

# **The Atlanta Astronomy Club**

## **Charlie Elliot Chapter**

### **Observing 101**

# Observing 101 - February

- Astro Events
- Featured Objects
- Target List

# Astro Events

Tonight:

- Sunset at 6:10 PM
- Moon sets at 8:47 PM
- Jupiter sets at 9:46 PM
- Saturn rises at 10:47 PM
- Uranus sets at 9:25 PM
- Neptune sets at 7:02 PM

# Astro Events

Tomorrow morning:

- Mercury rises at 6:53 AM
- Venus rises at 4:37 AM
- Pluto rises at 4:47 AM
- Sunrise at 7:27 AM

# Our Solar System the week of February 5 -11

- Mercury - Lost in the glow of sunrise
- Venus - Visible in the SE before sunrise
- Mars - Hidden in the suns glare
- Jupiter - Visible in the SW after sunset
- Saturn - Visible in the South after midnight
- Uranus - In the SW after sunset  $5^{\circ}$  W of Jupiter
- Neptune – In the West at sunset near the horizon
- Pluto - East before sunrise in Sagittarius

# Astro Events

## This month's events ...

- Feb 2 - New moon 9:31 PM
- Feb 6 – Crescent moon 6° North of Jupiter
- Feb 18 - Full Moon at 3:36 AM
- Feb 20 - Near conjunction of Saturn, Spica, & moon
- Feb 25 – Antares a few degrees W of moon
- Feb 28 - Near conjunction of Venus & moon

# Astro Events

## Next month's events ...

- Mar 4 – New moon at 3:46 PM
- March 5 - Next CE Chapter meeting

 Moon  
Feb 7

**Feb 5 – 7**  
*Shortly after dark*

Jupiter  


 Moon  
Feb 6

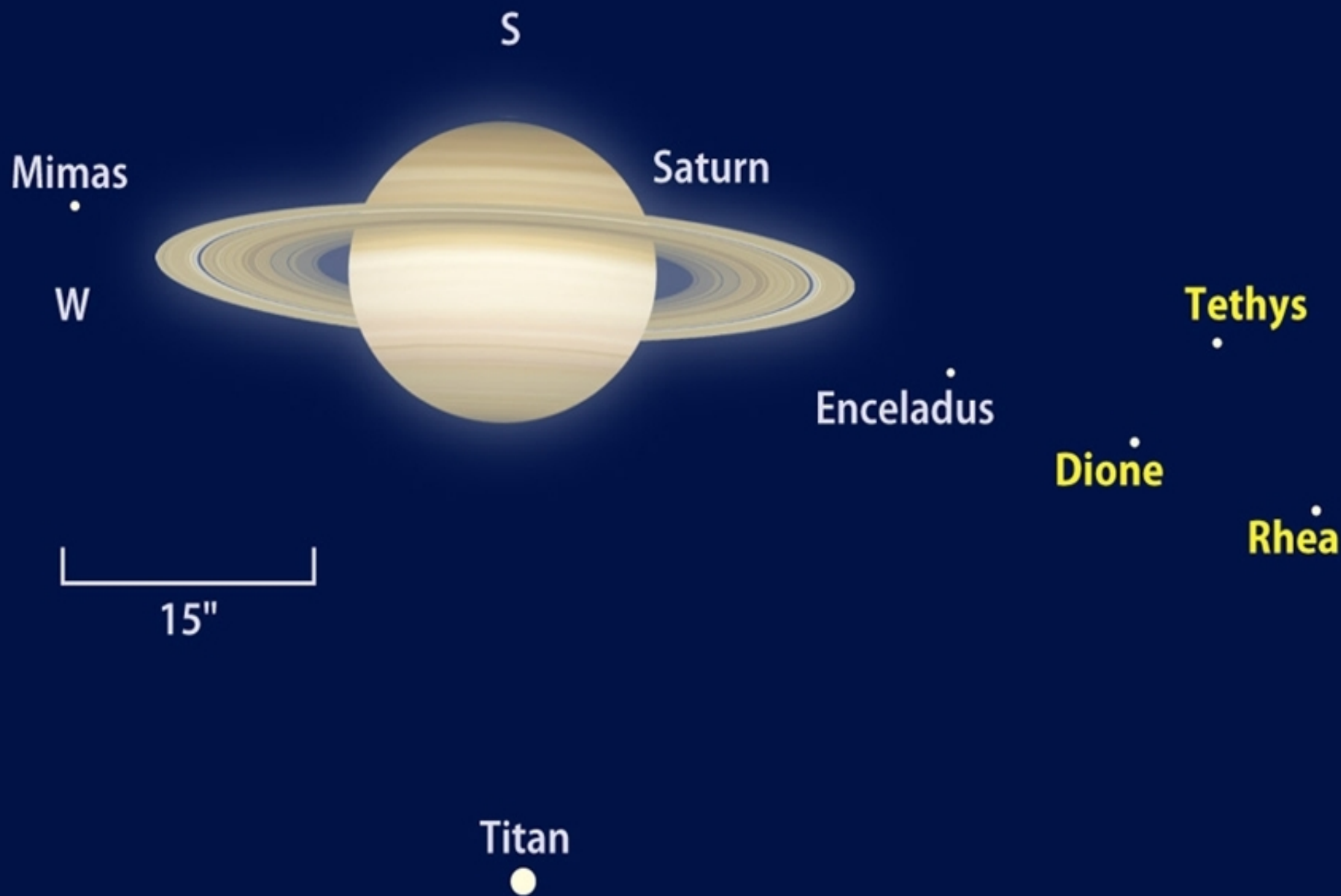
 Moon  
Feb 5

**Looking West**

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# Saturn on February 5, 4:30 A.M. EST



# Jupiter on February 5, 9:30 P.M. EST

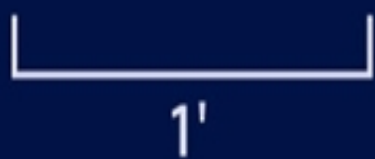


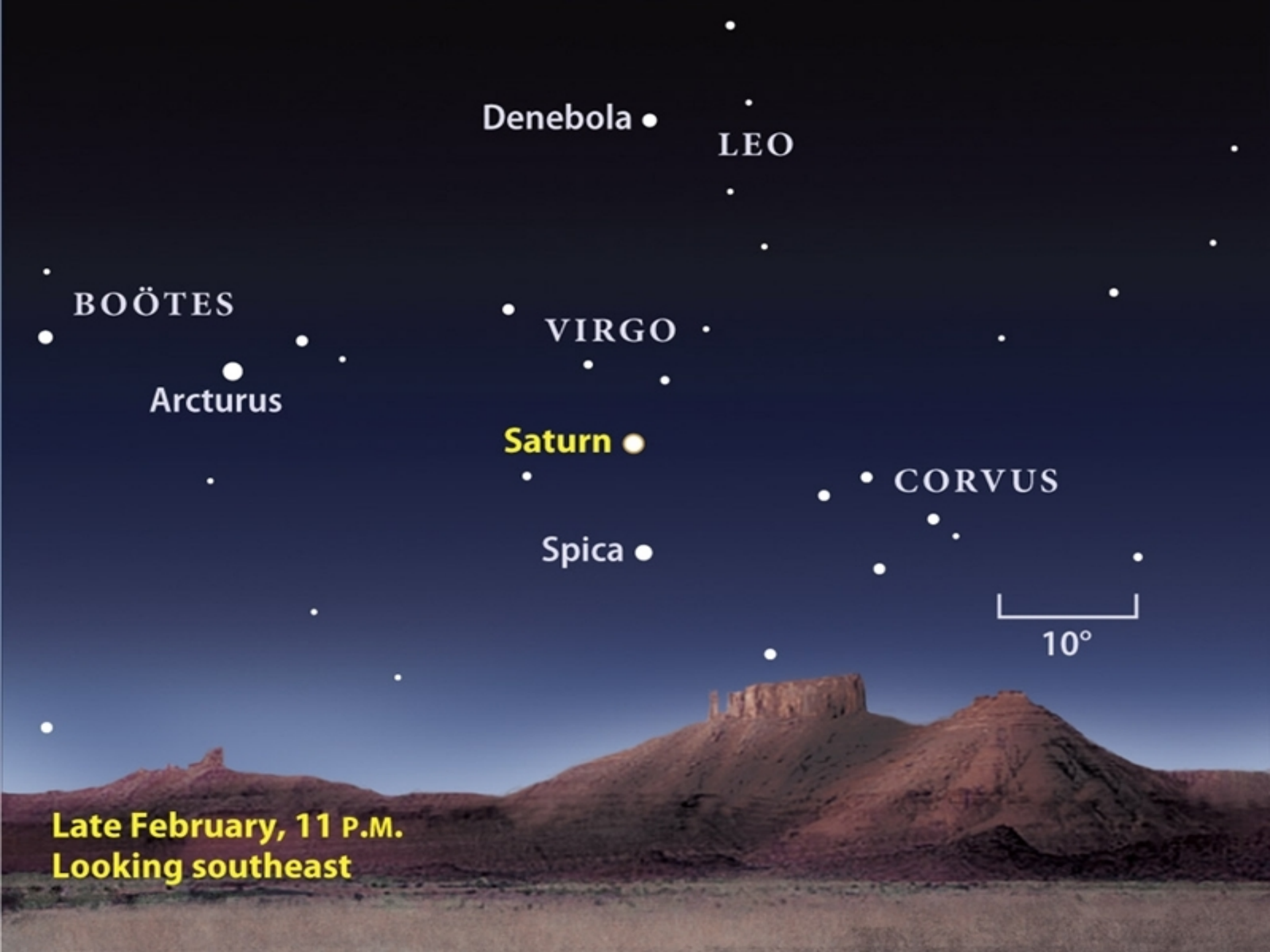
**Europa** •

**Io** •

**Ganymede** •

**Callisto** •





Denebola ●

LEO

BOÖTES

VIRGO

Arcturus ●

Saturn ●

CORVUS

Spica ●

┌───┐  
10°

Late February, 11 P.M.  
Looking southeast



OPHIUCHUS

AQUILA

Altair ●

Antares ●

SCORPIUS

Moon

Venus

SAGITTARIUS

Shaula

10°

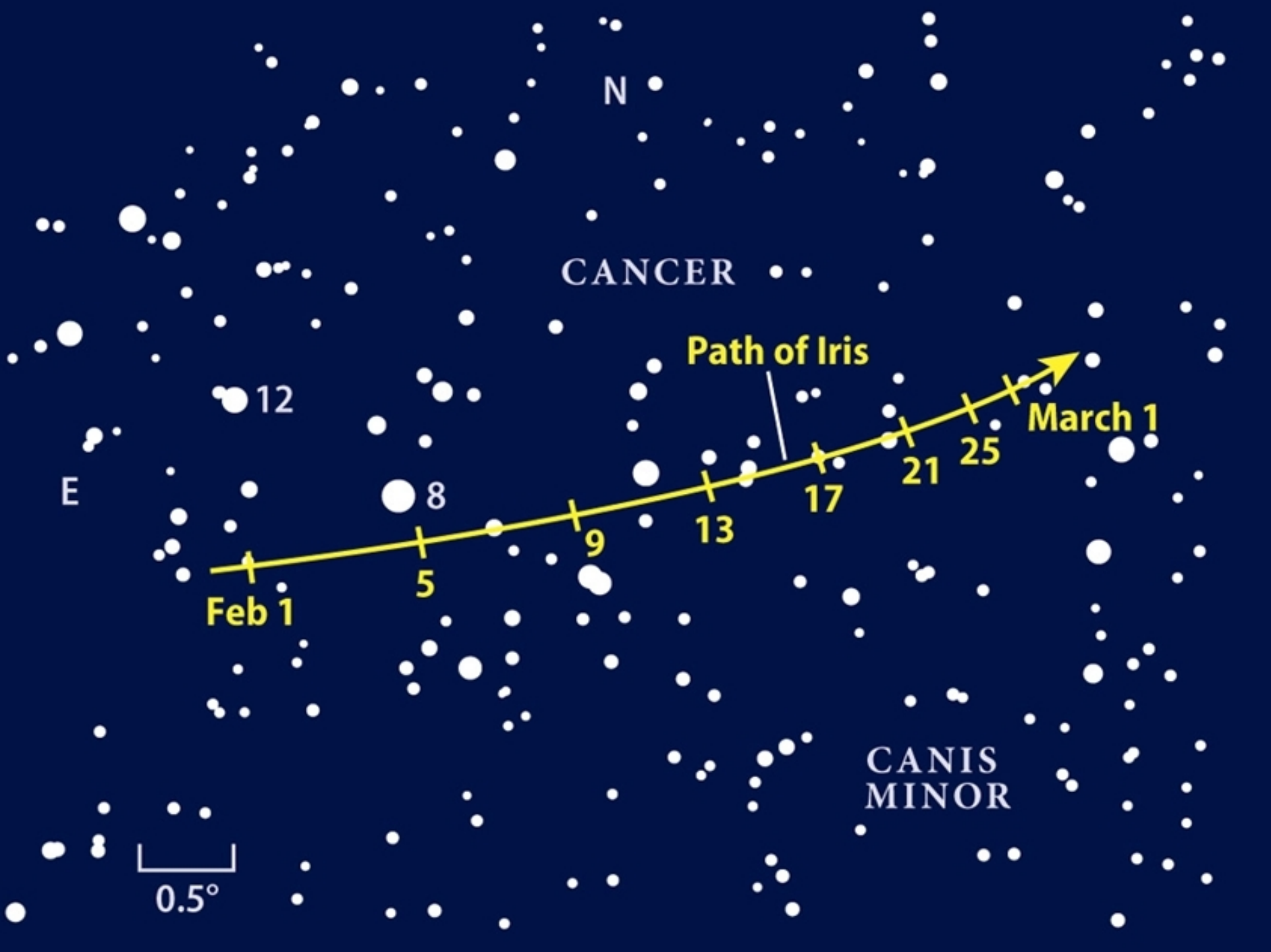
February 28, 1 hour before sunrise  
Looking southeast

# Astro Events

## Other events in February:

- Zodiacal Light February 19 – March 6
- Asteroid Iris crosses Cancer
- Say Goodbye to Comet 103P/Hartley





N

CANCER

Path of Iris

12

March 1

E

8

13

17

21

25

Feb 1

5

9

CANIS  
MINOR



0.5°



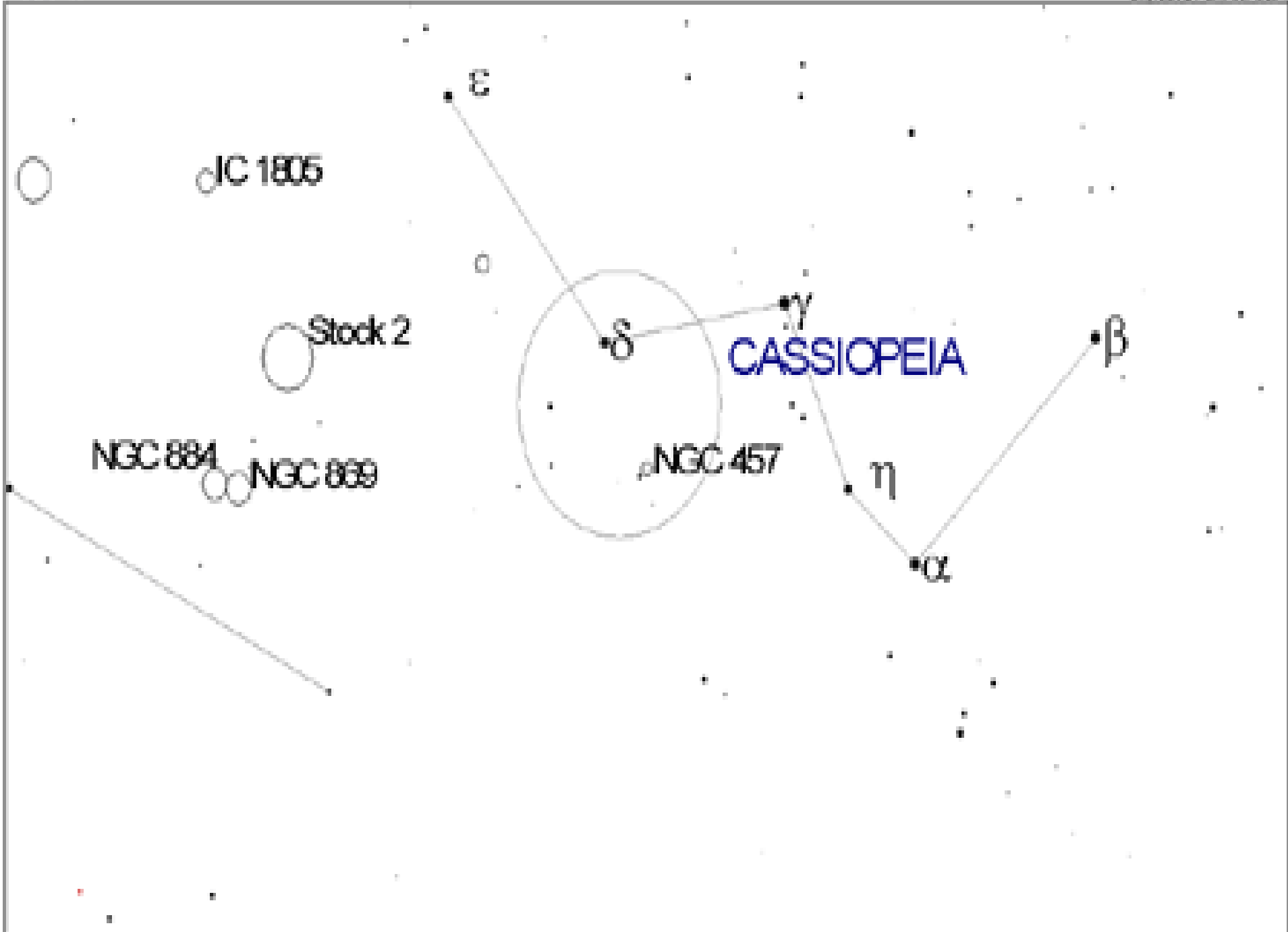


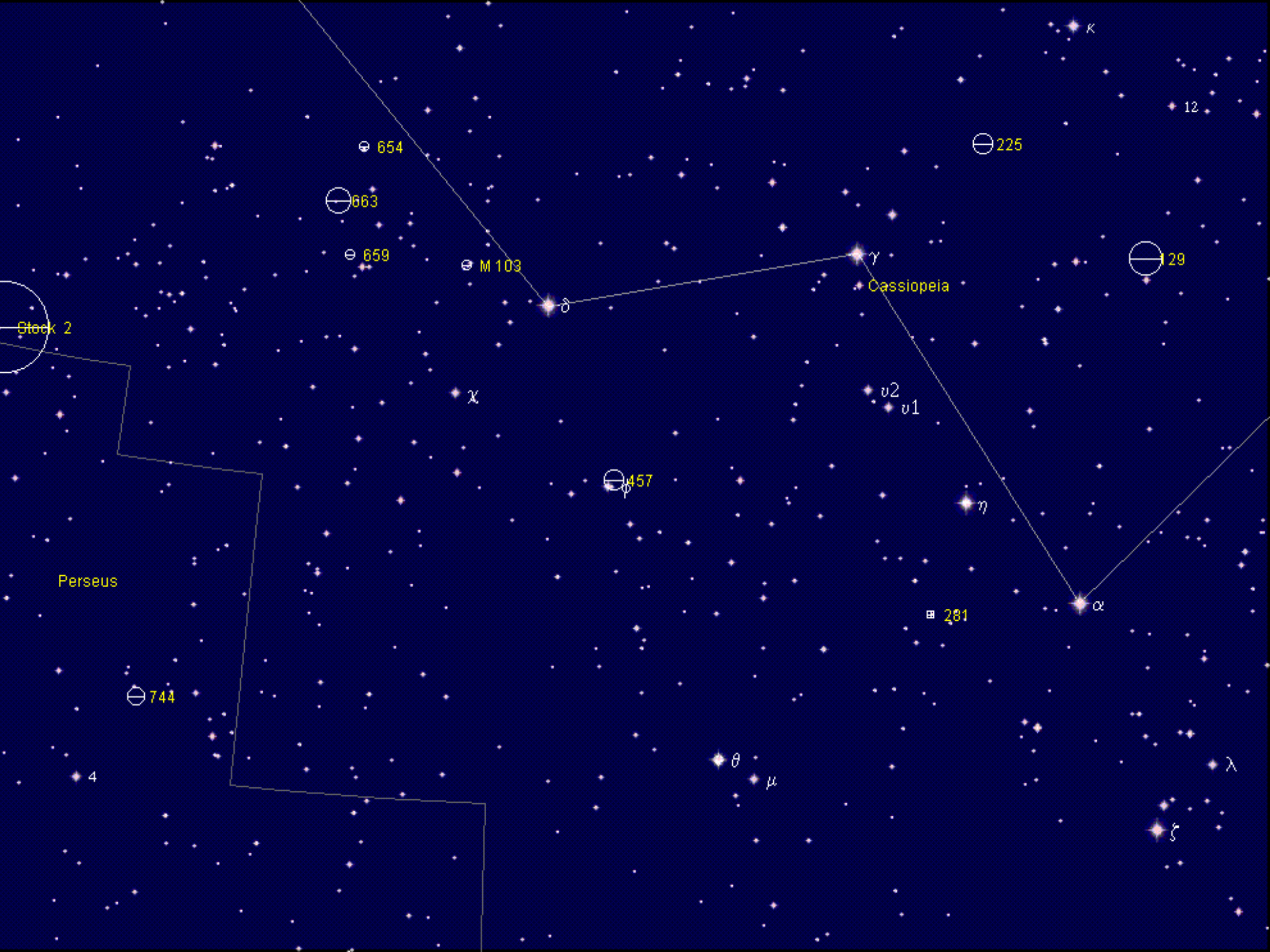
# Target List – Small Telescopes & Binoculars

Object	Type	Mag	Size	Constellation
M31	Galaxy	4.3	189'	Andromeda
M33	Galaxy	6.2	68'	Triangulum
M110	Galaxy	8.9	19'	Andromeda
M1	SNR	8.4	6'	Taurus
M42	Diffuse Nebula	4.0	66'	Orion
M34	Open Cluster	6.0	35'	Perseus
M35	Open Cluster	5.5	28'	Gemini
M36	Open Cluster	6.5	12'	Auriga
M37	Open Cluster	6.0	24'	Auriga
M38	Open Cluster	7.0	21'	Auriga
M45	Open Cluster	1.6	120'	Taurus
NGC457	Open Cluster	6.4	13'	Cassiopeia

# NGC 457

- Open star cluster in the constellation Cassiopeia
- Referred to as the Owl Cluster, The ET Cluster, and the Kachina Doll Cluster
- Discovered by Friedrich Wilhelm Herschel in 1787
- Consists of over 100 stars at estimated distance of 7,900 light years
- The two brightest stars Phi-1 and Phi-2 Cassiopeiae can be imagined as eyes





κ

12

⊖ 225

⊖ 654

⊖ 663

⊖ 659

⊖ M 103

γ  
Cassiopeia

⊖ 29

δ

Stock 2

χ

ν2  
ν1

⊖ 457

η

Perseus

α

⊖ 281

⊖ 744

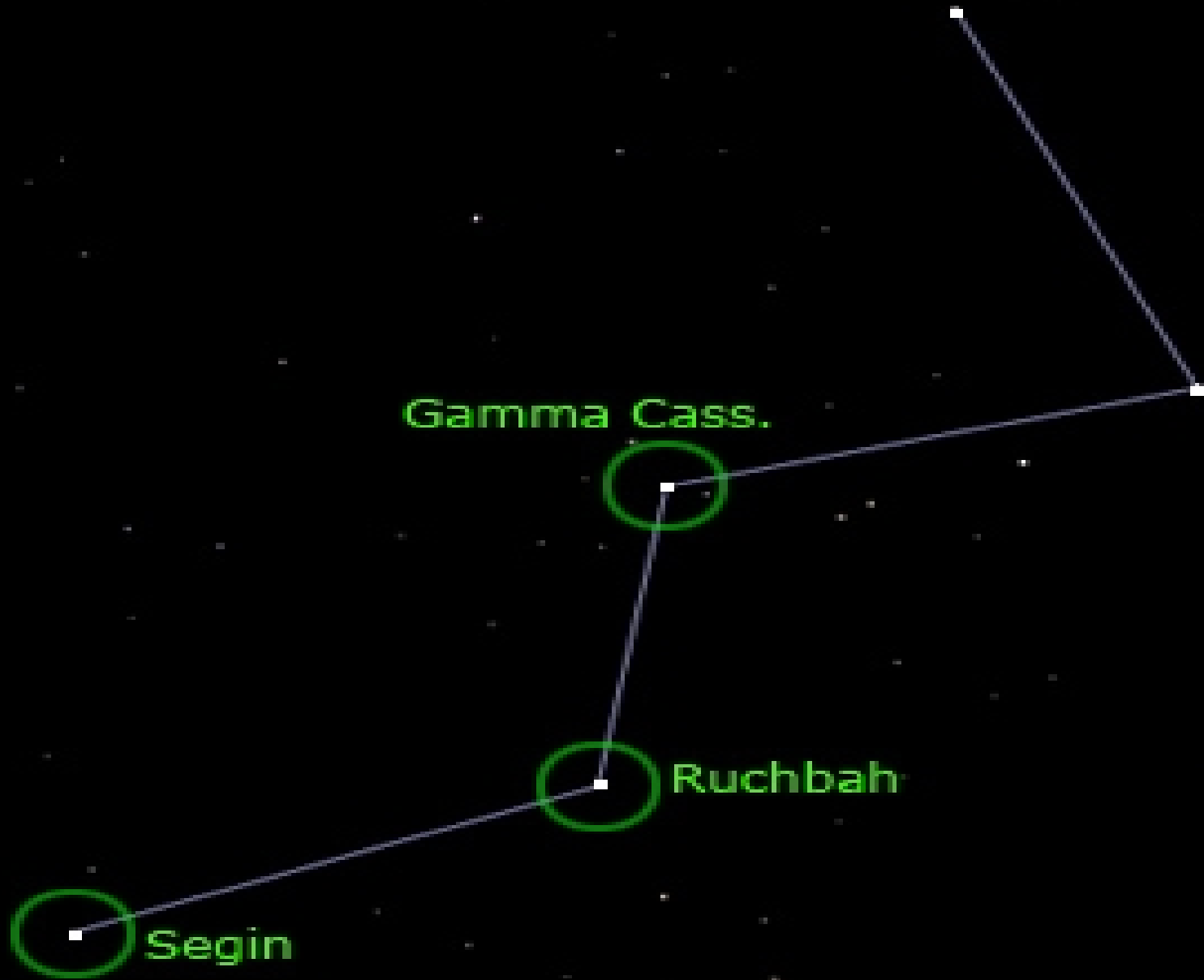
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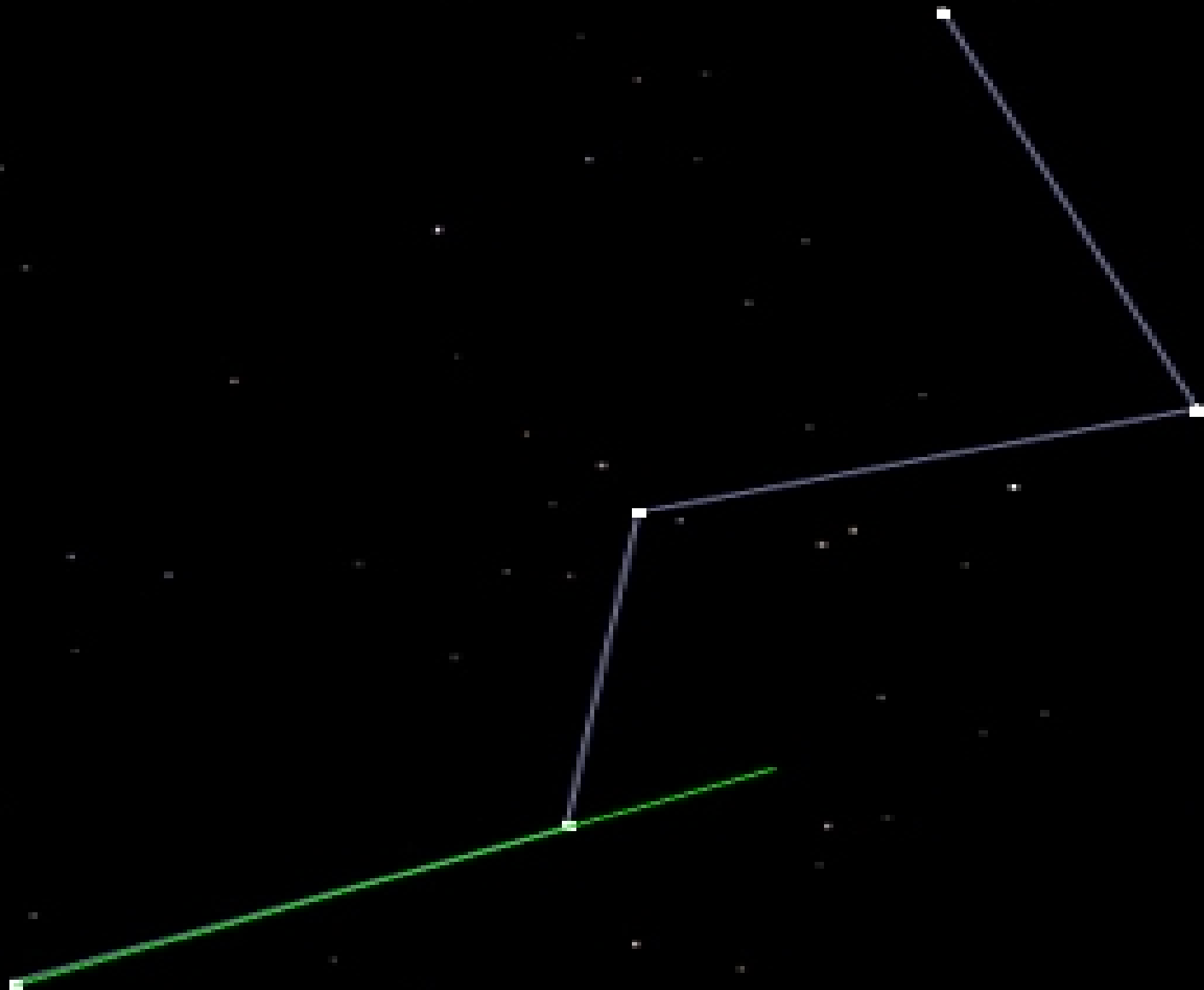
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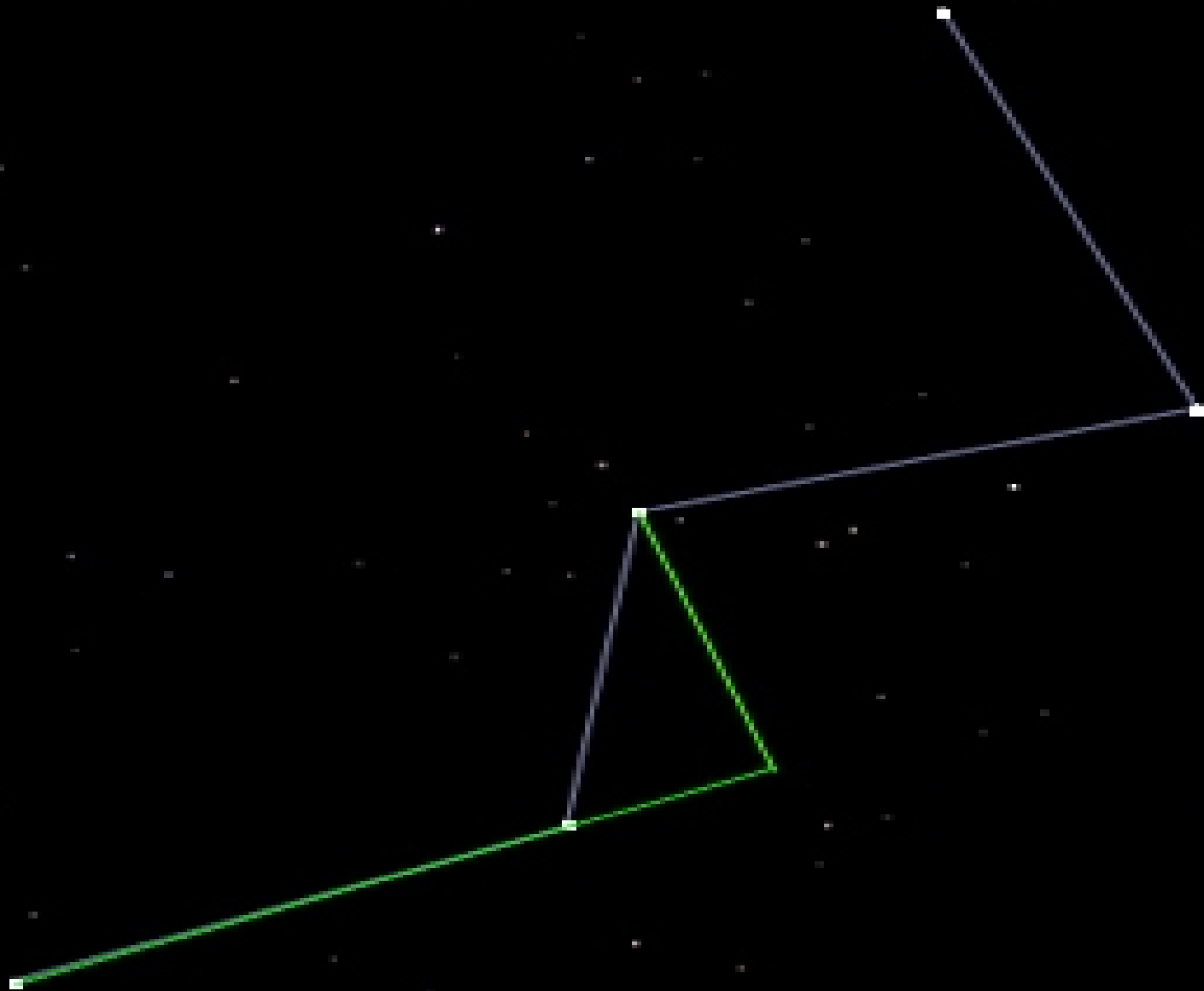
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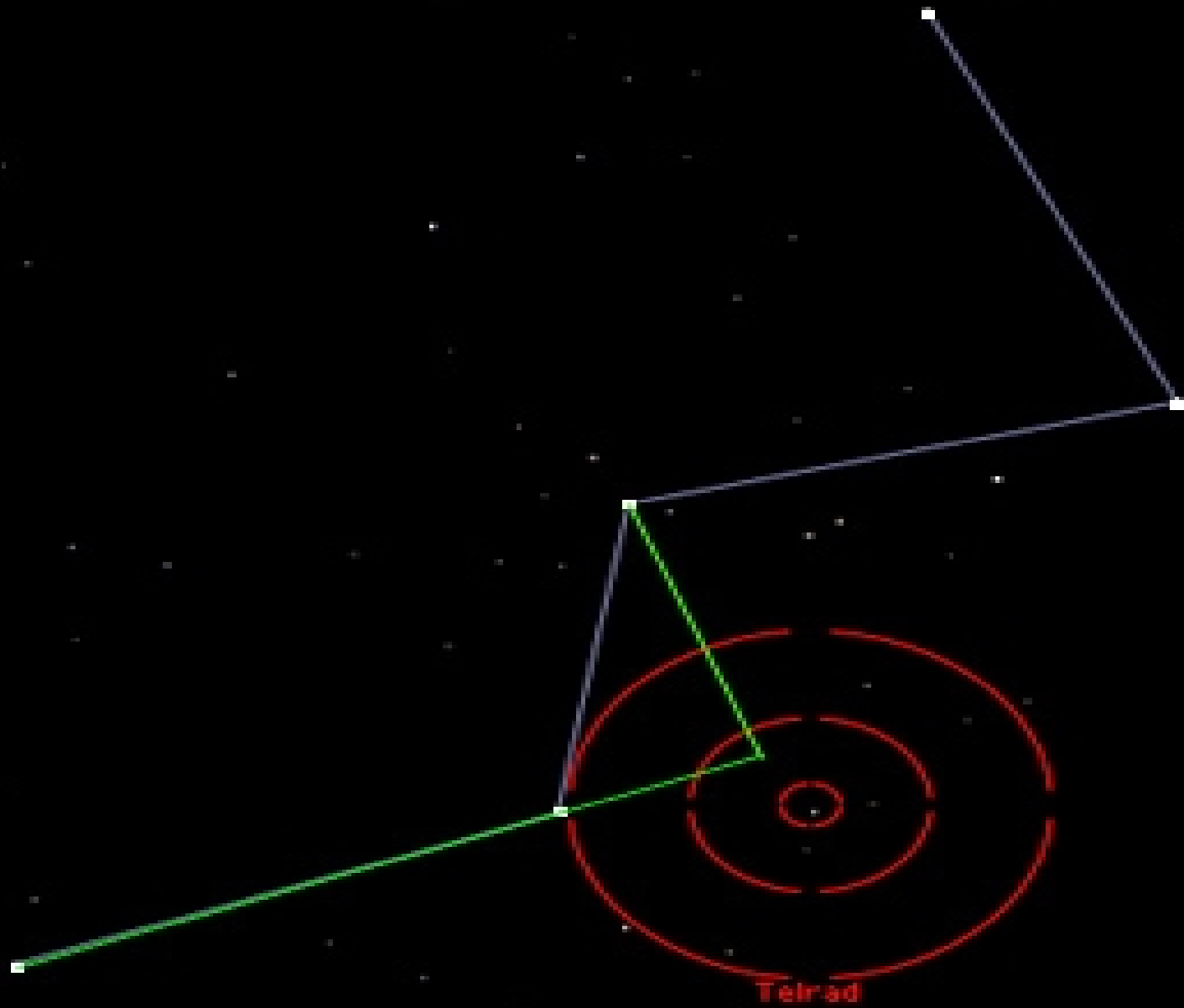
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ζ















# Web Links

- Astronomy Magazine  
[www.astronomy.com](http://www.astronomy.com)
- Sky & Telescope Magazine  
[www.skyandtelescope.com](http://www.skyandtelescope.com)
- The Old Farmer's Almanac  
[www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)
- Patio da Astronomia  
[www.astrosurf.com](http://www.astrosurf.com)
- Night Sky Info  
[www.nightskyinfo.com](http://www.nightskyinfo.com)
- Deep Sky Top 100  
[www.backyard-astro.com](http://www.backyard-astro.com)

**Clear Skies!**