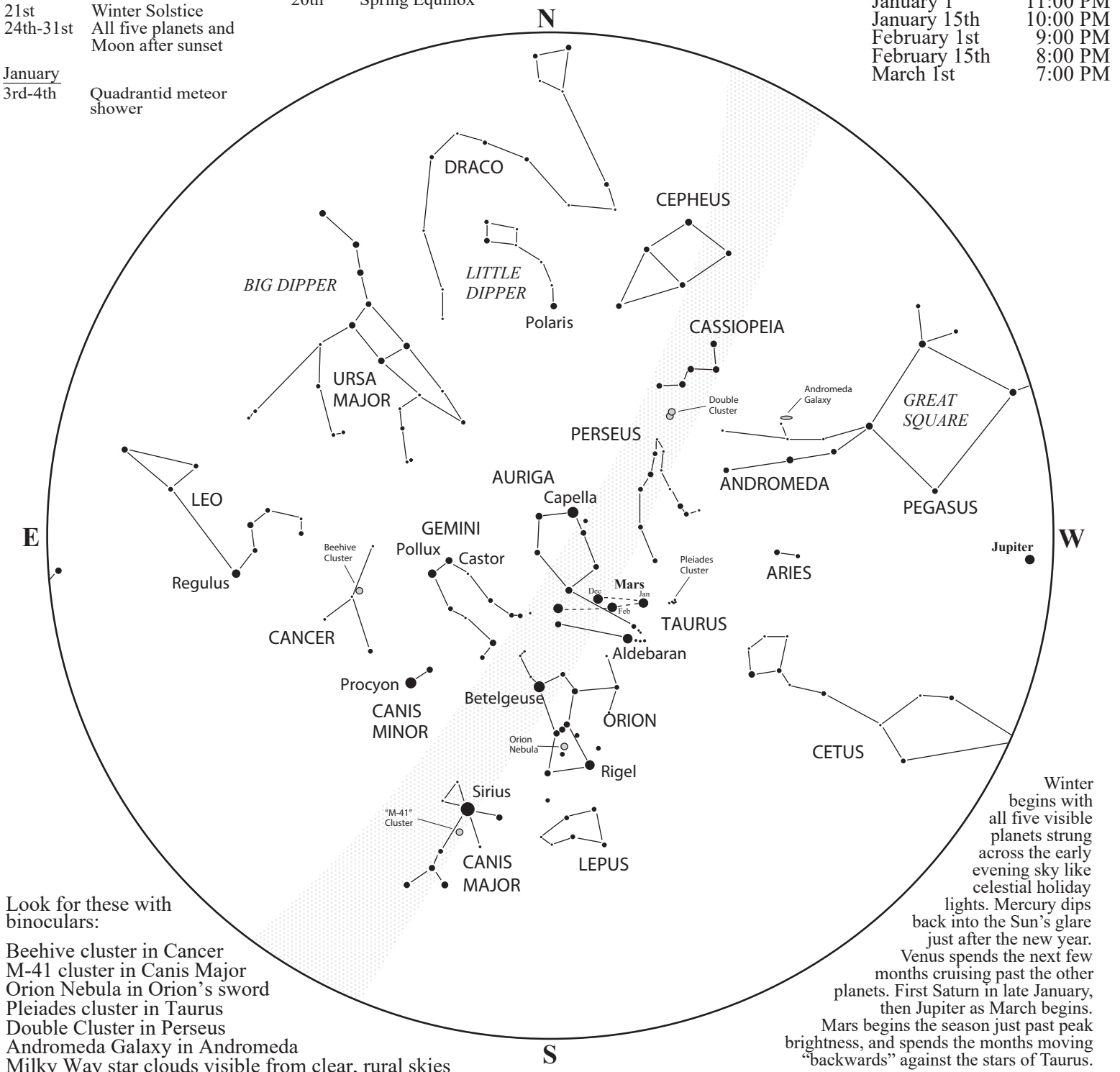


Winter 2023

Prairie Sky

Full Moon		Last Quarter		New Moon		First Quarter	
December	7th	December	16th	December	23rd	December	29th
January	6th	January	14th	January	21st	January	28th
February	5th	February	13th	February	20th	February	27th
March	7th	March	14th	March	21st	March	28th

December 1st	Mars closest to Earth	March 1st	Venus and Jupiter close in early evening sky (9:08-10:00PM)	To use this chart, hold it face-down, above your head, so that the directions match your surroundings.	December 15th	12:00 AM
December 7th	Moon occults Mars	March 12th	Daylight Saving Time begins		January 1	11:00 PM
December 13th-14th	Geminid meteor shower	March 20th	Spring Equinox		January 15th	10:00 PM
December 21st	Winter Solstice				February 1st	9:00 PM
December 24th-31st	All five planets and Moon after sunset				February 15th	8:00 PM
January 3rd-4th	Quadrantid meteor shower			March 1st	7:00 PM	



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

Winter begins with all five visible planets strung across the early evening sky like celestial holiday lights. Mercury dips back into the Sun's glare just after the new year. Venus spends the next few months cruising past the other planets. First Saturn in late January, then Jupiter as March begins. Mars begins the season just past peak brightness, and spends the months moving "backwards" against the stars of Taurus.

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

