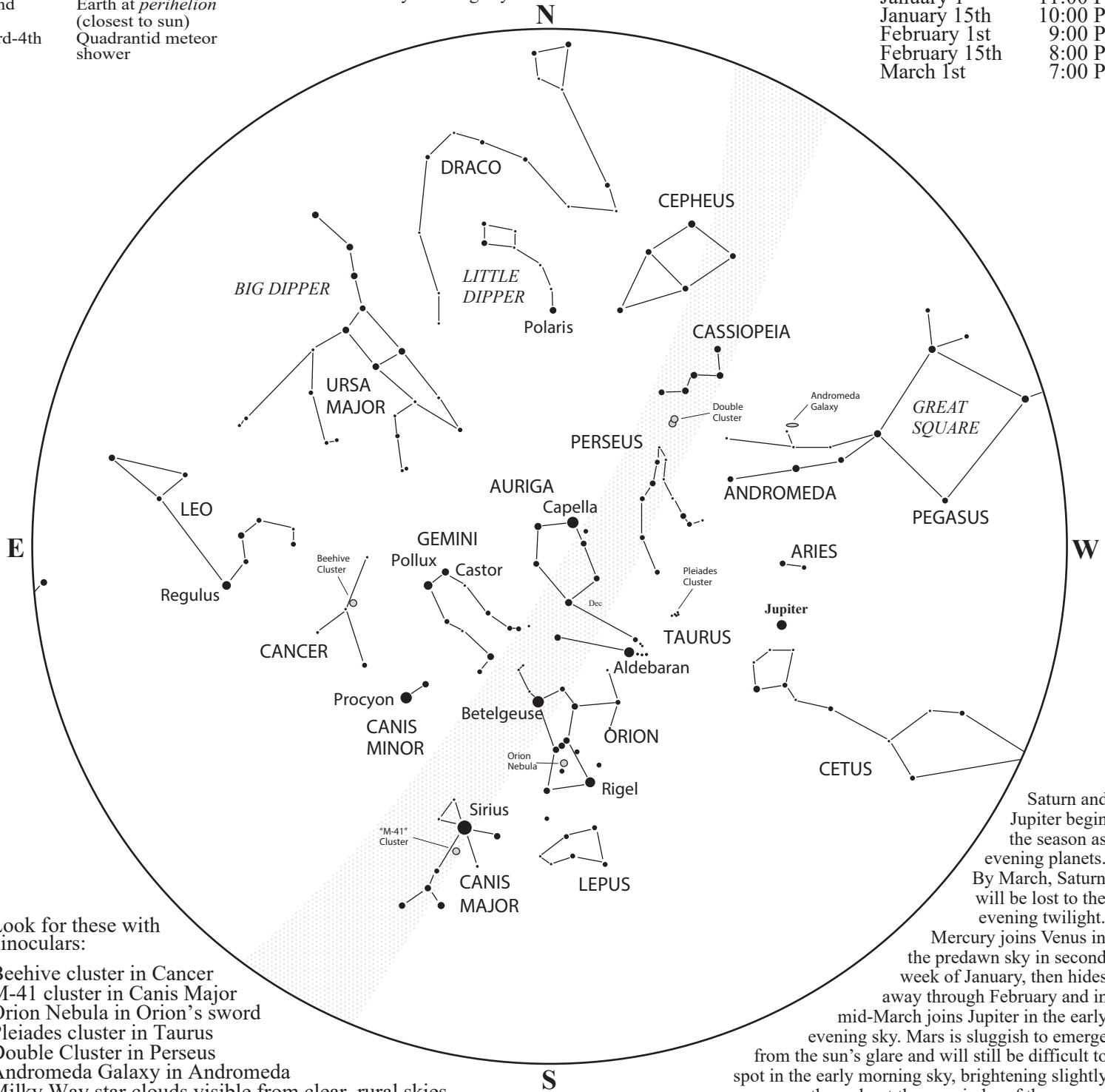


# Winter 2024

# Prairie Sky

Last Quarter		New Moon		First Quarter		Full Moon	
December	4th	December	12th	December	19th	December	26th
January	3rd	January	11th	January	17th	January	25th
February	2nd	February	9th	February	16th	February	24th
March	9th	March	10th	March	16th	March	25th

December 13th-14th	Geminid meteor shower	March 10th	Daylight Saving Time begins	To use this chart, hold it face-down, above your head, so that the directions match your surroundings.	December 15th	12:00 AM
December 21st	Winter Solstice	March 19th	Spring Equinox		January 1	11:00 PM
January 2nd	Earth at <i>perihelion</i> (closest to sun)	March 21st	Venus and Saturn close in early morning sky		January 15th	10:00 PM
January 3rd-4th	Quadrantid meteor shower				February 1st	9:00 PM
					February 15th	8:00 PM
					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

Saturn and Jupiter begin the season as evening planets. By March, Saturn will be lost to the evening twilight. Mercury joins Venus in the predawn sky in second week of January, then hides away through February and in mid-March joins Jupiter in the early evening sky. Mars is sluggish to emerge from the sun's glare and will still be difficult to spot in the early morning sky, brightening slightly throughout the remainder of the season.

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](http://www.parkland.edu/planetarium)