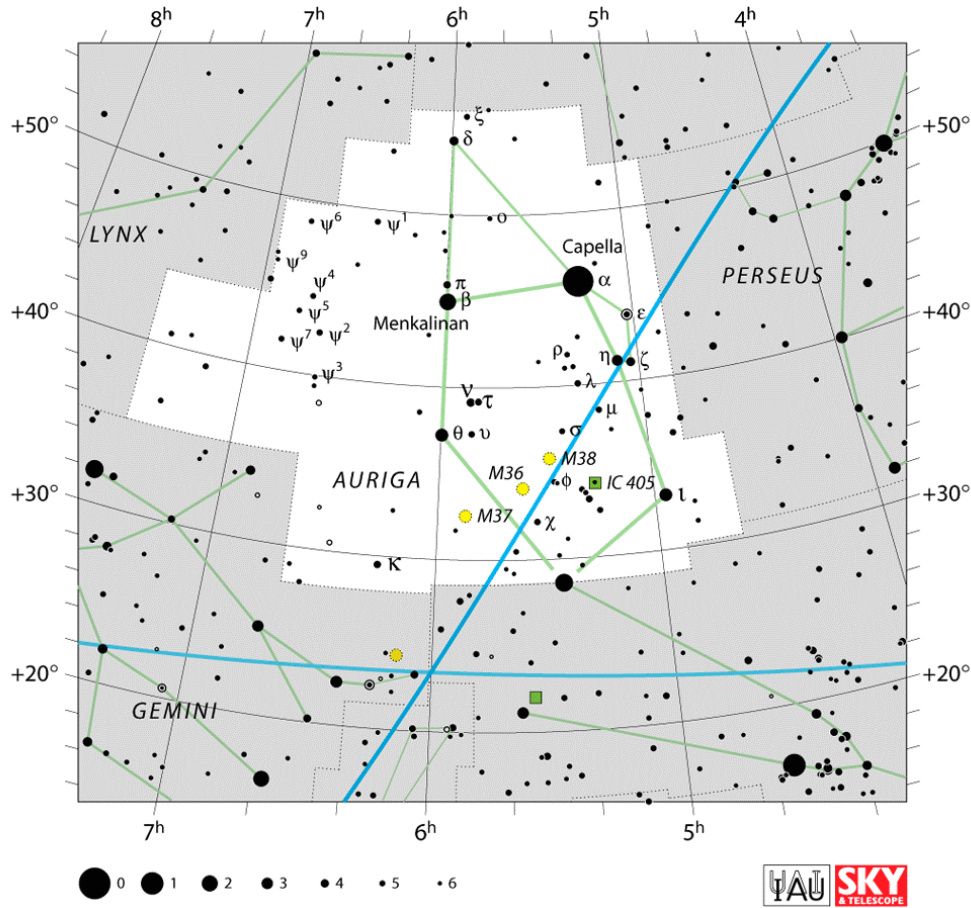


# Constellation of the Month - Auriga.

Your challenge is to observe, and record what you see ready for including in the Sky Notes presentation next month.

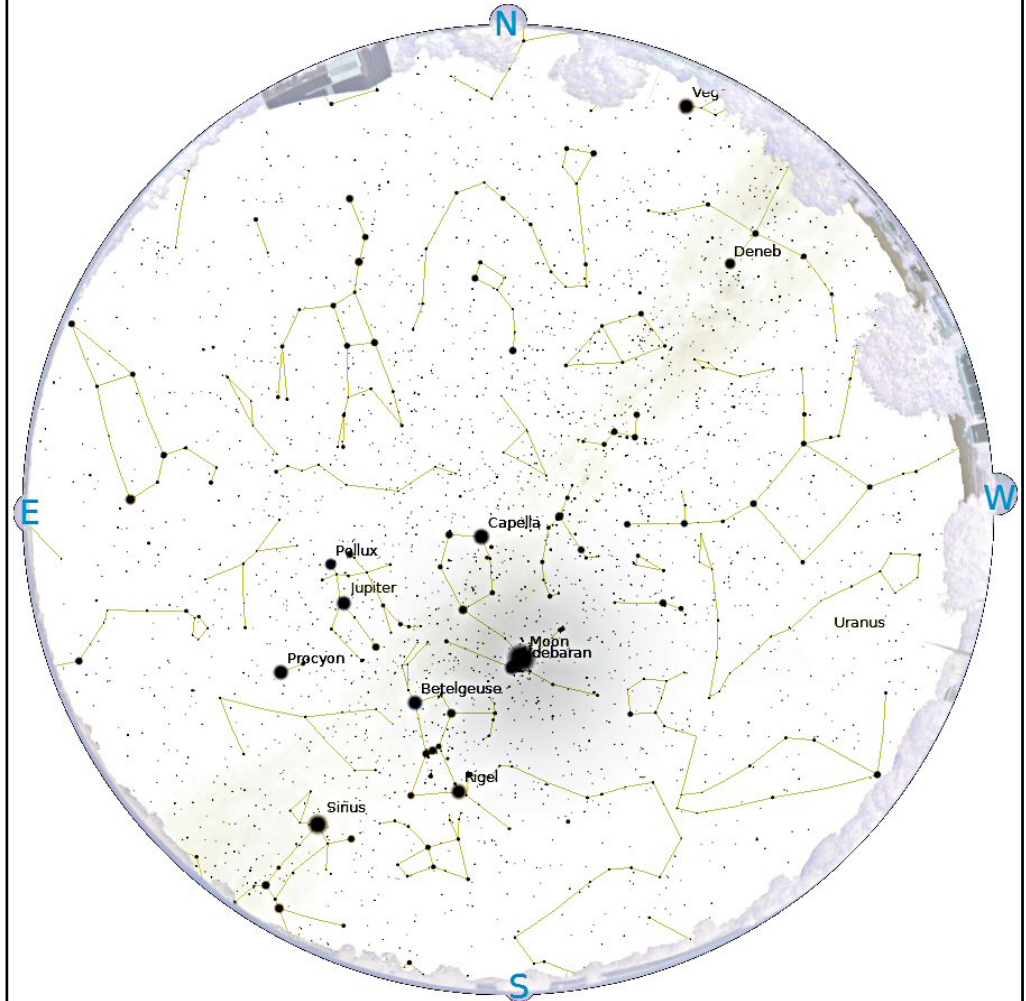
The Constellation of the Month will be selected from one that is readily visible most of the night during the month.



# Rugby & District Astronomical Society Sky Notes

by Chris Longthorn

December 2013, no 55



## Rugby & District Astronomical Society

[www.rugbyastro.org.uk](http://www.rugbyastro.org.uk)

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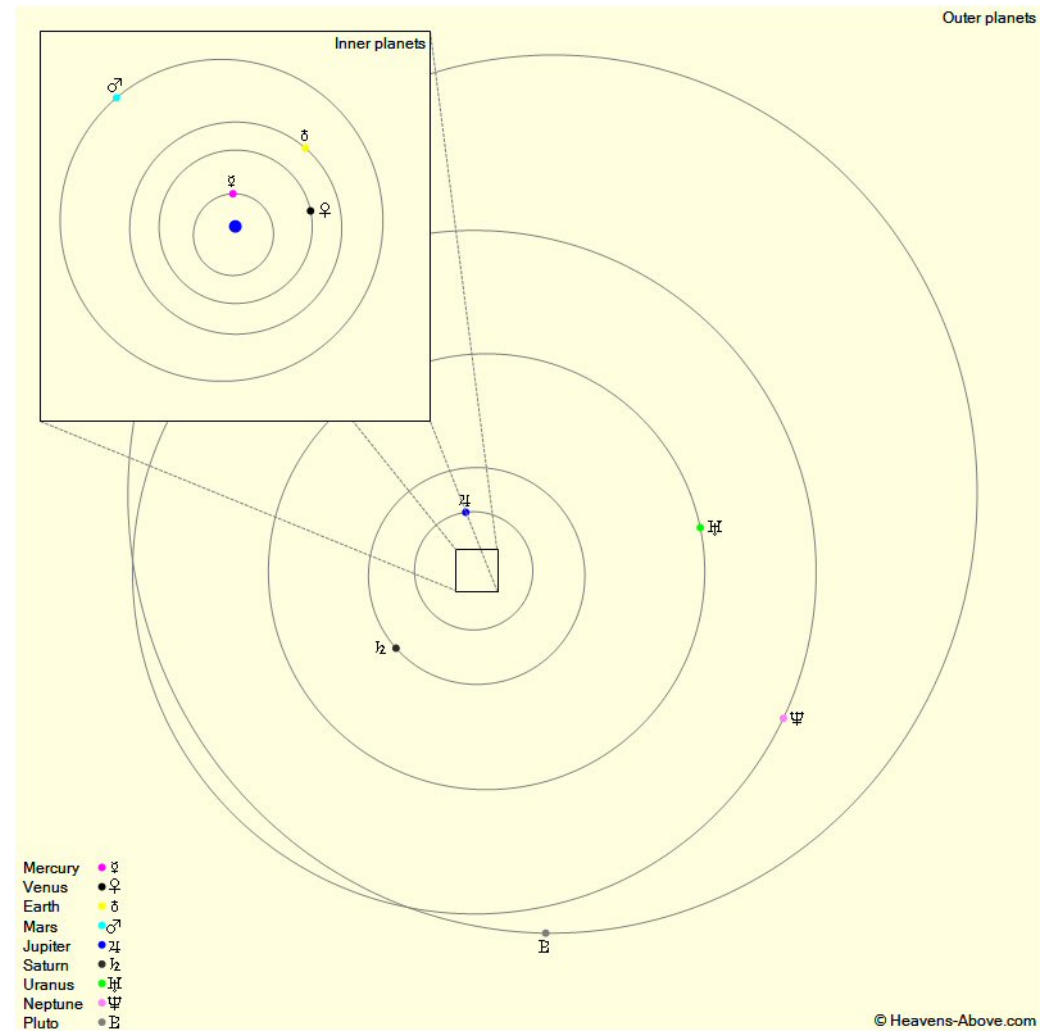
The night sky at 23:00 U.T.C., Dec 15th

# Event Calendar, December 2013

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

1 Saturn 1° 3 N. of Moon  ISS, -2.7 19:35:25, 35°, SW  R&DAS Christmas Dinner, Old Smithy	2	3 New Moon (0:22)	4 Iridium 61, -4.1, 52°, 323°, 04:33	5	6 Venus 8° S. of Moon	7
8  ISS, -3.4 04:39:51, 78°, ESE	9 First quarter Moon (15:12)	10 Venus at greatest brilliancy, -4.7	11 Algol at minimum (06:01)	12	13 Geminid meteor shower maximum (60/hr). Moon waxing 90%.	14 Algol at minimum (02:50)  Geminid meteor shower maximum (60/hr). Moon waxing 90%.  R&DAS Observing, Barby, 15:30
15  R&DAS meeting, Church Lawford 19:30	16 Algol at minimum (23:39)	17 Full Moon (9:28)	18	19 Algol at minimum (20:28)  Jupiter 5° N. of Moon	20	21 Winter Solstice in northern hemisphere (17:11)
22  Algol at minimum (17:18)  Iridium 52, -4.6, 57°, 324°, 04:56	23	24	25 Last quarter Moon (13:48)	26 Comet ISON closest approach in Earth (64.2 million km)  Mars 5° N. of Moon	27 Iridium 90, -5.9, 48°, 318°, 04:31	28  R&DAS Observing, Church Lawford 15:30
29 Mercury at superior conjunction  Saturn 0° 9 N. of Moon  Iridium 18, -5.8, 31°, 199°, 18:24	30 ISS, -2.3 19:10:32, 28°, NNE	31 Iridium 66, -8.3, 56°, 59°, 19:12				

# The Planets, mid month.



**Mercury** is in Ophiuchus with a magnitude of -0.8, a phase of 98%, and a diameter of 5". It rises at 08:36, transits at 12:27, and sets at 16:17. It is currently too close to the Sun to be observed.

**Venus** is in Sagittarius with a magnitude of -4.7, a phase of 19%, and a diameter of 47". It rises at 11:29, transits at 15:30, and sets at 19:31. It is visible in the evening sky.

**Mars** is in Virgo with a magnitude of +1.1, a phase of 91%, and a diameter of 6". It rises at 01:41, transits at 07:46, and sets at 13:50. It is visible in the morning sky.

**Jupiter** is in Gemini with a magnitude of -2.6 and a diameter of 46". It transits at 02:49, sets at 11:00, and rises again at 18:33. It is well placed for observation throughout the night.

**Saturn** is in Libra with a magnitude of +0.6 and a diameter of 16". It rises at 05:56, transits at 10:36, and sets at 15:16. It is visible in the morning sky.

**Uranus** is in Cetus with a magnitude of +5.8 and a diameter of 4". It sets at 02:20, rises again at 13:42, and transits at 19:59. It is visible in the evening sky.

**Neptune** is in Aquarius with a magnitude of +7.9 and a diameter of 2". It rises at 12:43, transits at 17:47, and sets at 22:52. It is visible in the evening sky.