





Northern Berkshire Astronomical Society

Founded 2023 | North Adams Public Library | North Adams, MA

This Month

Planets return and the first meteor shower of the season.

The Moon

-  - Oct 2
-  - Oct 10
-  - Oct 17: "Hunter" Moon
-  - Oct 24

Planets

Mercury: behind the Sun

Venus: sets evening twilight

Mars: rises ~11:30PM - Gem

Jupiter: rises ~9:00PM - Tau

Saturn: almost all night - Aqr

Uranus: rises ~7:30PM - Tau

Neptune: all night - Psc

Deep Sky Objects

Easy (binoculars): Andromeda (M31), Triangulum (M33), Double Cluster, M 2,

Moderate (small telescopes): M 72, Iris Nebula, NGC 891

Challenges: Helix, NGC 1499, M 78

Late-Night Meteors

Late October is the first of the main Fall meteor showers - the Orionids.

Though the waning Gibbous Moon will plague dark skies, this

shower - associated with Halley's Comet - is somewhat variable both in the numbers seen and even when peak activity happens: normally on the 21st-22nd but can be as late as the 28th but sporadic meteors can happen all month and into early Nov.



Twilight Challenge!



Near the end of October - just after sunset (before 7PM) - you might be able to glimpse Venus low on the horizon and maybe this year's possibly naked-eye comet C/2023 A1 low on the W-SW horizon!



This Month's Image

The Pacman Nebula (NGC 281) in Cassiopeia is 9.2 kly away in the Perseus Spiral Arm (outer to the Sun), surrounding an open cluster with a dark wedge. Other small dark blotches are Bob globules of dense dust and gas that might be "star-forming cocoons".

Interacting

Check out our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nberkastro>

and join us at our next meetings: Oct 2nd, Nov 6th, and Dec 4th at 6 PM at the North Adams Public Library.

Imaging the Skies

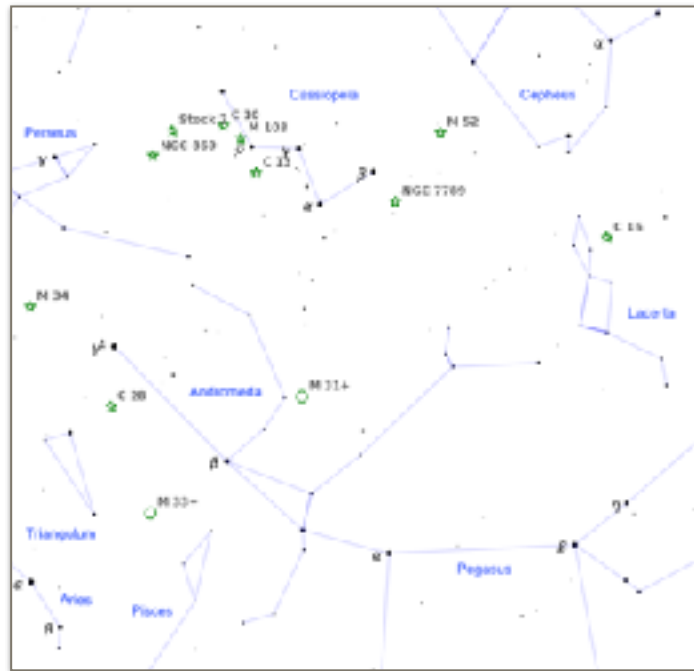
Wed 10/2 6PM - Our October meeting will feature a talk on "Citizen Science" in astronomy.

Notchview Observing

The folks from Arunah Hill are hosting public observing events at Notchview in Windsor MA!

Dates: Oct 5, and Nov 2.

Binocular Fall Tour



Here's a challenge for finding several open clusters (and a couple of galaxies) using binoculars. Most of these should stand out under moon-less dark skies:

Starting in Cassiopeia, just scanning around the "W" you encounter dozens of clusters:

- the very rich NGC 7789 and M 52;
- M 103 and C 13 (NGC 457) are particularly colorful;
- Caldwell objects 10 (NGC 663), 13 (NGC 457), 16 (NGC 7243) and 28 (NGC 752) are large and open, as is M 34.
- Stock 2 is very large and bright.

NGC 869 and NGC 884 are the Perseus "Double Cluster" - always a favorite.

Finally, the two star galaxies of the Fall: the slightly challenging Triangulum (M 33, due to its low surface brightness), and of course Andromeda (M 31; the two satellite galaxies M 32 and M 110 should also be visible).

There are many others, especially along the Milky Way stretching across Cepheus and Cassiopeia, and into Perseus.