

Meeting Date

February 16, 2025

Night Begins

7:41 PM. EST

Note: Astronomical Twilight Ends

Solar Noon / Midnight

12:46 EST

Note: on Meeting Date

Moon Quarters

First 02/05, Full 02/12, Last 02/20, New 02/27

Darkest Evenings

01/19 – 02/03 02/18 – 03/04

Note: 2 days before Last thru 2 days before First

Viewing Resources

Evening Sky Maps

<http://skymaps.com/>

Astronomy Forecasts

<https://clearoutside.com/forecast/42.82/-83.14>

http://oaklandastronomy.net/ambient_RH.html

Peter Birren's Deep-Sky Fieldbooks

<http://www.birrendesign.com/astro.html>

Featured Constellation: Monoceros

A selection from Peter Birren's excellent deep-sky fieldbook, "Objects in the Heavens", pages 96-99

CONSTELLATION	COMMON NAME	SEASON, ON MERIDIAN	ABBREVIATION
ITEM IDENTIFIER	TYPE DETAILS	☆☆ SEPARATION / SIZE RA DEC	MAG

Monoceros *the Unicorn* Winter Feb 20 **MON**

"Inconspicuous to the naked eye, but rich in groups and clusters."

☆☆ 11/Beta	β	! ☆☆☆; white/pearl gray	2.9"/7.3"	06:29.4	-07°02'	5/5/6
☆☆ 8/Epsilon	ε	Gold/blue	13.4"	06:24.8	04°35'	4.5/6.6
☆☆ S/15		Many tight companions; 1022LY		06:42.2	-09°52'	4.67
☆ X®		Binoc variable, 156 days; semi-reg		06:58.1	-09°06'	7.4-9
☆ BG®		Carbon ☆; variable 30 days		06:57.4	07°03'	9-10.4
☆ KS®		Carbon ☆; irregular variable		06:20.7	-05°18'	8.7-11
☆ RV®		Carbon ☆; 1977LY; ruddy color		06:59.4	06°08'	9.7-12
○○ M50 ₂₃₂₃	OC	Heart Cluster; 80☆ mag 9-14	16'	07:03.6	-08°25'	5.9
		Several arcs; 1 red ☆; compressed; nice in low power				
○ NGC2170	EN	Angel Neb between RN vdB68/69	2'	06:08.5	-06°24'	9.9
○ NGC2215	OC	40☆; large; compressed; irreg.	11'	06:21.8	-07°18'	8.4
○○ NGC2232	OC	20☆; bright; scattered	30'	06:28.2	-04°46'	4.1
○ NGC2236	OC	30☆; triangle with long curve	7'	06:30.7	06°48'	8.5
○○ NGC2237-39	C/N	!! Rosette Nebula	80'x60'	06:31.3	05°02'	5.5
		Around NGC2244; faint star in nebulosity; UHC filter;				
		<i>"This area well repays the trouble of sweeping."</i>				
○○ NGC2244	OC	! 100☆ in Rosette; low power	29'	06:31.9	04°55'	4.8
○ NGC2245	RN	Diffuse; fairly large but faint	5'x3'	06:33.8	10°09'	9.0
○ NGC2247	RN	Circular; fog-like around mag8 ☆	2'	06:34.8	10°19'	10.0
○ NGC2250	OC	Round; irregular, faint	8'	06:34.8	-05°06'	8.9
○○ NGC2251	OC	25☆; very large; extended	10'	06:35.7	08°21'	7.3
○ NGC2252	OC	Large; attractive curves	18'	06:35.8	05°21'	7.7
○ NGC2254	OC	5 ☆: faint: misty background	4'	06:36.9	07°39'	9.1

○ NGC2261	ER	<i>Hubble's Variable Nebula</i>	2'x1'	06:40.2	08°43'	9.6
Comet-like; nebulosity surrounding R MON						
○○ NGC2264	C/N !!	<i>Christmas Tree Cluster</i> ; 3kLY	30'	06:42.2	09°52'	3.9
Cone Neb at top of the "tree"; S Mon at base; 20☆ mag 6-10						
○ NGC2269	OC	13☆; small V-shape	4'	06:44.3	04°36'	10.0
○ NGC2282	RN	Faint, several ☆ involved	3'x3'	06:47.9	-01°18'	10.0
○ NGC2286	OC	~100☆; large; compressed	14'	06:48.7	-03°09'	7.5
○○ NGC2301	OC	<i>Great Bird of the Galaxy</i> ; 60☆	12'	06:52.8	00°25'	6.0
○ NGC2302	OC	Sparse; poor; little compressed	5'	06:52.9	-07°07'	8.9
○ NGC2311	OC	Mag8-9 ☆ + 35☆ mag11-13	6'	06:58.8	-04°38'	9.6
○ NGC2324	OC	30☆; 5☆ in Y-pattern	10'	07:05.4	01°00'	8.4
○ NGC2335	C/N	Scattered; N end of Seagull Neb	7'	07:07.8	-10°03'	7.2
○○ NGC2343	OC	Sparse; little compressed	5'	07:09.0	-10°39'	6.7
○○ NGC2353	OC	Large; one very bright ☆	20'	07:15.4	-10°18'	7.0
○ NGC2506	GC	150☆; very rich; compressed	12'	08:00.9	-10°49'	7.6
○○ Cr 91	OC	2 brighter ☆ involved	17'	06:22.7	02°21'	6.4

CONSTELLATION	COMMON NAME	SEASON,	ON MERIDIAN	ABBREVIATION		
ITEM IDENTIFIER	TYPE	DETAILS	☆☆ SEPARATION / SIZE	RA	DEC	MAG

Monoceros CONTINUED

			Winter	Feb 20	MON	
○ Cr 92	OC	Poor; scattered; various size ☆	11'	06:23.9	05°06'	8.6
○ Cr 95	C/N	Dim spread of ☆ in RN IC2169	19'	06:31.9	09°55'	10.0
○○ Cr 96	OC	Nice grouping; 3 brighter stars	10'	06:31.3	02°51'	7.3
○○ Cr 97	OC	30☆; EW chain; 2kLY	25'	06:32.4	05°54'	5.4
○ Cr 104	OC	30☆; NS chain; near NGC2244	22'	06:37.5	04°48'	9.6
○ CV Mon	OC	vdB1 cluster (vdB1 neb in CAS)	5'	06:38.0	03°03'	9.5
○ Basel 7	OC	In rich field, curved strings	5'	06:37.7	08°20'	8.5
○○ Cr 106	OC	4-20☆?; ~2° NE of NGC2237	35'	06:38.1	05°56'	4.6
○○ Cr 107	OC	15☆; large; sparse; 5,540LY	29'	06:38.7	04°43'	5.1
○ Cr 111	OC	Several ☆☆; 7 brighter ☆	3.2'	06:39.8	06°53'	7.0
○ Star 5/17	Ast	<i>Unicorn's Horn / Arrowhead</i> ; 7☆	8'x8'	06:41.4	-09°00'	8.5
○ Do 25	OC	2 E-W chains of mag 10-12 ☆	20'	06:46.1	00°17'	7.6
○ Cr 115	OC	Rectangular; many strings; nice	7'	06:47.5	01°45'	9.2
○○ Star 18	Ast	<i>Pakan's 3</i>	40'	06:53.3	-10°09'	8.0
○ Boc 2	OC	Very poor; near 2 lines of 3☆	1'	06:49.9	00°22'	9.7
○ Boc 3	OC	Moderate compressed; rich field	4'	07:04.4	-05°05'	9.9
○ Gum 1	EN	Seagull's head; right; round	20'x20'	07:05.2	-10°30'	10.0
○ IC 2177	C/EN	<i>Seagull</i> ; photogenic; 3.8kLY	2°x0.7°	07:06.0	-10°44'	10.0
○ Cr 465	C/N	In Seagull; use averted vision	9'	07:07.8	-10°34'	10.1
○ Mel 72	OC	40☆, many faint; triangle-shaped	9'	07:39.3	-10°44'	10.0