

The Atlanta Astronomy Club

Charlie Elliot Chapter

Observing 101

Observing 101 – May 2011

- Astro Events
- Target List
- Featured object

Astro Events

Tonight:

- Sunset at 8:23 PM
- Saturn rises 5:23 PM
- Pluto rises at 11:52 PM
- Moon sets at 12:31 AM

Astro Events

Tomorrow morning:

- Venus rises at 5:31 AM
- Mercury rises at 5:37 AM
- Jupiter rises at 5:37 AM
- Mars rises at 5:46 AM
- Sunrise at 6:40 AM

Our Solar System this week

- Mercury - Low in the east before sunrise
- Venus - Low in the east before sunrise
- Mars - Low in the east before sunrise
- Jupiter - Low in the east before sunrise
- Saturn - Visible in the southeast after sunset
- Uranus - Hidden in glow of dawn
- Neptune - Low in the E/SE before sunrise
- Pluto - South early morning in Sagittarius

Astro Events

This month's events ...

- May 10 - 1st quarter moon
- May 11– Venus 0.6° S of Jupiter 5:00 AM
- May 13 - Saturn near waxing gibbous moon
- May 17- Full Moon
- May 23 - 6 Saturn moons visible at 1:30 AM
- May 24 - Last quarter moon
- May 31 – Near conjunction at dawn of waning crescent Moon, Mercury, & Venus

Astro Events

Next month's events ...

- June 1 - New moon
- June 4 - Next CE Chapter meeting
- Comet Garrard soars through Aquarius

Dawn, May 8

30 minutes before sunrise



Mars

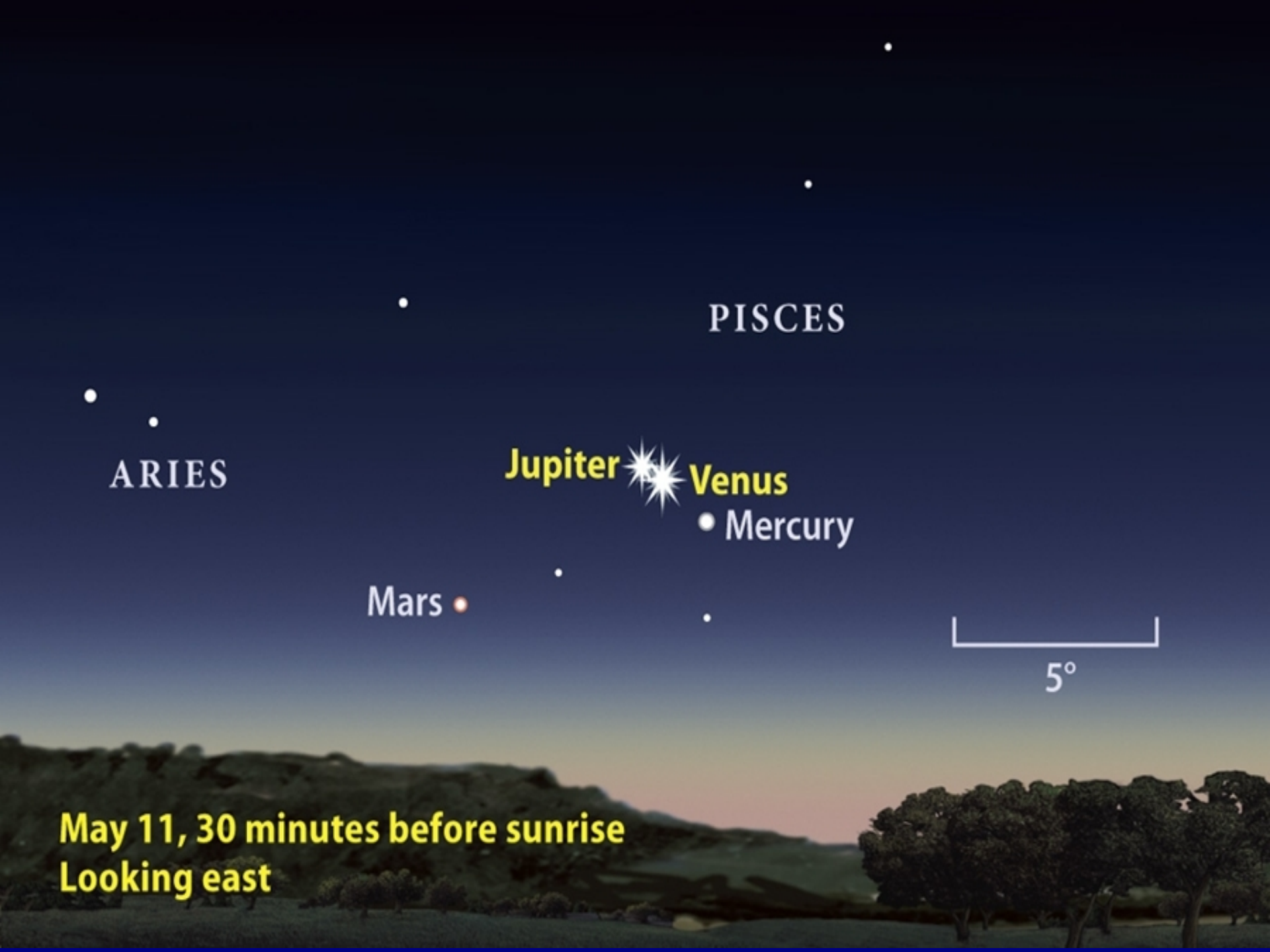
Jupiter

Venus

Mercury

Looking East

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PISCES

ARIES

Jupiter

Venus

Mercury

Mars

5°

May 11, 30 minutes before sunrise
Looking east

Planet Animation May 2011

- 30 second video

May 13 – 14

Around 10 pm



Just 2/3° apart!

Porrima

Saturn

VIRGO

Spica

Moon
May 13

Moon
May 14

CORVUS

Looking south, halfway up

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N

SAGITTARIUS

SAO 161540

Path of Pluto

E

May 1

6

11

16

21

26

31

0.05°



Saturn on May 23, 1:30 A.M. EDT

S

•
Iapetus

W

• **Titan**

Rhea •

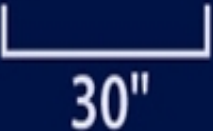
Tethys •



Saturn

• **Enceladus**

•
Dione





Target List – Small Telescopes & Binoculars

Object	Type	Mag	Size/Sep	Constellation
M51	Galaxy	8.9	11'	Canes Venatici
M63	Galaxy	9.3	12'	Canes Venatici
M64	Galaxy	9.3	10'	Coma Bernices
M81	Galaxy	7.8	25'	Ursa Major
M82	Galaxy	9.2	11'	Ursa Major
M101	Galaxy	8.2	28'	Ursa Major
Alula Australis	Double Star	4.4	3"	Ursa Major
Cor Caroli	Double Star	2.9	19"	Ursa Major
Mizar	Double Star	2.3	14"	Ursa Major
Polaris	Double Star	2.0	18"	Ursa Minor
M44	Open Cluster	4.0	95'	Cancer

Featured Object - M97

M97 – The Owl Nebula

- Planetary nebula in Ursa Major
- This nebula formed approximately 6,000 years ago and is 1,500 light years away
 - Discovered by Pierre Mechain in 1781
- The shape of this object is believed to be a cylindrical torus shell
 - The matter poor ends of the shell would correspond to the “eyes” of the owl





Ursa Major



○ M101 Pinwheel Galaxy

Whirlpool Galaxy
M51 ○

Sunflower Galaxy
M63 ○

URSA MAJOR
(THE BIG BEAR)

○ galaxy
⊙ nebula

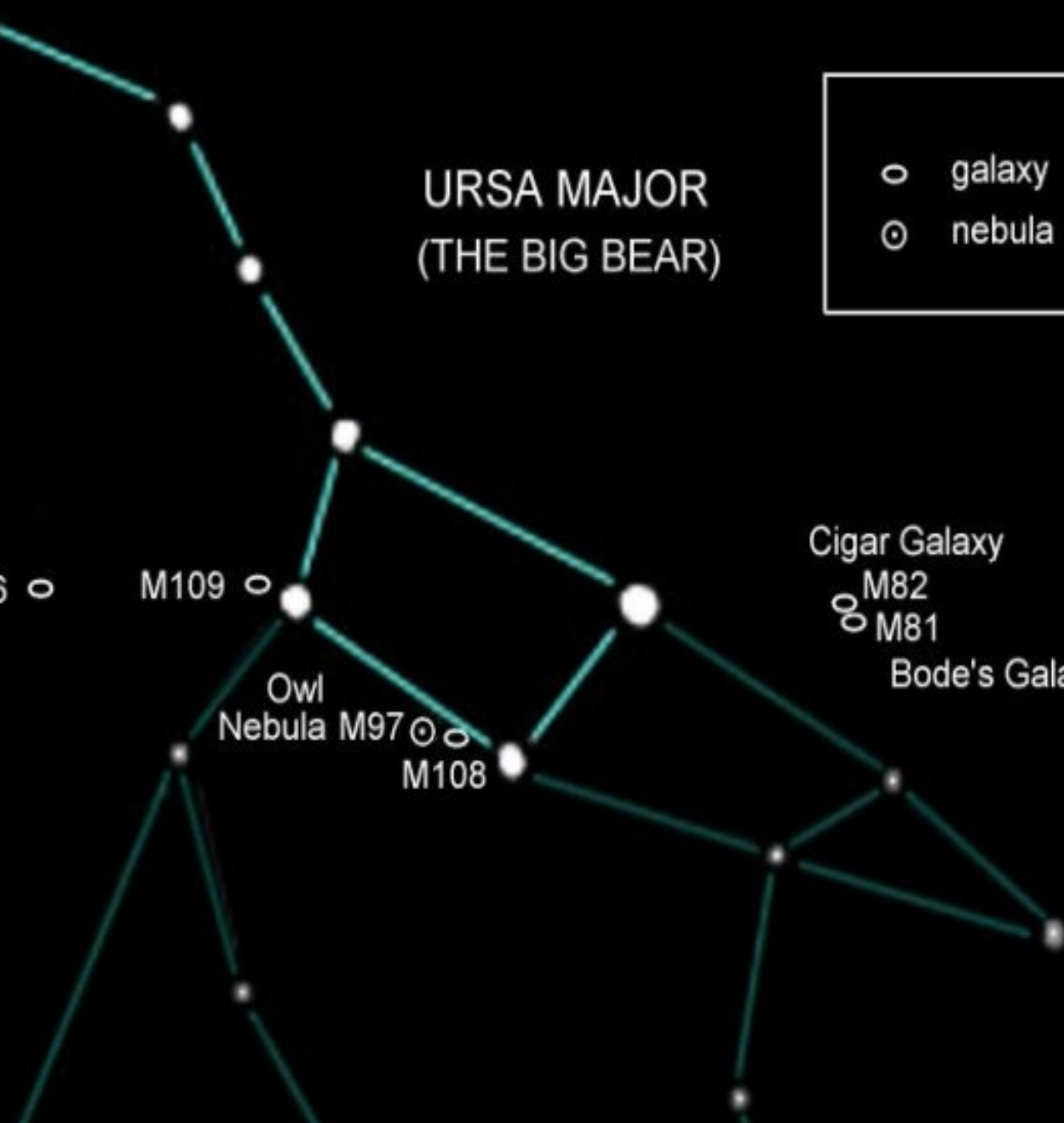
M94 ○

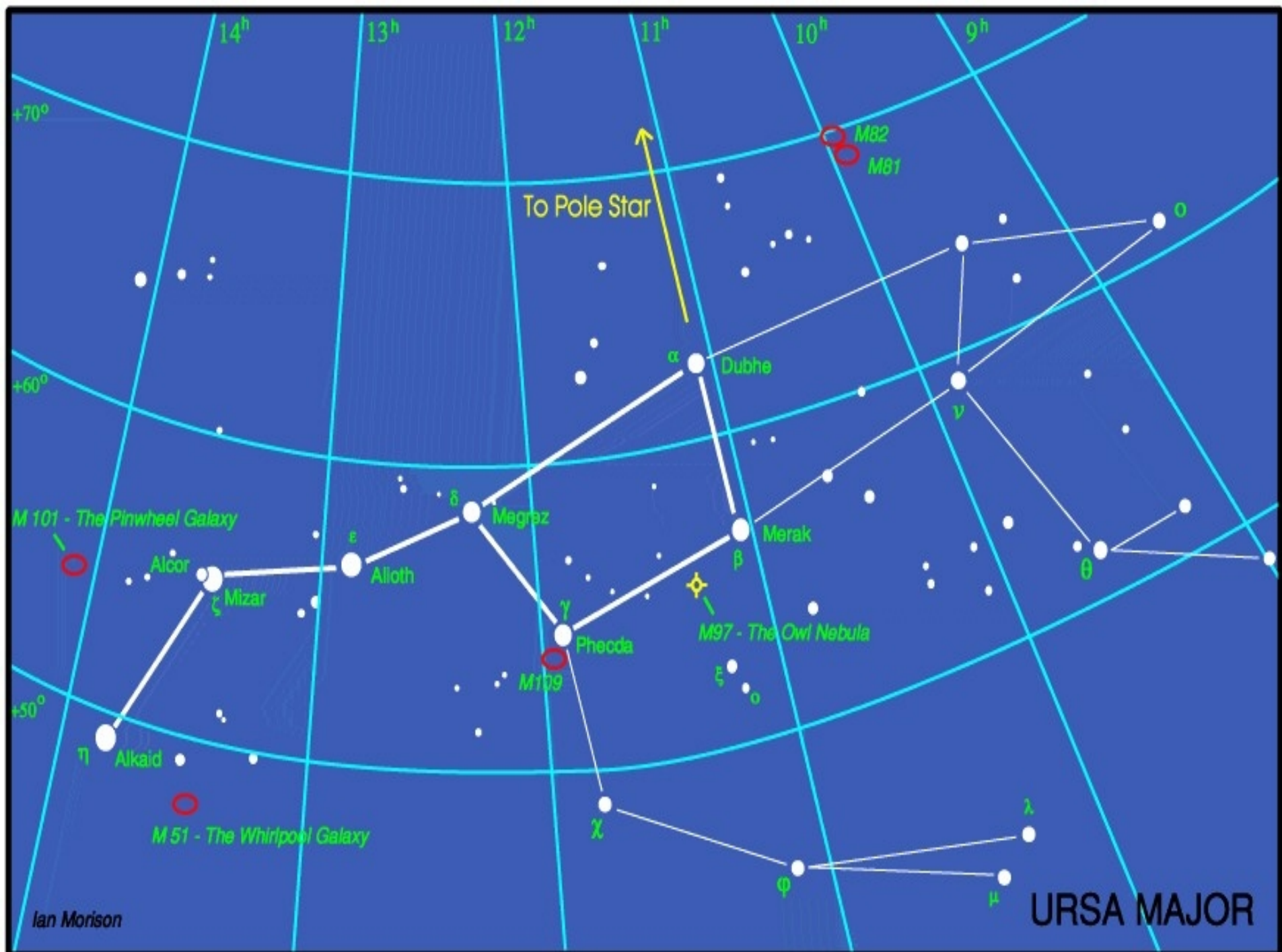
M106 ○

M109 ○

Cigar Galaxy
M82
M81
Bode's Galaxy

Owl
Nebula M97 ⊙
M108 ○





Web Links

- **Astronomy Magazine**
www.astronomy.com
- **Sky & Telescope Magazine**
www.skyandtelescope.com
- **The Old Farmer's Almanac**
www.almanac.com
- **Night Sky Info**
www.nightskyinfo.com
- **17 Fish – The Bible & The Stars**
www.greatdreams.com
- **National Optical Astronomy Observatory**
www.noao.edu

Clear Skies!