

The Atlanta Astronomy Club

Charlie Elliot Chapter

Observing 101

Observing 101 - March

- Astro Events
- Target List
- Featured object

Astro Events

Tonight:

- Sunset at 6:35 PM
- Moon sets at 7:34 PM
- Mercury sets at 7:09 PM
- Jupiter sets at 8:25 PM
- Saturn rises at 8:51 PM
- Uranus sets at 7:42 PM

Astro Events

Tomorrow morning:

- Pluto rises at 3:00 AM
- Venus rises at 4:57 AM
- Sunrise at 6:57 AM

Our Solar System this week

- Mercury - Low in the west after sunset
- Venus - Low in the southeast before dawn
- Mars - Hidden in the Sun's glare
- Jupiter - Sets in the SW after sunset
- Saturn - Visible in the South after 9:00 PM
- Uranus - Hidden in the Sun's glare
- Neptune - Hidden in the Sun's glare
- Pluto - In the east before dawn - Sagittarius

Astro Events

This month's events ...

- Mar 5 - Mercury near thin crescent Moon
- Mar 6 – Jupiter left of crescent Moon
- Mar 13- Mercury near Jupiter at sunset
- Mar 19 - Full Moon
- Mar 20 - Vernal equinox begins at 7:21 PM
- Mar 22 – Mercury at greatest East elongation
- Mar 31 - Venus near crescent moon

Astro Events

Next month's events ...

- April 1 - Venus near crescent moon at dawn
- April 2 - Next CE Chapter meeting

Dusk, March 5–7

20 minutes after sunset

Moon
Mar 7



Jupiter



Moon
Mar 6

Moon
Mar 5



Mercury



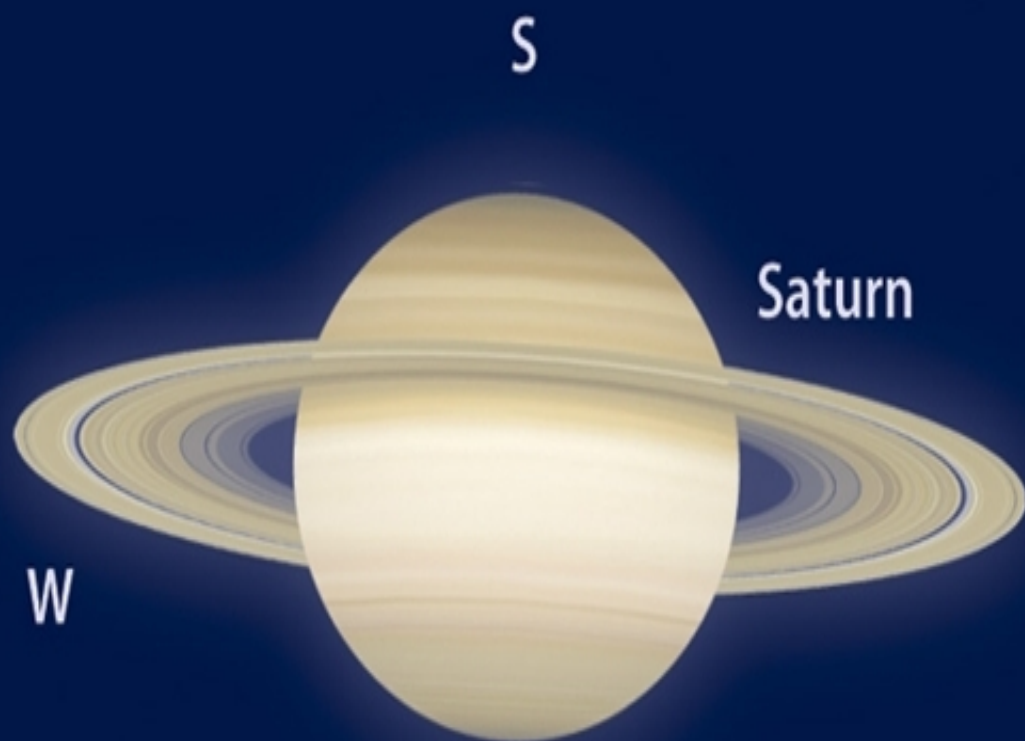
(Use binoculars)

Looking West

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Saturn on March 12, 10:45 P.M. EST



- **Enceladus**
- Tethys
- Dione

• Rhea

15"

ARIES

ANDROMEDA

CETUS

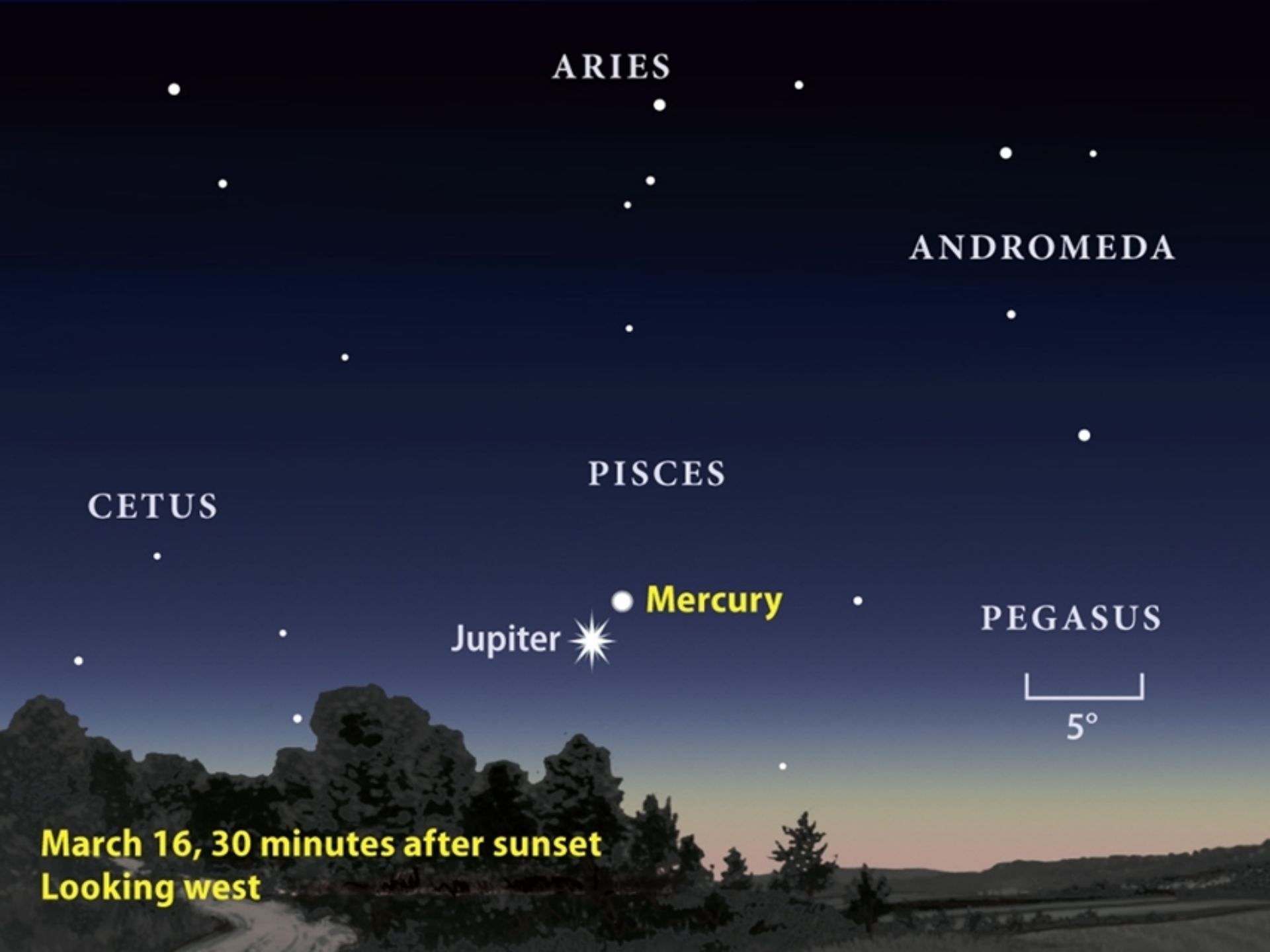
PISCES

Jupiter  Mercury

PEGASUS


5°

March 16, 30 minutes after sunset
Looking west





Asteroid Alert

Asteroid event in March:

- Mar 12 – Asteroid Juno at opposition
- Mar 14 - Asteroid Massalia at opposition
- Both asteroids in Leo will pass within 4°

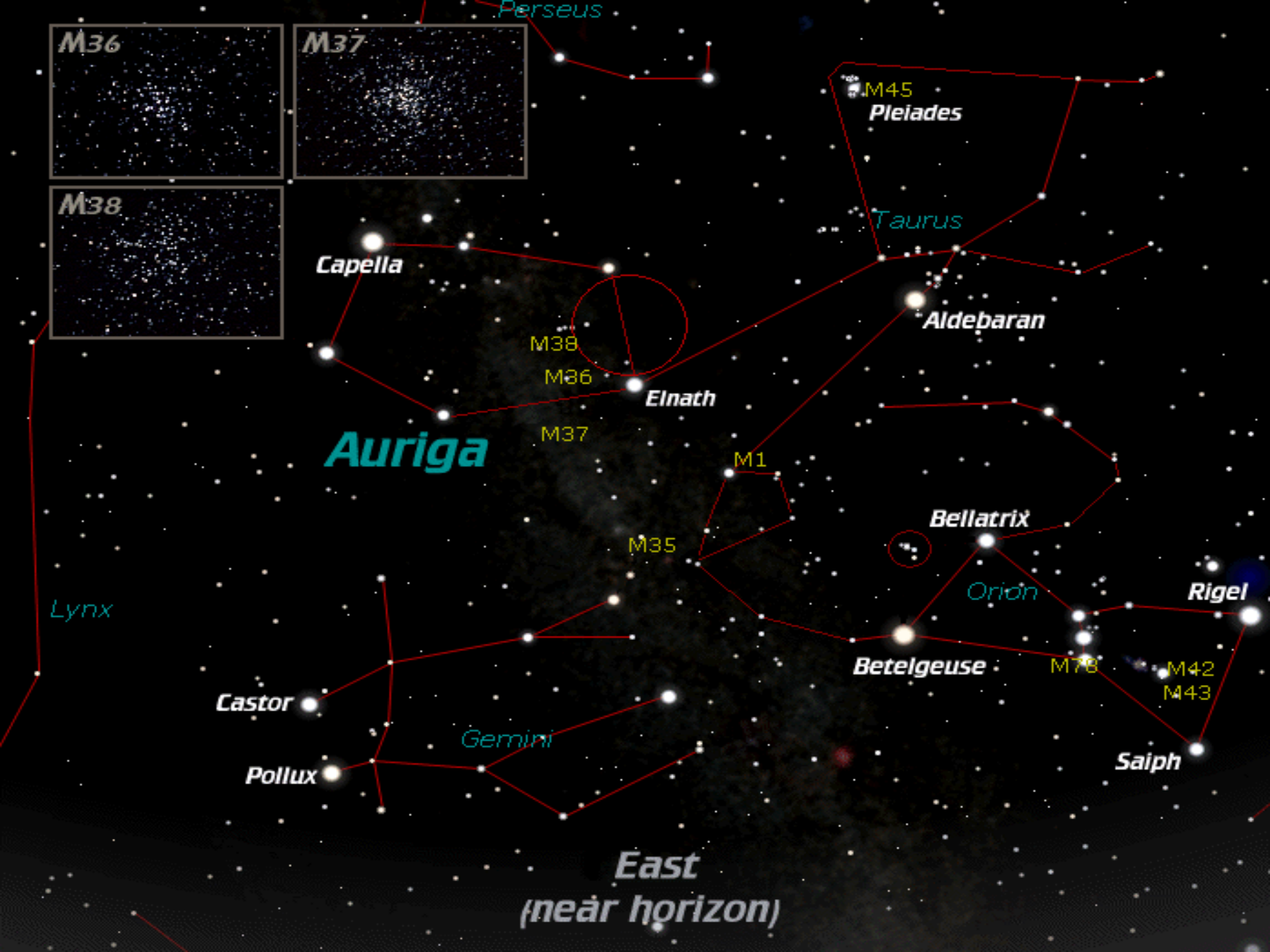


Target List – Small Telescopes & Binoculars

Object	Type	Mag	Size	Constellation
M81	Galaxy	7.8	25'	Ursa Major
M82	Galaxy	9.2	11'	Ursa Major
NGC2403	Galaxy	8.4	18'	Camelopardalis
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
NGC2392	Planetary Nebula	9.2	0.8'	Gemini

NGC 1931

- Mixed emission / reflection nebula with a small embedded open star cluster
- Located in the constellation Auriga approximately 1° west of M36
- Often referred to as a miniature version of the Orion Nebula or a false comet
- Approximate distance 7,000 light years
- Apparent magnitude 10.1 and size $3'$



M36

M37

M38

Perseus

M45
Pleiades

Taurus

Capella

Aldebaran

M38

M36

Elnath

M37

Auriga

M1

Bellatrix

Orion

Rigel

Lynx

M35

Betelgeuse

M78

M42

M43

Castor

Saiph

Gemini

Pollux

East
(near horizon)

AURIGA

Auriga

Menkalinan

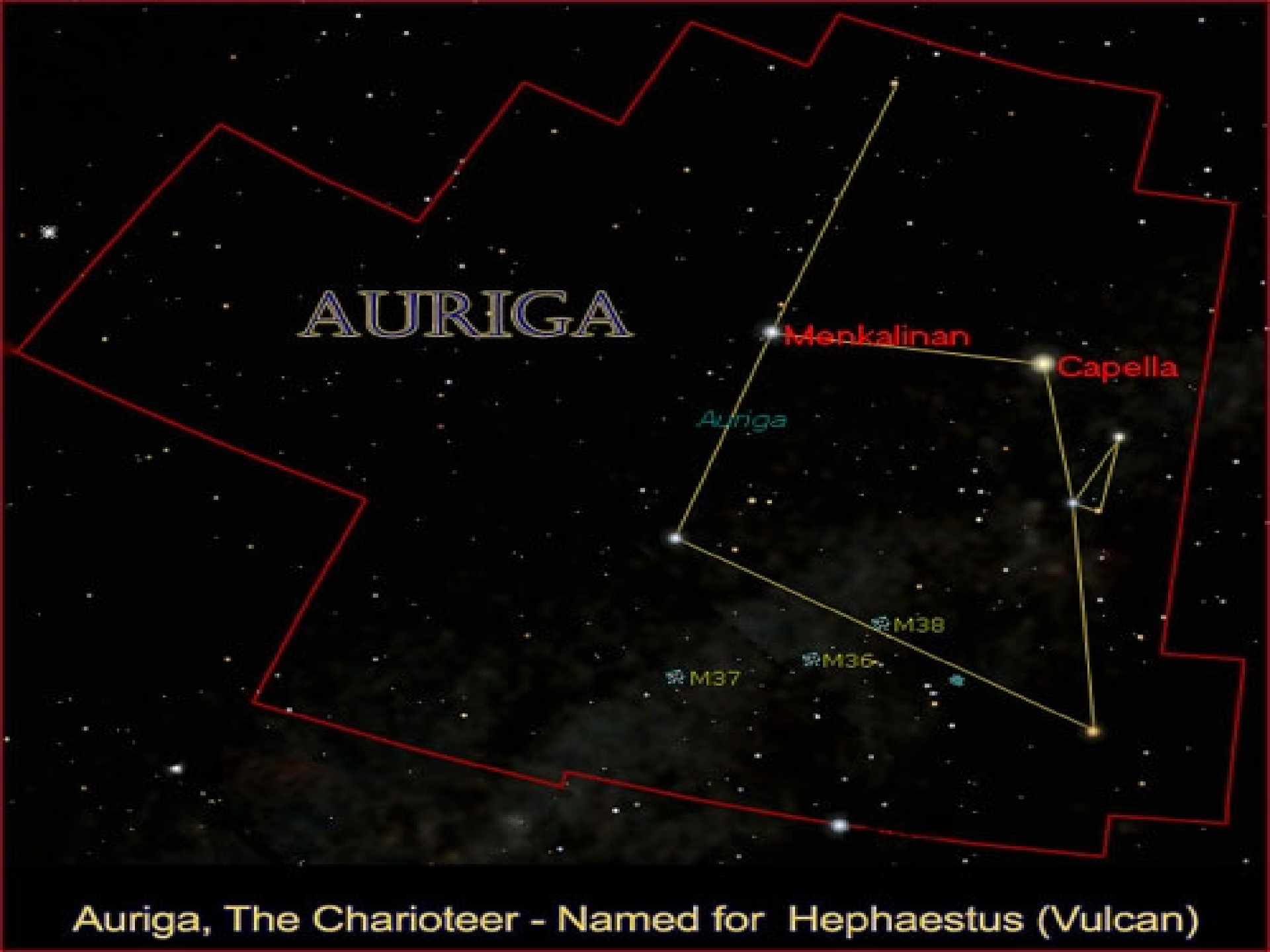
Capella

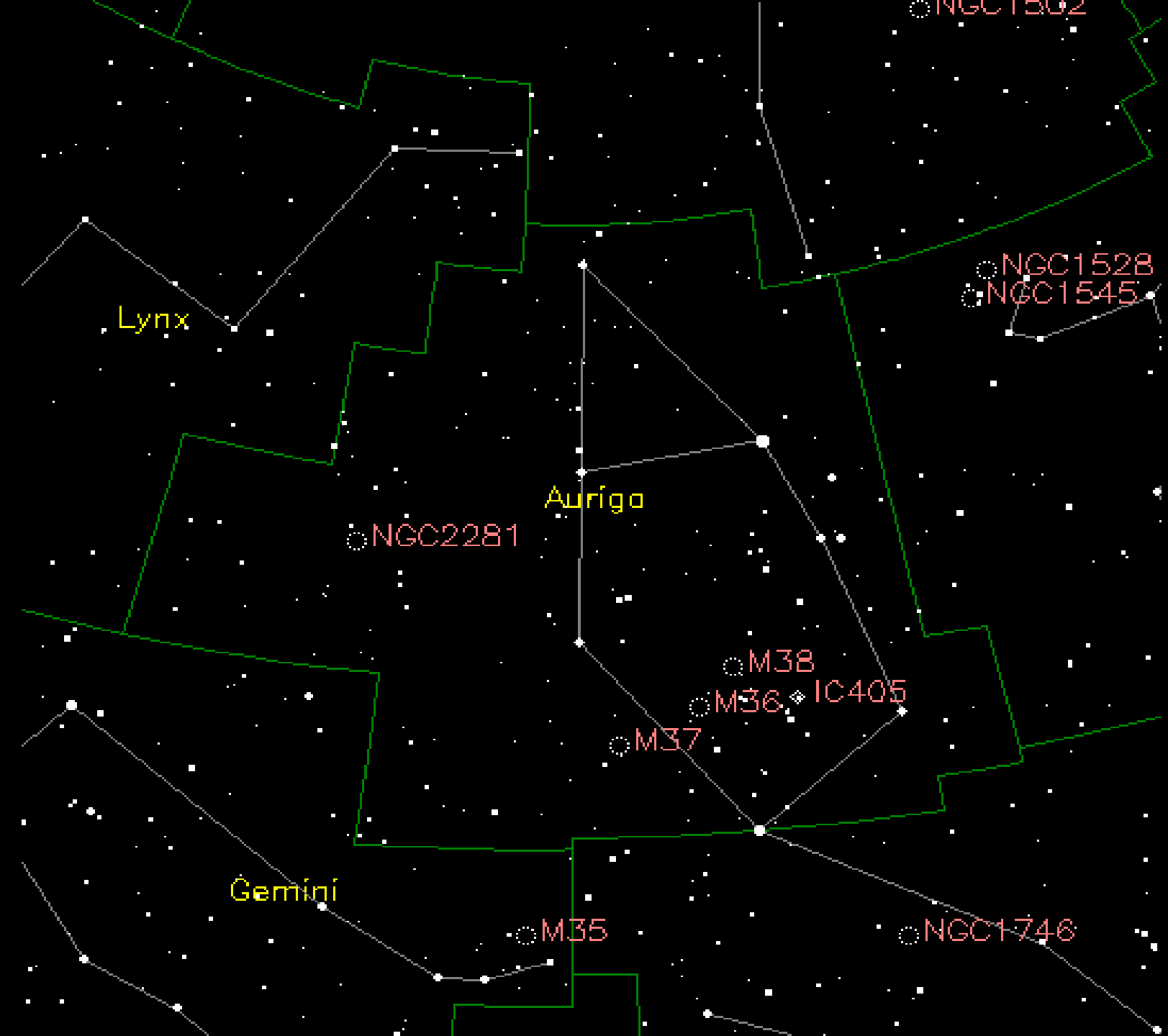
M38

M36

M37

Auriga, The Charioteer - Named for Hephaestus (Vulcan)







Web Links

- Astronomy Magazine
www.astronomy.com
- Sky & Telescope Magazine
www.skyandtelescope.com
- The Old Farmer's Almanac
www.almanac.com
- ASD Planetarium/ Starwatch
• www.astronomy.org/starwatch/
- A Shot in the dark
www.kiroastro.com

Clear Skies!