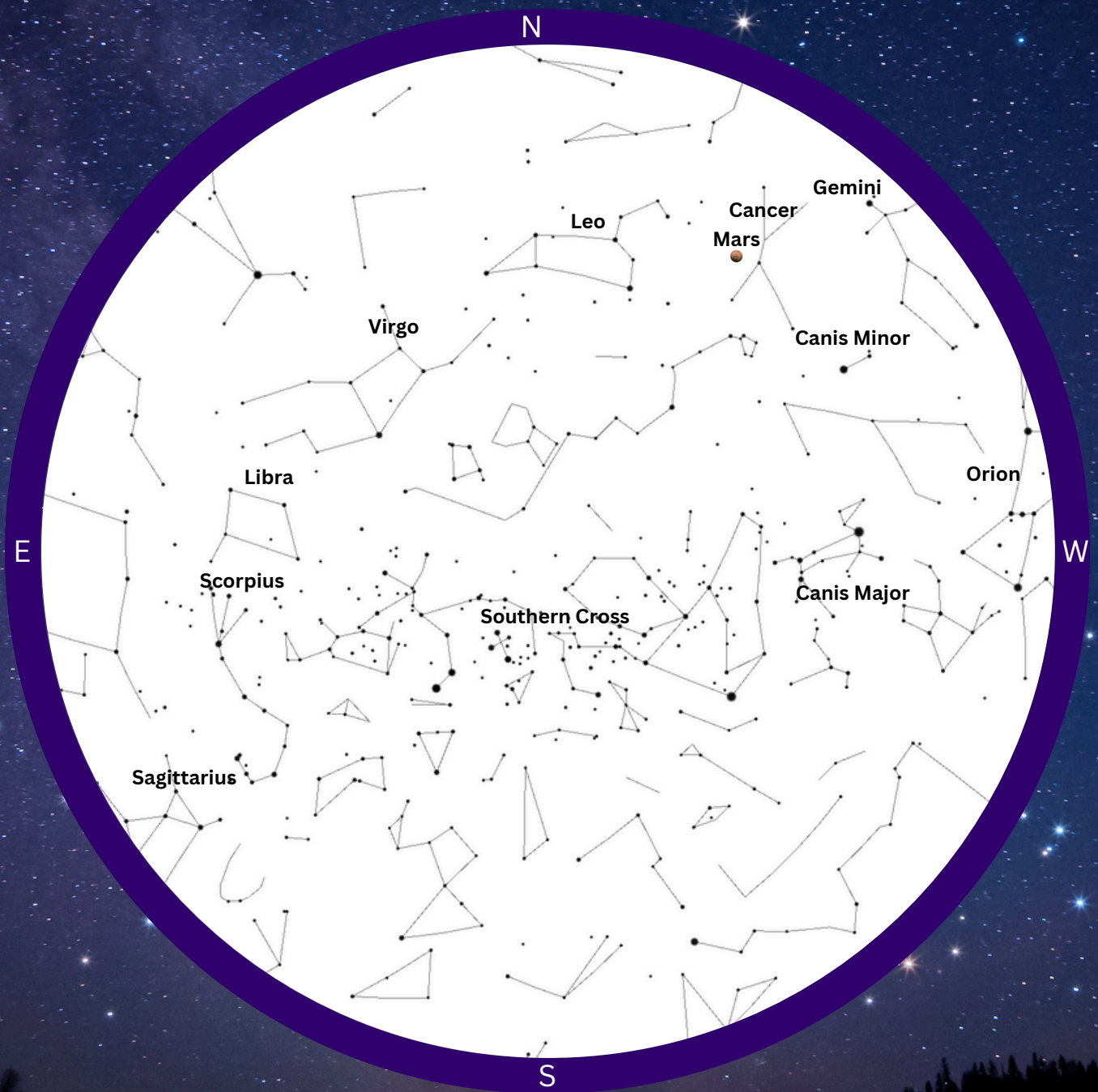






Omaka

OBSERVATORY

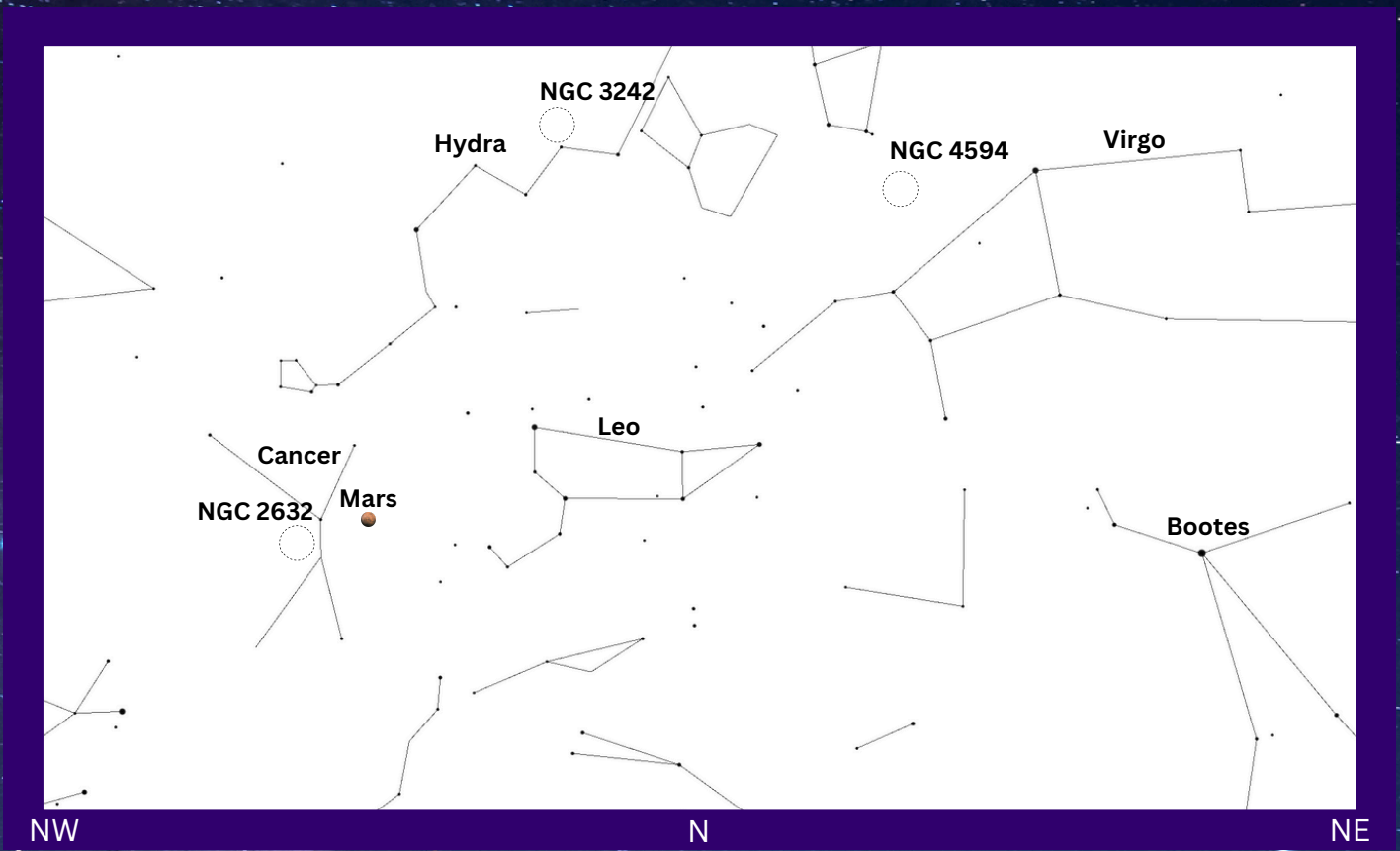
May 2025 Night Sky



-  First Quarter Moon 05/05
-  Full Moon 13/05
-  Last Quarter Moon 20/05
-  New Moon 27/05

To use this chart, hold it up to the sky and turn the paper so the direction you are looking is at the bottom

Northern Sky



Constellations

Leo - Look for the upside down question mark in the north. The “dot” in the question mark is the brightest star in this constellation, Regulus. Below Regulus, the brightest star in the “sickle” shape is Algeiba which means “the lion’s mane”. This is a binary star system.

Cancer - While this is the faintest of the zodiac constellations, it contains one of the brightest star clusters, the Beehive.

Virgo - This is the second largest constellation in the sky. The brightest star in this constellation is Spica (Latin for “ear of wheat”). Spica is about 250 ly away and is a non-eclipsing binary with the two stars being only 0.12 AU apart and orbiting each other every four days.

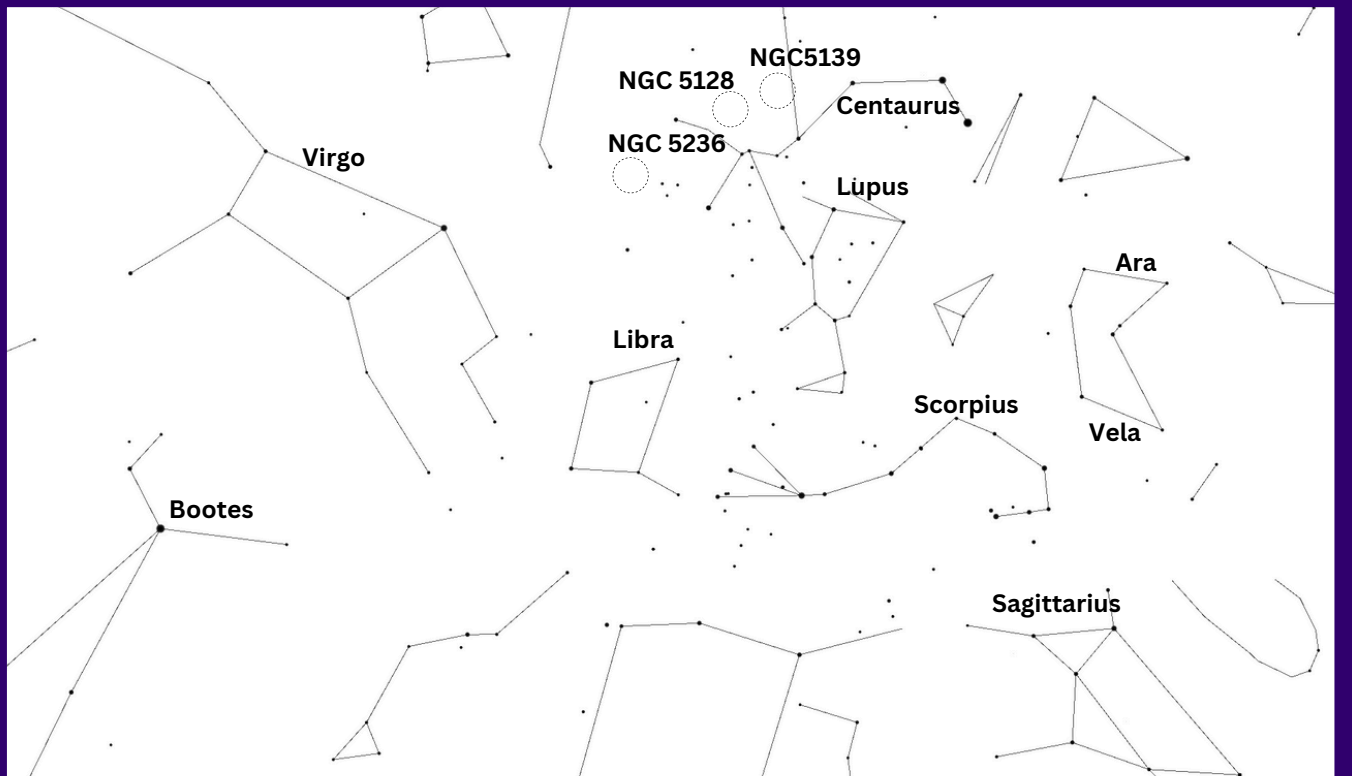
Through the Telescope

NGC 2632 - Praesepe, The Beehive Cluster is one of the closest open clusters to Earth at around 520-610 ly away. This is a good object for viewing in binoculars or smaller telescopes.

NGC 3242 - The Ghost of Jupiter is a planetary nebula, a dying star, about 1,400 ly away. There is a central white dwarf which lights up the surrounding gas shell.

NGC 4594 - The Sombrero Galaxy is viewed almost edge on and resembles a sombrero due to a large central bulge. It is 31.1 million ly away.

Eastern Sky



Constellations

Bootes - While not a commonly known constellation, many people notice the brightest star, Arcturus, a red giant star and the fourth brightest star in the night sky. When Arcturus is low on the horizon it appears to flash in different colours.

Libra - Between Virgo and Scorpius is the constellation Libra. Follow the line of the scorpion's body all the way through past Antares and Dschubba to find Zubenelgenubi, a star with a great name, and the brightest star in Libra

Scorpius - An easily identified winter constellation and always on the opposite side of the sky to Orion, Scorpius can currently be seen rising in the east. Look for the "fish hook" shape leading towards the heart of the scorpion, Antares.

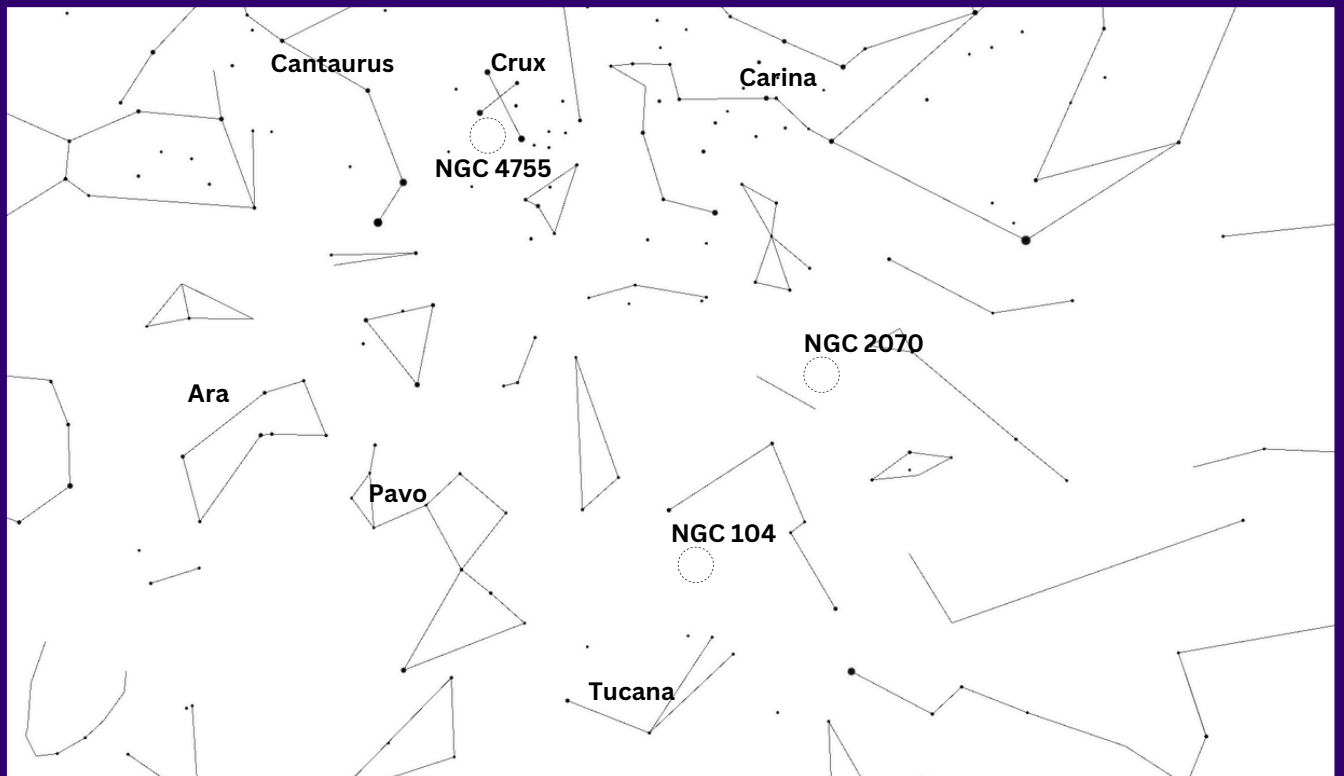
Through the Telescope

NGC 5128 - Centaurus A, also known as the Hamburger Galaxy is one of the closest radio galaxies to Earth

NGC 5139 - Omega Centauri is a globular cluster estimated to contain 10 million stars and is approximately 17,000 ly away

NGC 5236 - Southern Pinwheel Galaxy is one of the closest and brightest barred spiral galaxies in the night sky. It is 15 million ly away

Southern Sky



Constellations

Crux - Follow the Pointers to find the Southern Cross, currently low in the south. You will also be able to see the Coalsack Nebula. While this looks like a gap in the stars, it is a cloud of dust and gas about 600 ly away.

Centaurus - The two bright stars (the pointers) high in the southern sky are part of Centaurus. The brightest star, Alpha Centauri, is the closest visible star to our solar system.

Tucana - Part of the "Southern Birds" collection of constellations, Tucana contains one of the brightest globular clusters, 47 Tucanae, and most of the Small Magellanic Cloud.

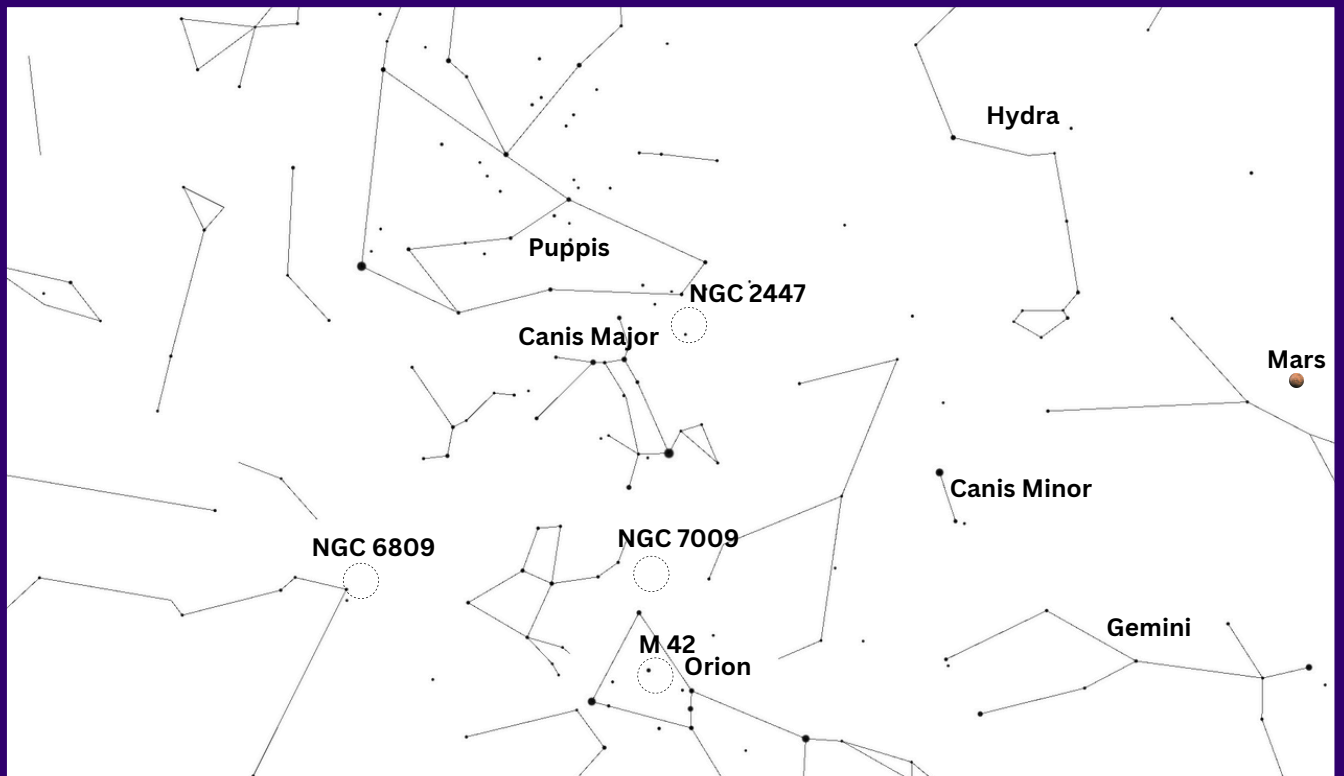
Through the Telescope

NGC 4755 - The Jewel Box is one of the youngest known open clusters at about 14 million years old

NGC 2070 - The Tarantula Nebula is a cluster of stars and glowing gas cloud in the Large Magellanic Cloud

NGC 0104 - 47 Tucanae is a globular cluster of about 10,000 stars. While it might appear to be in or near the Small Magellanic Cloud, it is only 15,000 ly away.

Western Sky



Constellations

Orion - Diving into the western horizon, this will be the last we see of Orion for a while. Easily identified by “The Pot” asterism, the handle of the pot, or Orion’s sword is home to an acincredible nebula

Canis Major - Follow Orion’s belt to the bright star, Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

Canis Minor - Look for the bright star “Procyon” to find the smaller of Orion’s dogs.

Through the Telescope

NGC 2447 - The Butterfly Cluster is an open cluster of stars in the constellation Puppis about 3,200 ly away.

M42 - The Orion Nebula is the closest large star-forming region to earth and appears brightly in the sword of Orion.

Mars - Currently northwest is the red planet. It appears red from the iron oxide on the surface and is about half the size of Earth.