

Spring Library Telescope Astro Guide

Get the most out of your time with your telescope by reading this page and using attached maps.

Spring Diamond

Start by finding the Big Dipper high above you. Trace the arc of the handle to the bright orangish star Arcturus (Make an arc to Arcturus). Now keep going and “speed on to blue Spica”. Find the star at the center of arc of the Big Dipper “Cor Caroli”, and last find Denebola. This is known as the Spring Diamond and once you know it finding and identifying the constellations in around it is easy.

Circumpolar (Northern Sky)

Ursa Major We'll start with the Big Dipper. This is actually an asterism that is part of Ursa Major the great Bear. First to look at with your scope is Mizar and Alcor. A naked eye double and Mizar is also a beautiful close double in the telescope.

Ursa Minor Note the two stars at the front of the big dipper point directly to Polaris the north star. Find north with a compass or your phone. Polaris should be star closest to north about 35 degrees above the horizon. It never moves from that spot with all other stars rotating around it. It is a difficult double in a small scope. In dark skies you can trace out all 7 stars of the little dipper.

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Bootes Start by tracing out Kite Shaped Bootes with bright Arcturus at it's foot. Just east of Bootes is the Northern Crown Corona Borealis. .

Virgo is a Zodiac Constellation so planets sun and moon go through this area. In 2017 Jupiter is just above Spica. Trace out the cup of virgo or virgo's diamond both shown on chart. Try for the Sombrero Galaxy M104 just north of Corvus. Nice strings of stars lead you to it.

Leo another Zodiac Constellation. Note head looks like a question mark and tail is a triangle. Regulus is a 1st magnitude star near the ecliptic.

Canes Venatici Bright star Cor Caroli named after a real person. Nice double star in your telescope, blue and white. M3 globular cluster.

Coma Berenices Dim constellation named after real person. Use to be the tuft of the Lions tale. Note the bright cluster that is Berenice's Hair and also M53.

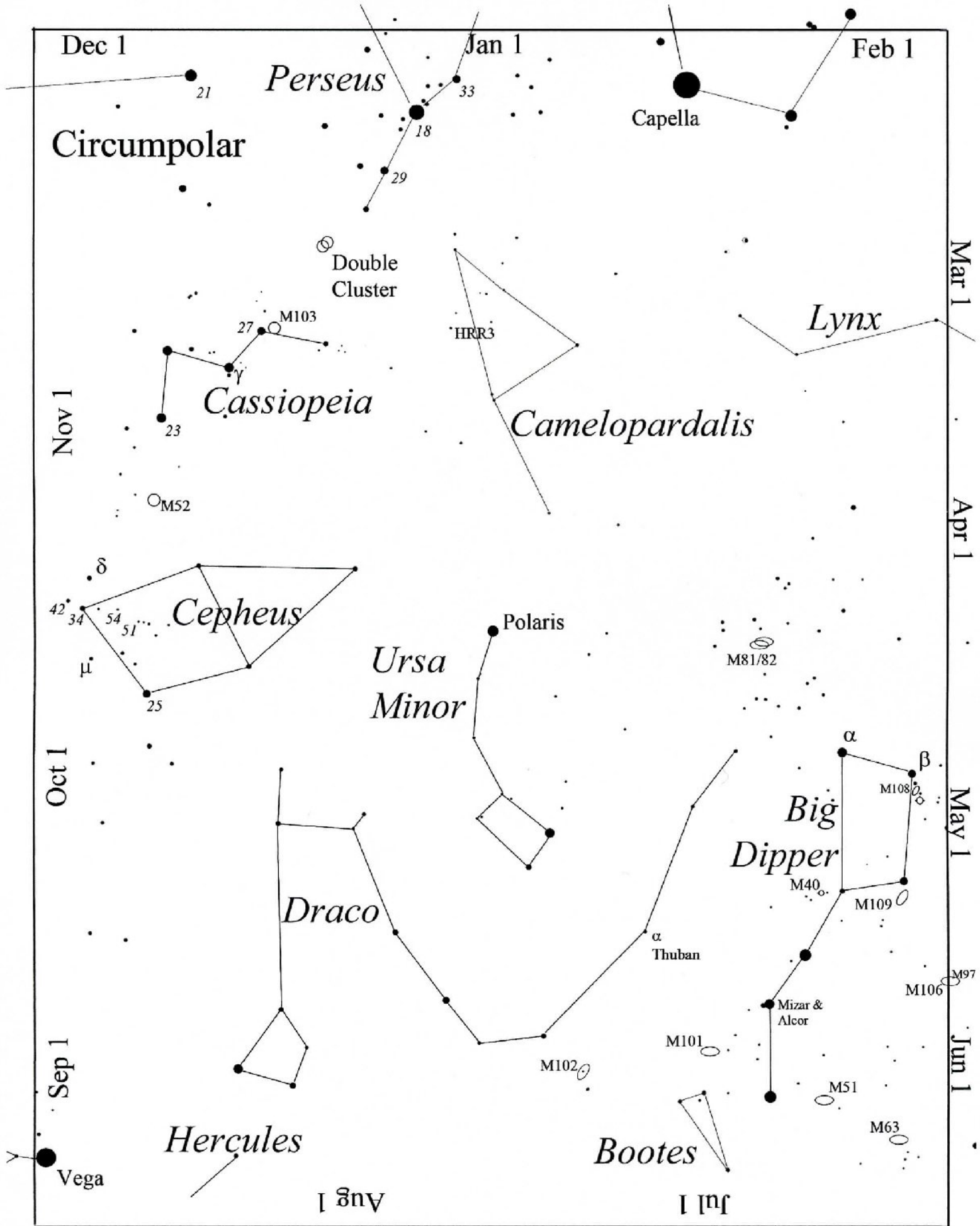
Cancer the Crab another Zociac constellation. Dim with very bright cluster M44 the Praesepe or Beehive. Also note Iota is a very nice double through your scope cream and blue.

Record additional objects / constellations viewed in blank spaces.

Spring Check List	* telescope	Leo
Big Dipper (Ursa Major)		Regulus
Mizar & Alcor *		Canes Venatici
Little Dipper (Ursa Minor)		Cor Caroli *
Polaris (difficult double) *		M3 Globular Cluster *
Bootes		Cancer
Arcturus		Praesepe M44 *
Virgo		Iota Cancer *
Spica		Jupiter *
M104 Sombrero Galaxy *		Moon *

Attend star parties, lectures, join a club. www.caasastro.org

You can print off a complete sky guide and find a lot more information on the Library Telescope site at www.ltp.caasastro.org



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