





# 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

-  - Nov 1
-  - Nov 9
-  - Nov 15: "Beaver" Moon
-  - Nov 23

## Planets

Mercury, evening twilight

Venus: SW after sunset

Mars: rises ~9PM - Cnc

Jupiter: rises ~6PM - Tau

Saturn: sets after 12AM - Aqr

Uranus: up all night - Tau

Neptune: sets 2AM - Psc

## Deep Sky Objects

**Easy** (binoculars): M 15, Pleiades, Double Cluster

**Moderate** (small telescopes): NGC 891, M 33, NGC 752

**Challenges**: C 43, C 44, Stephan's Quintet, Deer Lick Group, M 74

## Twilight Inner Planet Challenge



In the last week of November, if you're lucky, you might catch both inner planets, Venus and Mercury low in the SW just after sunset. This image is for 11/17 at 5PM. While both planets are brighter than oth magnitude, and Venus should be easy to spot, Mercury will only be  $5^\circ$  above the horizon but with some careful scanning along the horizon (prob. with binoculars) you might be able to spy it! With a telescope, both show a gibbous phase: Venus will be ~70% illuminated, Mercury 60% illuminated.

## Meteor Showers

November is the time for the Taurid (peak 12 Nov) meteors followed by the Leonids (peak 17 Nov). Unfortunately both happen close to the Full Moon which will likely make seeing faint meteors impossible.



## This Month's Image

The Silver Coin Galaxy (C 65, NGC 253) tends to be missed in the Fall sky because it only reaches 20° altitude from our location hiding in Sculptor, but it's big and bright!

12 Mly away and the central galaxy in the "Sculptor Group" is has a brighter inner region and disk mottled appearance with dust patches: it is experiencing significant star formation.

There are several other bright galaxies hugging the southern horizon in this part of the sky: if conditions permit, take up the challenge of finding them!

## Interacting

Check out our Facebook Group

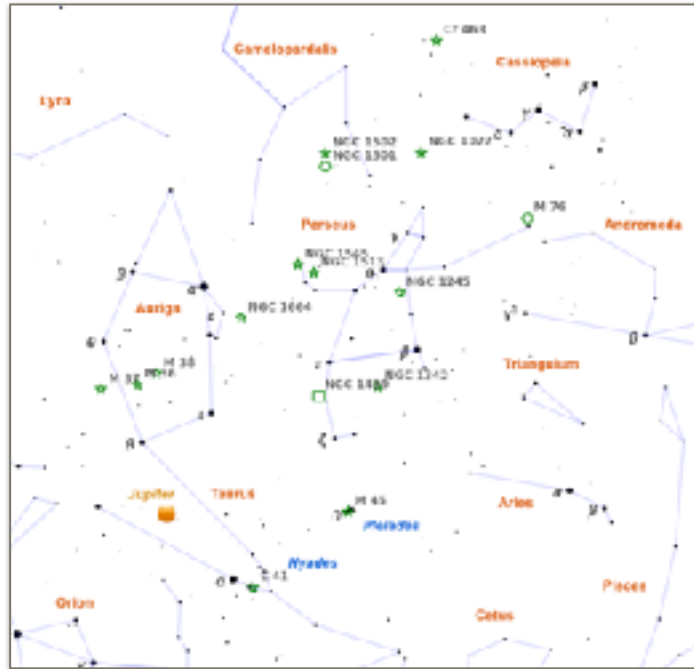
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nberkastro>

and join us at our next meeting:  
Dec 4th at 6 PM at the North Adams Public Library.

## Notchview Observing

The last 2024 public observing event at Notchview in Windsor MA is on 11/2.

## Around Perseus



This month we're going to work around the sky centering on Perseus. Most of these objects are good for binoculars; a few will need small/moderate telescopes.

Starting in Cassiopeia and meandering East through Camelopardalis, Perseus, and Auriga (taking in the two main clusters in Taurus: the Hyades and Pleiades), we encounter:

- The Hyades (C 41) and Pleiades (M 45) are naked eye objects. Counting stars in the Pleiades is a fun task (both naked eye and with optical aid). The  $\alpha$  Persei cluster surrounds the bright star.
- Several large, bright clusters: 4-H (NGC 1664), Jolly Roger (NGC 1501), Patrick Starfish (NGC 1245), Little Scorpion (NGC 1342), and Running Man (NGC 1545). Collinder 463 (the Queen's Reflection) is large and pretty. Others don't have names: NGC 1027 and 1513.
- The three Messier objects in Auriga (M 36, 37, and 38) are popular in both binoculars and small telescopes.
- Finally, NGC 1499 - the California Nebula - is a challenge to detect with binoculars, but shows more presence and detail as you climb in aperture. Imaging scopes can show the expanse of nebulosity.