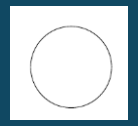
The Night Sky

December 2026

Lunar phases

 Full Moon (Beaver): Nov 25

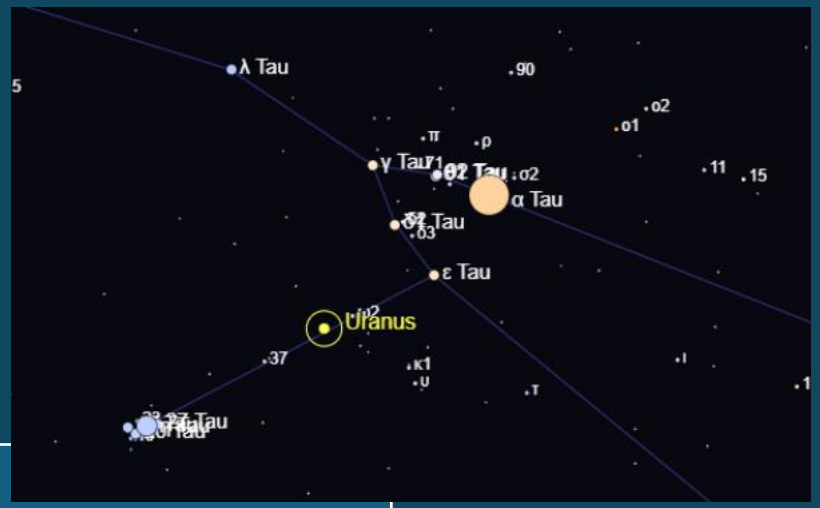
 **Last Quarter: Dec 1**

 **New Moon: Dec 9**

 First Quarter: Dec 17

Deep Sky Observing: Dec 1 - 13

Planets (4 Dec)



Object	Constellation	Rise	Set	Notes
Jupiter	Leo	12.45am	11.21am	
Mars	Leo	1.08am	12.00pm	
Venus	Virgo	3.33am	4.33pm	Morning Star
Mercury	Libra	4.49am	6.41pm	
Sun	**Ophiuchus**	**5.39am**	**8.04pm**	**Solstice: Dec 22 (7.53am)**
Neptune	Pisces	2.12pm	2.22am	
Saturn	Cetus	2.41pm	2.43am	
Uranus	**Taurus**	**7.16pm**	**5.19am**	**Opposition: Nov 26**

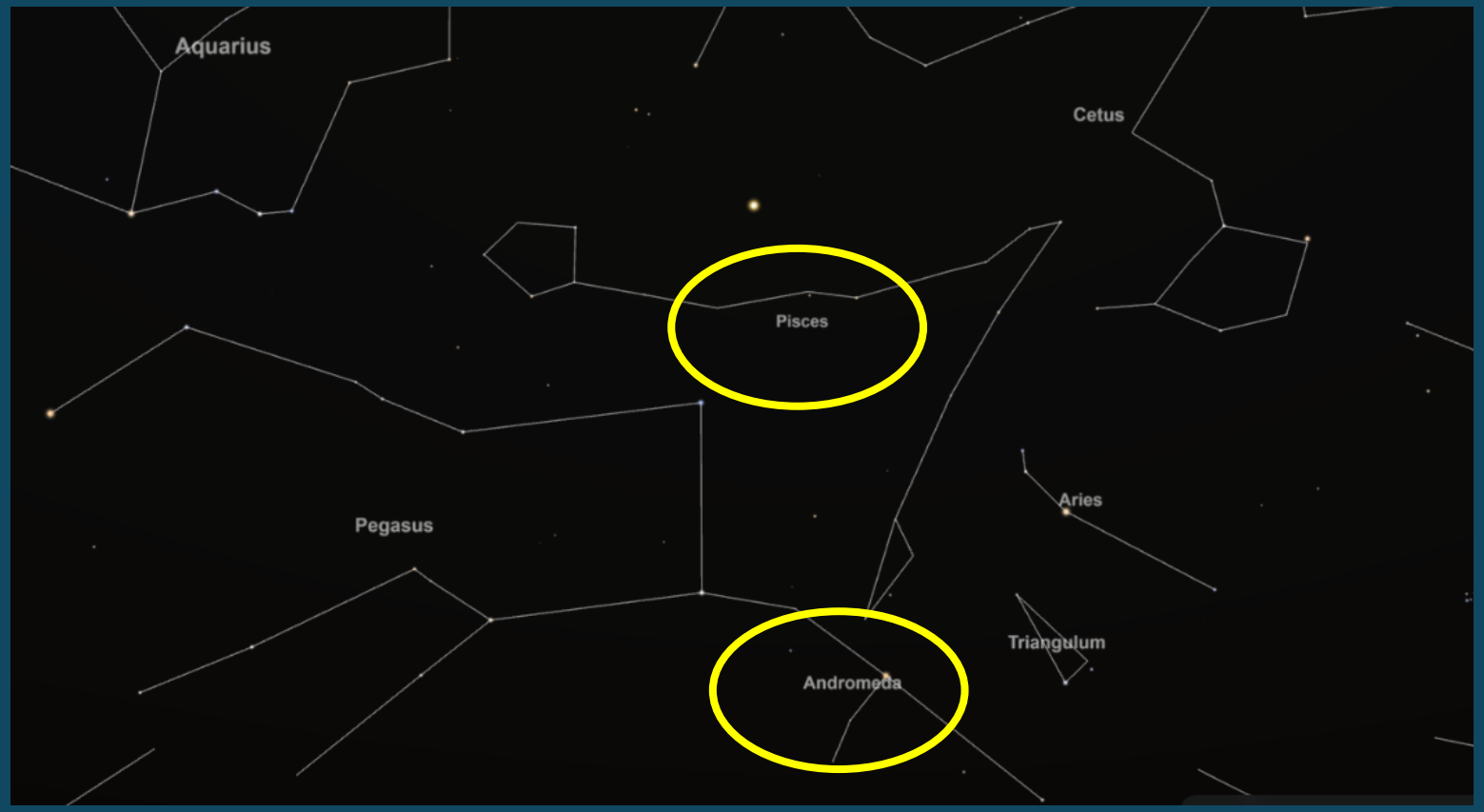
Looking north (9pm)

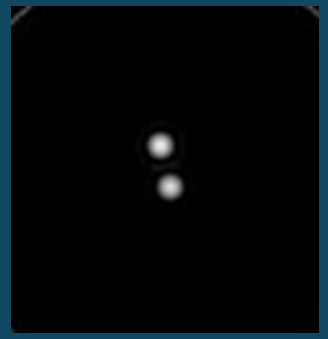
Pisces

- Zeta Piscium
- M 74 *(Phantom Gal)*

Andromeda

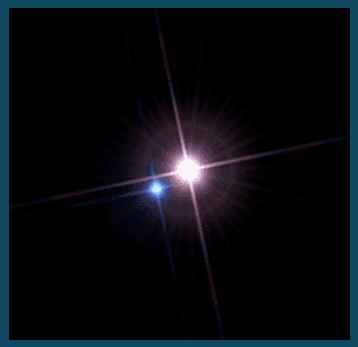
- M 31, 32 & 110
- Gamma Andromedae
- NGC 7662 *(Blue Snowball)*













Looking up (zenith)

Cetus

- NGC 247 *(Claw Gal)*
- M 77 *(Squid Gal)*
- NGC 936 *(Darth Vader)* & 941
- Gamma Ceti











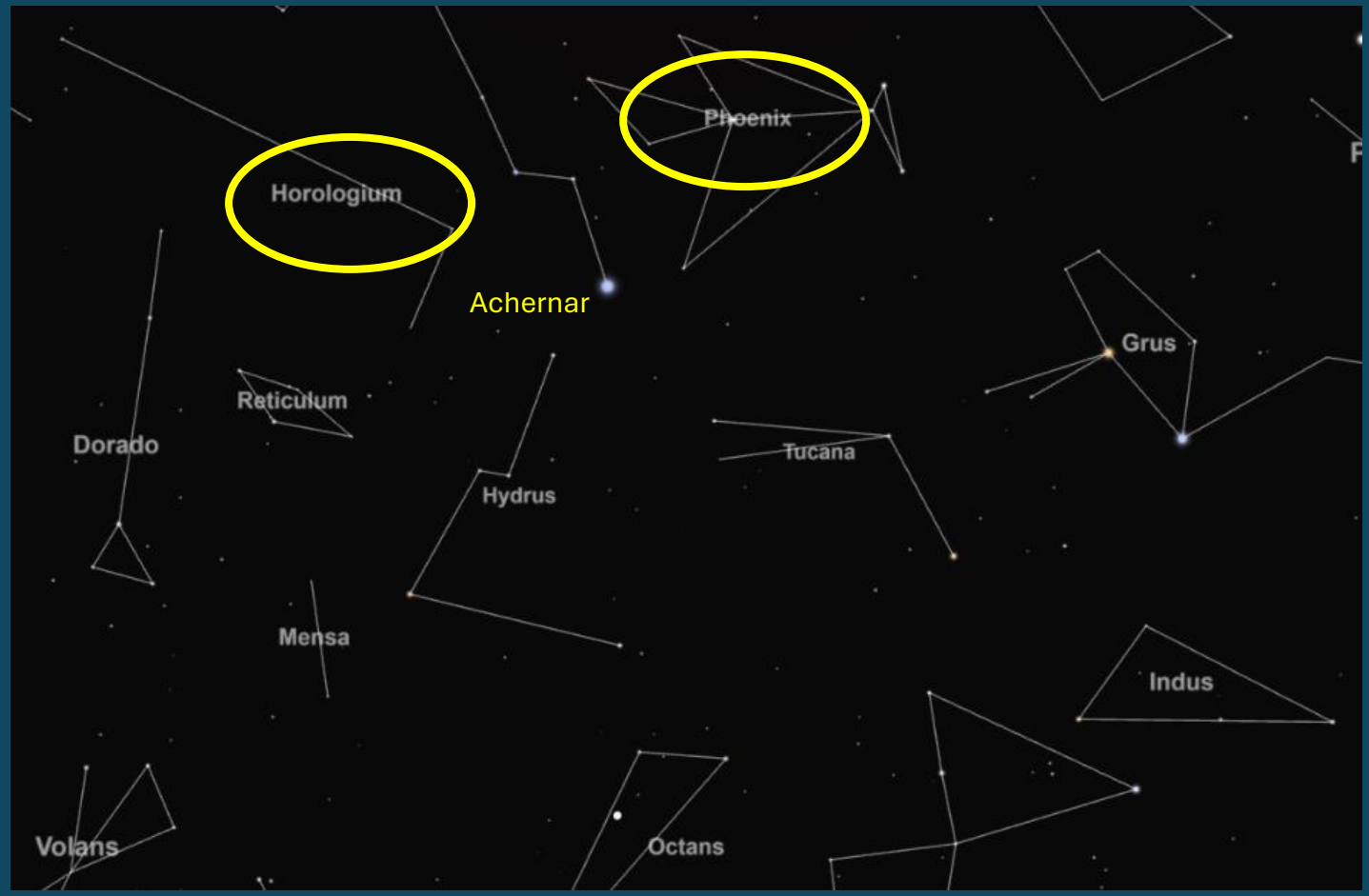
Looking south

Phoenix

- NGC 625
- IC 1633 (Abell 2870)

Horologium

- NGC 1261 (glob)
- NGC 1433











Other events

Geminid Meteor Shower

period: 4 to 17 Dec

peak: 14 Dec

radiant: *see diagram*

rate: 120 per hr

origin: asteroid *3200 Phaethon*

planned probe: 2028 “Destiny” (JAXA)





Radar image of 3200 Phaethon taken by Arecibo, December 17, 2017