

M40, Double Star (Ursa Major)

Continuing a series of photograph's of the Messier Objects.



Discovered by Charles Messier 1764.

Messier 40 (M40) is one of the three "curiosities," or unusual objects, in Messier's catalogue. It is a double star, which was also catalogued later as Winnecke 4 (WNC 4). Most probably, it is an optical double star, i.e. a chance alignment of two independent stars at different distances.

Rugby & District Astronomical Society

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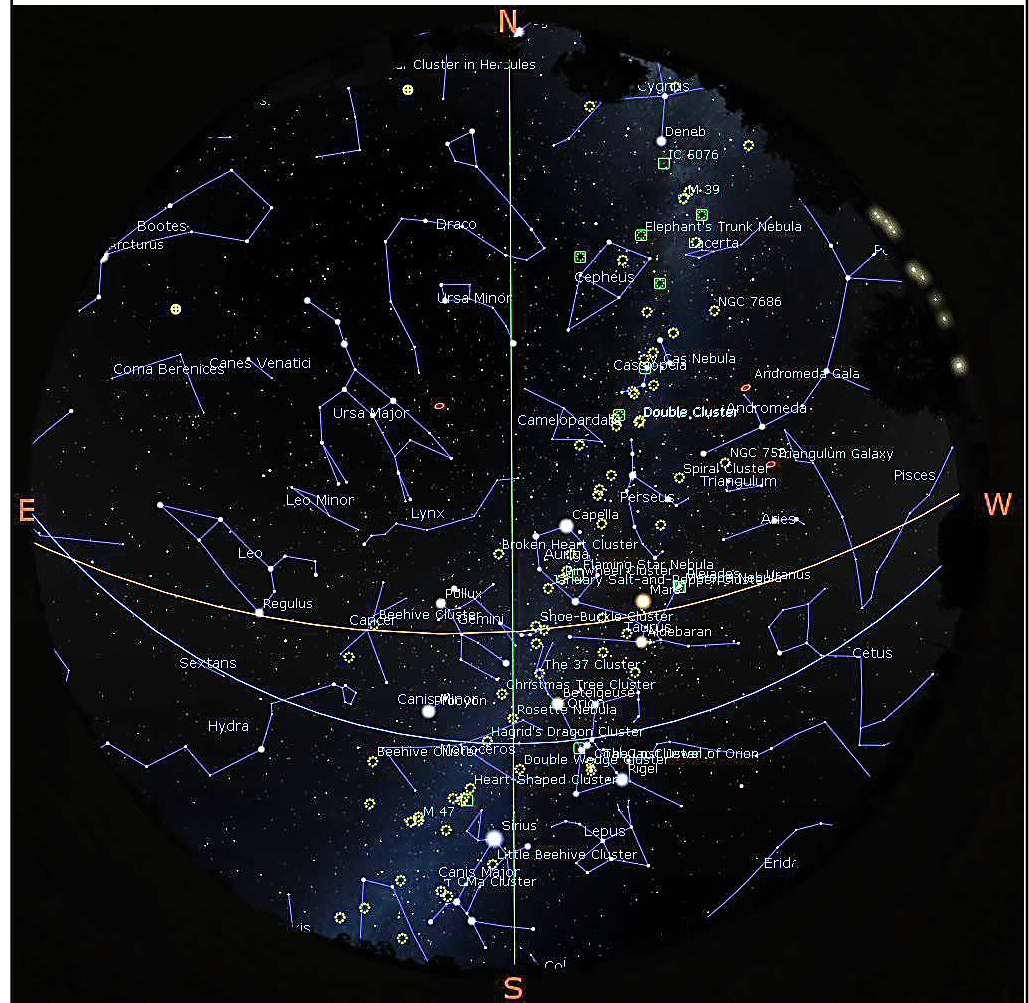
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Sky Notes


by Chris Longthorn

Jan 2022, no 145

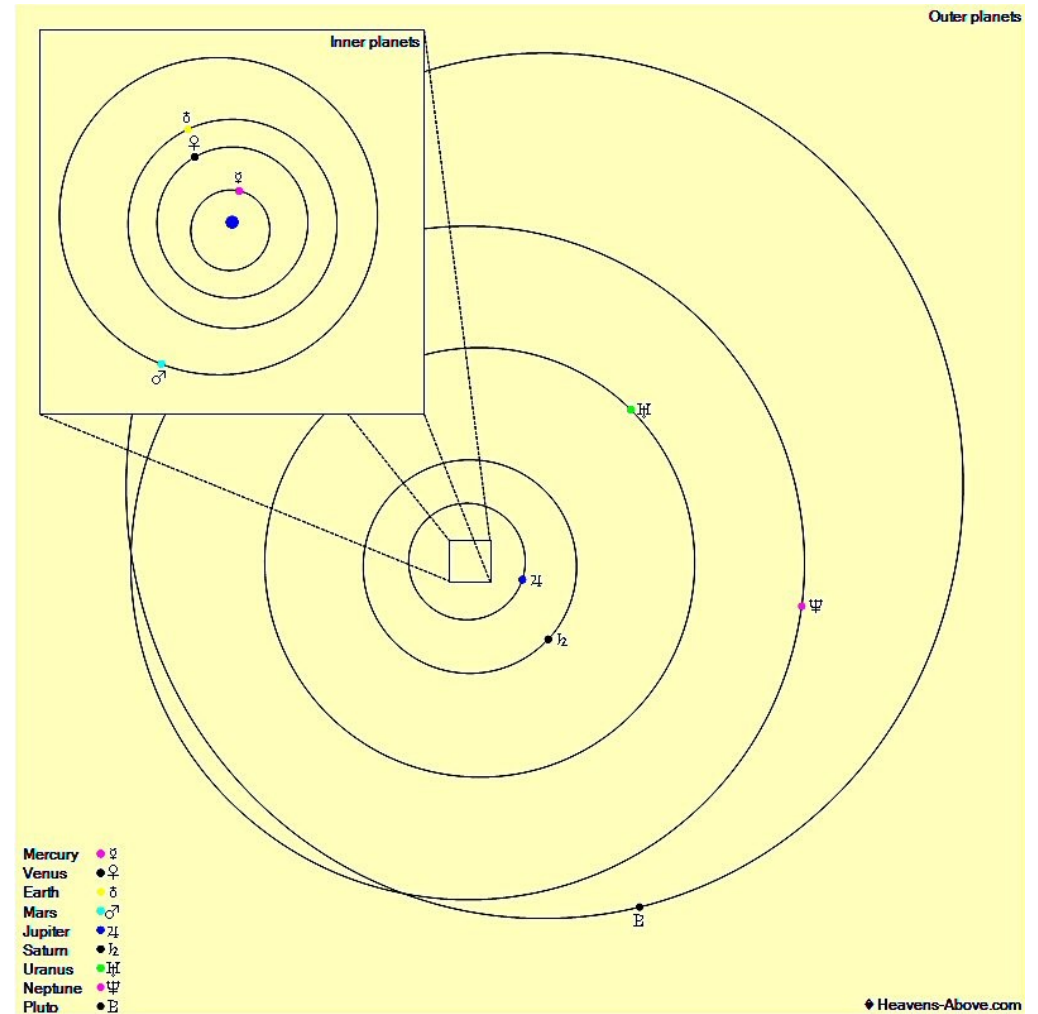


The night sky at 23:00 U.T.C., Jan 15th 2022

2022 January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	 27 Last Quarter 02:24	28	29 Mercury-Ven 04:49	30	31 Moon-Mars 20:13	1 ISS, -3.5, 06:10, 60°, SSW
 2 New Moon 18:33	3 Quadrantids 20:56 Observing, Barbby, 7:00 p.m	4 Perihelion 00:59 Moon-Saturn 16:50	5	6 Moon-Jupiter 00:09	7 Observing, Barbby, 7:00 p.m	8 Observing, Barbby, 7:00 p.m
 9 Venus Infer 00:50 First Quarter 18:11	10	11	12	13 Mercury-Sat 04:17	14	15
16 Quiz Night, Church Lawford 19:30	 17 Full Moon 23:48	18 Moon-Beehive 16:33	19	20	21	22
23 Mercury Infer 10:25 ISS, -3.3, 18:25, 50°, SSE	24 ISS, -2.9, 17:37, 39°, SSE	 25 Last Quarter 13:41 ISS, -3.7, 18:26, 72°, S	26 ISS, -3.5, 17:39, 62°, SSE	27 ISS, -3.8, 18:28, 81°, S	28 ISS, -3.7, 17:40, 79°, S	29 Moon-Mars 15:05 ISS, -3.6, 18:29, 70°, S
30 ISS, -3.7, 17:42, 78°, S	31 ISS, -3, 18:31, 47°, SSW	 1 New Moon 05:46	2 Moon-Jupiter 21:08	3	4 Saturn Sun 18:34	5

The Planets, mid January.



Mercury is in Capricornus with a magnitude of +1.0, a phase of 20%, and a diameter of 9". It rises at 08:42, transits at 13:15, and sets at 17:48. It is visible low in the west after sunset.

Venus is in Sagittarius with a magnitude of -4.3, a phase of 2%, and a diameter of 61". It rises at 06:56, transits at 11:28, and sets at 16:00. It is visible low in the east before sunrise.

Mars is in Ophiuchus with a magnitude of +1.5, a phase of 97%, and a diameter of 4". It rises at 06:10, transits at 09:57, and sets at 13:44. It is visible in the morning sky.

Jupiter is in Aquarius with a magnitude of -2.1 and a diameter of 34". It rises at 09:44, transits at 14:48, and sets at 19:53. It is visible in the evening sky.

Saturn is in Capricornus with a magnitude of +0.7 and a diameter of 15". It rises at 09:03, transits at 13:30, and sets at 17:57. It is visible low in the west after sunset.

Uranus is in Aries with a magnitude of +5.7 and a diameter of 4". It sets at 02:25, rises again at 11:36, and transits at 18:58. 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 10:15, transits at 15:53, and sets at 21:32. It is visible in the evening sky.