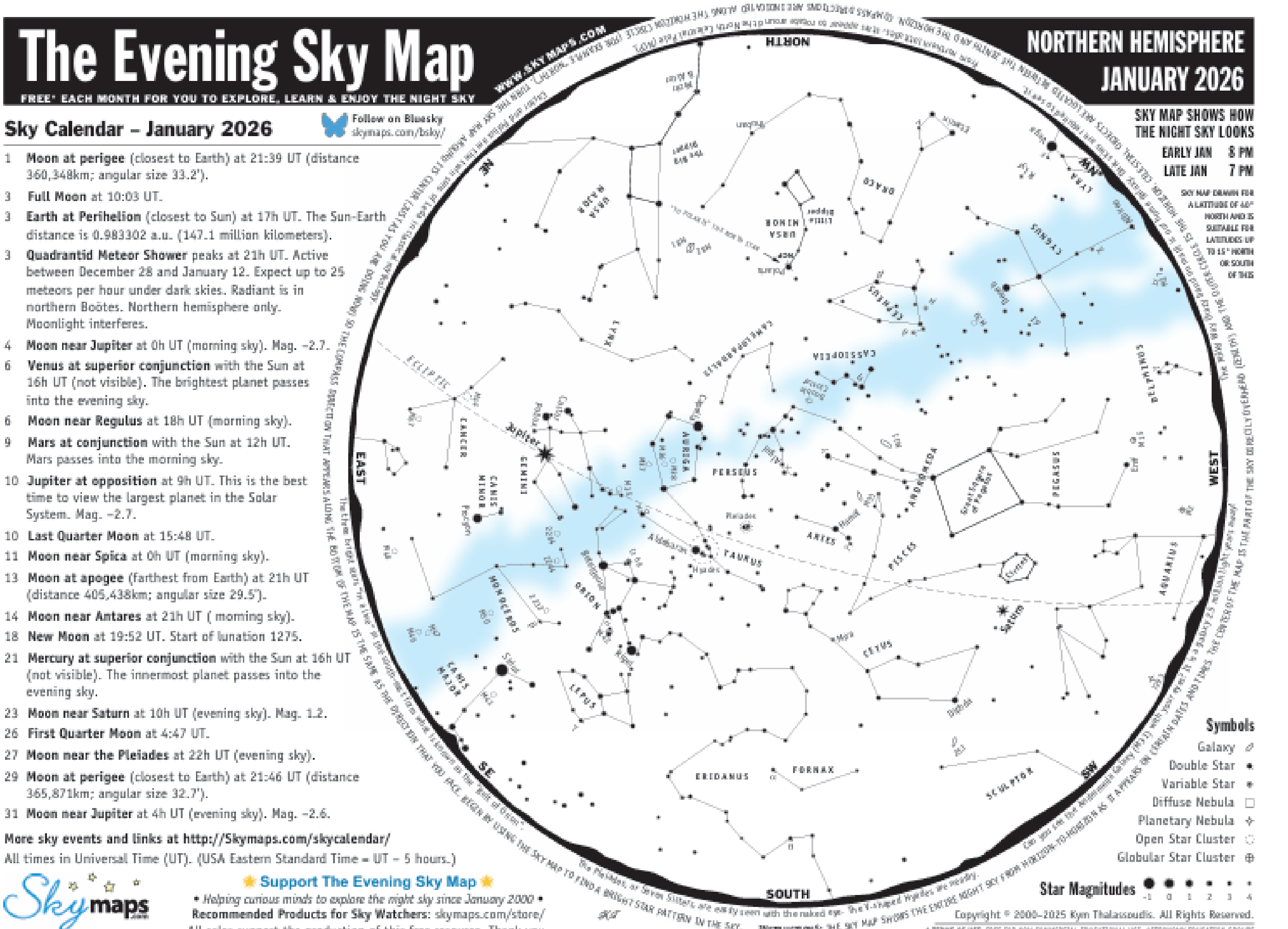
Waves of recent star formation have made Orion winter's most scintillating constellation. You can see how it all came to

Some constellations have all the luck. Orion not only has one of the most recognizable forms, including its signature Belt, but it contains two of the top 10 brightest nighttime stars (Rigel and Betelgeuse), three 2nd-magnitude stars and M42, the Orion Nebula, one of the brightest and most important star-forming regions in the galaxy. No wonder it sparkles on winter nights.

Giving birth to new suns is what Orion is all about. The celestial Hunter is home to the lavish Orion Molecular Cloud (OMC), an enormous star-forming region hundreds of light-years across located about 1,500 light-years from Earth that enrobes the constellation. Within it you'll find Orion's Belt, the Orion Nebula complex, Barnard's Loop, and stellar spawn tucked into every nook and cranny. Stars within the OMC range in age from less than a million to 12 million years.

Source: Explore Orion's Massive New Stars with Binoculars - Sky & Telescope





The Evening Sky Map

FREE* EACH MONTH FOR YOU TO EXPLORE, LEARN & ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE JANUARY 2026

SKY MAP SHOWS HOW THE NIGHT SKY LOOKS
EARLY JAN 8 PM
LATE JAN 7 PM

Sky Calendar – January 2026

Follow on Bluesky skymaps.com/bsky/

1 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 21:39 UT (distance 360,348km; angular size 33.2').
3 **Full Moon** at 10:03 UT.
3 **Earth at Perihelion** (closest to Sun) at 17h UT. The Sun-Earth distance is 0.983302 a.u. (147.1 million kilometers).
3 **Quadrantid Meteor Shower** peaks at 21h UT. Active between December 28 and January 12. Expect up to 25 meteors per hour under dark skies. Radiant is in northern Boötes. Northern hemisphere only. Moonlight interferes.
4 **Moon near Jupiter** at 0h UT (morning sky). Mag. −2.7.
6 **Venus at superior conjunction** with the Sun at 16h UT (not visible). The brightest planet passes into the evening sky.
6 **Moon near Regulus** at 18h UT (morning sky).
9 **Mars at conjunction** with the Sun at 12h UT. Mars passes into the morning sky.
10 **Jupiter at opposition** at 9h UT. This is the best time to view the largest planet in the Solar System. Mag. −2.7.
10 **Last Quarter Moon** at 15:48 UT.
11 **Moon near Spica** at 0h UT (morning sky).
13 **Moon at apogee** (farthest from Earth) at 21h UT (distance 405,438km; angular size 29.5').
14 **Moon near Antares** at 21h UT (morning sky).
18 **New Moon** at 19:52 UT. Start of lunation 1275.
21 **Mercury at superior conjunction** with the Sun at 16h UT (not visible). The innermost planet passes into the evening sky.
23 **Moon near Saturn** at 10h UT (evening sky). Mag. 1.2.
26 **First Quarter Moon** at 4:47 UT.
27 **Moon near the Pleiades** at 22h UT (evening sky).
29 **Moon at perigee** (closest to Earth) at 21:46 UT (distance 365,871km; angular size 32.7').
31 **Moon near Jupiter** at 4h UT (evening sky). Mag. −2.6.

More sky events and links at http://Skymaps.com/skycalendar/
All times in Universal Time (UT). (USA Eastern Standard Time = UT − 5 hours.)

Skymaps

Support The Evening Sky Map
• *Helping curious minds to explore the night sky since January 2000* •
Recommended Products for Sky Watchers: skymaps.com/store/

The evening of January 3rd

About the Celestial Objects

Listed on this page are several of the brighter, more interesting celestial objects visible in the evening sky this month (refer to the monthly sky map). The objects are grouped into three categories. Those that can be easily seen with the naked eye (that is, without optical aid), those easily seen with binoculars, and those requiring a telescope to be appreciated. **Note, all of the objects (except single stars) will appear more impressive when viewed through a telescope or very large binoculars.** They are grouped in this way to highlight objects that can be seen using the optical equipment that may be available to the star gazer.

Tips for Observing the Night Sky

When observing the night sky, and in particular deep-sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies, it's always best to observe from a dark location. Avoid direct light from street lights and other sources. If possible observe from a dark location away from the light pollution that surrounds many of today's large cities.

You will see more stars after your eyes adapt to the darkness—usually about 10 to 20 minutes after you go outside. Also, if you need to use a torch to view the sky map, cover the light bulb with red cellophane. This will preserve your dark vision.

Finally, even though the Moon is one of the most stunning objects to view through a telescope, its light is so bright that it brightens the sky and makes many of the fainter objects very difficult to see. So try to observe the evening sky on moonless nights around either New Moon or Last Quarter.

Astronomical Glossary

Conjunction – An alignment of two celestial bodies such that they present the least angular separation as viewed from Earth.

Constellation – A defined area of the sky containing a star pattern.

Diffuse Nebula – A cloud of gas illuminated by nearby stars.

Double Star – Two stars that appear close to each other in the sky; either linked by gravity so that they orbit each other (binary star) or lying at different distances from Earth (optical double). Apparent separation of stars is given in seconds of arc (").

Ecliptic – The path of the Sun's center on the celestial sphere as seen from Earth.

Elongation – The angular separation of two celestial bodies. For Mercury and Venus the greatest elongation occurs when they are at their most angular distance from the Sun as viewed from Earth.

Galaxy – A mass of up to several billion stars held together by gravity.

Globular Star Cluster – A ball-shaped group of several thousand old stars.

Light Year (ly) – The distance a beam of light travels at 300,000 km/sec in one year.

Magnitude – The brightness of a celestial object as it appears in the sky.

Open Star Cluster – A group of tens or hundreds of relatively young stars.

Opposition – When a celestial body is opposite the Sun in the sky.

Planetary Nebula – The remnants of a shell of gas blown off by a star.

Universal Time (UT) – A time system used by astronomers. Also known as Greenwich Mean Time. USA Eastern Standard Time (for example, New York) is 5 hours behind UT.

Variable Star – A star that changes brightness over a period of time.

CELESTIAL OBJECTS

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE
JANUARY 2026

Skymaps.com

Easily Seen with the Naked Eye

Capella	Aur	✸	The 6th brightest star. Appears yellowish in color. Spectroscopic binary. Dist=42 ly.
Sirius	CMa	✸	The brightest star in the sky. Also known as the "Dog Star". Dist=8.6 ly.
Procyon	CMi	✸	Greek name meaning "before the dog" - rises before Sirius (northern latitudes). Dist=11.4 ly.
δ Cephei	Cep	✸	Cepheid prototype. Mag varies between 3.5 & 4.4 over 5.366 days. Mag 6 companion.
Deneb	Cyg	✸	Brightest star in Cygnus. One of the greatest known supergiants. Dist=1,400 ±200 ly.
Castor	Gem	✸	Multiple star system with 6 components. 3 stars visible in telescope. Dist=52 ly.
Pollux	Gem	✸	With Castor, the twin sons of Leda in classical mythology. Dist=34 ly.
Vega	Lyr	✸	The 5th brightest star in the sky. A blue-white star. Dist=25.0 ly.
Rigel	Ori	✸	The brightest star in Orion. Blue supergiant star with mag 7 companion. Dist=770 ly.
Betelgeuse	Ori	✸	One of the largest red supergiant stars known. Diameter=300 times that of Sun. Dist=430 ly.
Algol	Per	✸	Famous eclipsing binary star. Magnitude varies between 2.1 & 3.4 over 2.867 days.
Pleiades	Tau	○	The Seven Sisters. Spectacular cluster. Many more stars visible in binoculars. Dist=399 ly.
Hyades	Tau	○	Large V-shaped star cluster. Binoculars reveal many more stars. Dist=152 ly.
Aldebaran	Tau	✸	Brightest star in Taurus. It is not associated with the Hyades star cluster. Dist=66.7 ly.
Polaris	UMi	✸	The North Pole Star. A telescope reveals an unrelated mag 8 companion star. Dist=433 ly.

Easily Seen with Binoculars

M31	And	𓅃	The Andromeda Galaxy. Most distant object visible to naked eye. Dist=2.5 million ly.
M2	Aqr	◍	Resembles a fuzzy star in binoculars.
M38	Aur	○	Stars appear arranged in "pi" or cross shape. Dist=4,300 ly.
M36	Aur	○	About half size of M38. Located in rich Milky Way star field. Dist=4,100 ly.
M37	Aur	○	Very fine star cluster. Discovered by Messier in 1764. Dist=4,400 ly.
M44	Cnc	○	Praesepe or Beehive Cluster. Visible to the naked eye. Dist=590 ±20 ly.
M41	CMa	○	First recorded observation by Aristotle in 325 BC as "cloudy spot". Dist=2,300 ly.
μ Cephei	Cep	✸	Herschel's Garnet Star. One of the reddest stars. Mag 3.4 to 5.1 over 730 days.
Mira	Cet	✸	Famous long period variable star. Mag varies between 3.0 & 10.1 over 332 days.
χ Cygni	Cyg	✸	Long period pulsating red giant. Magnitude varies between 3.3 & 14.2 over 407 days.
M39	Cyg	○	May be visible to the naked eye under good conditions. Dist=900 ly.
ν Draconis	Dra	✸	Wide pair of white stars. One of the finest binocular pairs in the sky. Dist=100 ly.
M35	Gem	○	Fine open cluster located near foot of the twin Castor. Dist=2,800 ly.
γ Leporis	Lep	✸	Visible with binoculars. Gold & white stars. Mags 3.6 & 6.2. Dist=30 ly. Sep=96.3".
R Lyrae	Lyr	✸	Semi-regular variable. Magnitude varies between 3.9 & 5.0 over 46.0 days.
2232	Mon	○	A large scattered star cluster of 20 stars. Dist=1,300 ly.
2244	Mon	○	Surrounded by the rather faint Rosette Nebula. Dist=5,540 ly.
M50	Mon	○	Visible with binoculars. Telescope reveals individual stars. Dist=3,000 ly.
Cr 69	Ori	○	Lambda Orionis Cluster. Dist=1,630 ly.
M42	Ori	□	The Great Orion Nebula. Spectacular bright nebula. Best in telescope. Dist=1,300 light years.
M15	Peg	◍	Only globular known to contain a planetary nebula (Mag 14, d=1"). Dist=30,000 ly.
Double Cluster	Per	○	Double Cluster in Perseus. NGC 869 & 884. Excellent in binoculars. Dist=7,300 ly.
253	Scl	𓅃	Fine, large, cigar-shaped galaxy. Requires dark sky. Member of Sculptor Group.
Mizar & Alcor	UMa	✸	Good eyesight or binoculars reveals 2 stars. Not a binary. Mizar has a mag 4 companion.

Telescopic Objects

γ Andromedae	And	✸	Attractive double star. Bright orange star with mag 5 blue companion. Sep=9.8".
γ Arietis	Ari	✸	Impressive looking double blue-white star. Visible in a small telescope. Sep=7.8".
M67	Cnc	○	Contains 500+ stars mag 10 & fainter. One of the oldest clusters. Dist=2,350 ly.
η Cassiopeiae	Cas	✸	Yellow star mag 3.4 & orange star mag 7.5. Dist=19 ly. Orbit=480 years. Sep=12".
61 Cygni	Cyg	✸	Attractive double star. Mags 5.2 & 6.1 orange dwarfs. Dist=11.4 ly. Sep=28.4".
γ Delphini	Del	✸	Appear yellow & white. Mags 4.3 & 5.2. Dist=100 ly. Struve 2725 double in same field.
θ Eridani	Eri	✸	Striking blue-white double star. Mags 3.2 & 4.3. Visible in a small telescope. Sep=8.2".
β Monocerotis	Mon	✸	Triple star. Mags 4.6, 5.0 & 5.4. Requires telescope to view arc-shape. Sep=7.3".
2264	Mon	○	Christmas Tree Cluster. Associated with the Cone Nebula. Dist=2,450 ly.
ω Orionis	Ori	✸	Superb multiple star. 2 mag 7 stars one side, mag 9 star on other. Struve 761 triple in field.
M1	Tau	□	Crab Nebula. Remnant from supernova which was visible in 1054. Dist=6,500 ly.
M33	Tri	𓅃	Fine face-on spiral galaxy. Requires a large aperture telescope. Dist=2.3 million ly.
M81	UMa	𓅃	Beautiful spiral galaxy visible with binoculars. Easy to see in a telescope.
M82	UMa	𓅃	Close to M81 but much fainter and smaller.

JANUARY DAILY CELESTIAL CALENDAR

1 The Moon is at Perigee (223,910 miles from Earth), 1:44 A.M. PST

2 Asteroid Harmonia is at opposition, 7 A.M. PST

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3 Full Moon occurs at 2:03 A.M. PST

3 Earth is at perihelion (91.4 million miles from the Sun), 9 A.M. PST

3 The Moon passes 4 deg north of Jupiter, 2 P.M. PST

3 Quadrantid Meteor Shower peaks

6 Venus is in superior conjunction, 9 A.M. PST

6 The Moon passes 0.5 deg north of Regulas, 9 A.M. PST

9 Mars is in conjunction with the Sun, 4 A.M. PST

10 Jupiter is at opposition 1 A.M. PST

10 Last Quarter Moon occurs 7:48 A.M. PST

13 The Moon is at apogee (251,928 miles from Earth), 1:47 P.M. PST

14 The Moon passes 0.6 deg south of Antares,12 Noon PST

18 New Moon occurs at 11:52 A.M. PST

21 Mercury is in superior conjunction, 8 A.M. PST

23 The Moon passes 4 deg north of Saturn, 5 A.M. PST

23 Pluto is in conjunction with the Sun, 2 A.M. PST

23 The Moon passes 4 deg north of Neptune, 8 A.M. PST

23 Asteroid Nysa is at opposition, 9 A.M. PST

25 First Quarter Moon occurs at 8:47 P.M. PST

27 The Moon passes 5 deg north of Uranus 11 A.M. PST

28 Asteroid Vesta is in conjunction with the Sun, 12 Noon PST

29 The Moon is at Perigee (227,341 miles from Earth), 1:46 P.M. PST

30 The Moon passes 4 deg north of Jupiter, 6 P.M. PST

2026 New Moons

- January 18th, 2026
- February 17th, 2026
- March 18th, 2026
- April 17th, 2026
- May 16th, 2026
- June 14th, 2026
- July 14th, 2026
- August 12th, 2026
- September 10th, 2026
- Nov 08th, 2026
- October 10th, 2026
- Dec 08th, 2026

Star Parties for Red Rock Ricardo Station

Brown Road Star Parties

Location of Brown Road Star Parties found on page 8

Maturango Museum

Quarter Moon Star Party at Maturango -

Quarter Moon Star Party

Quarter Moon Star Party at Maturango - Jan 24

Club Information

Monthly Skywatchers Newsletter.

Our newsletter is sent by email once a month to those who have subscribed. You do not have to be a member. Subscribe at a meeting or online at ChinaLakeAstro.org/subscribe

Annual Membership Dues

- Individual $25.00 per year.
- Family $ 40
- Youth 18 & under $10

Officers

PRESIDENT – Ralph Paonessa

VICE-PRESIDENT – Keith Weisz

SECRETARY – Vacant

TREASURER – Roger Brower

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Ted Hodgkinson ghodkinson@sbcglobal.net

Club Information

Meetings of the China Lake Astronomical Society are held at the Maturango Museum 7:00 P.M. on the first Monday evening of each month, except when the first Monday is a holiday.

WESTERN AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS WEB SITE http://www.waastro.org/