Winter 2021 Prairie Sky

To use this chart, hold it face-down, above your head, so that the directions match your surroundings.

December 15th  12:00 AM
January 1      11:00 PM
January 15th   10:00 PM
February 1st   9:00 PM  
February 15th  8:00 PM  
March 1st     7:00 PM

December 7th     December 21st
January 6th     January 1   11:00 PM
February 4th    January 15th   10:00 PM
March 5th       February 1st   9:00 PM

December 14th  January 3rd-4th Quadrantid meteor shower
January 12th    January 12th
February 11th   February 19th
March 13th      March 21st

December 29th  January 28th
February 27th   February 28th
March 28th

Last Quarter
New Moon
First Quarter
Full Moon

December
January
February
March

13th-14th  Geminid meteor shower
21st       Winter Solstice
21st       Jupiter and Saturn conjunction
March
3rd        Mars close to Pleiades
14th       Daylight Saving Time begins
20th       Spring Equinox

Look for these with binoculars:
Beehive cluster in Cancer
M-41 cluster in Canis Major
Orion Nebula in Orion’s sword
Pleiades cluster in Taurus
Double Cluster in Perseus
Andromeda Galaxy in Andromeda
Milky Way star clouds visible from clear, rural skies

For Planetarium schedules and more information about the night sky, call the “showline” at 217/351-2446, or check out our website at www.parkland.edu/planetarium

Saturn and Jupiter very close in evening sky!

Beehive Cluster
Mars joins the dazzling stars of the winter sky, adding its own orange color to that of bright red stars like Aldebaran and Betelgeuse. In January, after months of delight, Jupiter and Saturn are lost to the Sun’s glare until late March when they will rise ahead of the Sun. Venus does the reverse, leaving the predawn sky early to emerge in the evening sky later in the year.