



January 2026 Astronomy Report



- **Moon:**
 - Phases
- **Planets:**
 - Evening: Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Jupiter
 - Morning: Jupiter
 - *Mercury, Mars, and Venus not visible this month*
- **Comets/Asteroids/Meteor Showers:**
 - Comet 24P/Schaumasse
 - Quadrantid meteor shower
- **Dark Sky Star Party:**
 - 22171 Cody Ct - BVS, January 17
- **Public Viewing:**
 - Cub Lake, January 24

Moon - Phases

January 18 - New Moon

January 3 - Full Moon (Gemini)



January 10 - Last Quarter (Virgo)



January 25 - First Quarter (Aries)



Apogee (252K miles) - 13th

Perigee (224K miles) - 1st; (227K miles) - 29th



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Evening Planets: Saturn/Neptune - (Aquarius, Pisces)

Saturn & Neptune remain in the same binocular FOV all month, setting before midnight



*Neptune - 2.8 billion miles
Saturn - 924 million miles*



Saturn's rings show a very shallow tilt, slowly increasing through the month - difficult to see in small telescopes.

Evening / Morning Planets: Uranus - (Taurus)

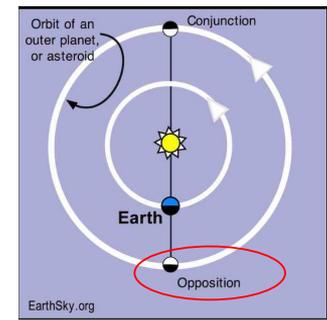
Uranus lies high in the sky after sunset, setting by 2 am by the end of January.



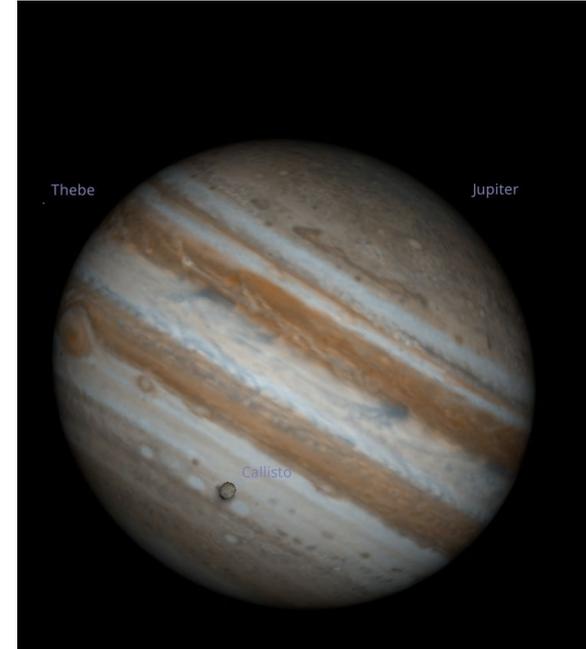
Uranus lies south of the Pleiades (M45) and is easy to spot through binoculars.

Evening/Morning Planets: Jupiter - (Gemini)

Jupiter reaches opposition on January 10, visible all night throughout January - climbing above 60 deg in altitude before midnight.



At opposition, Callisto blends with its shadow as it transits Jupiter.





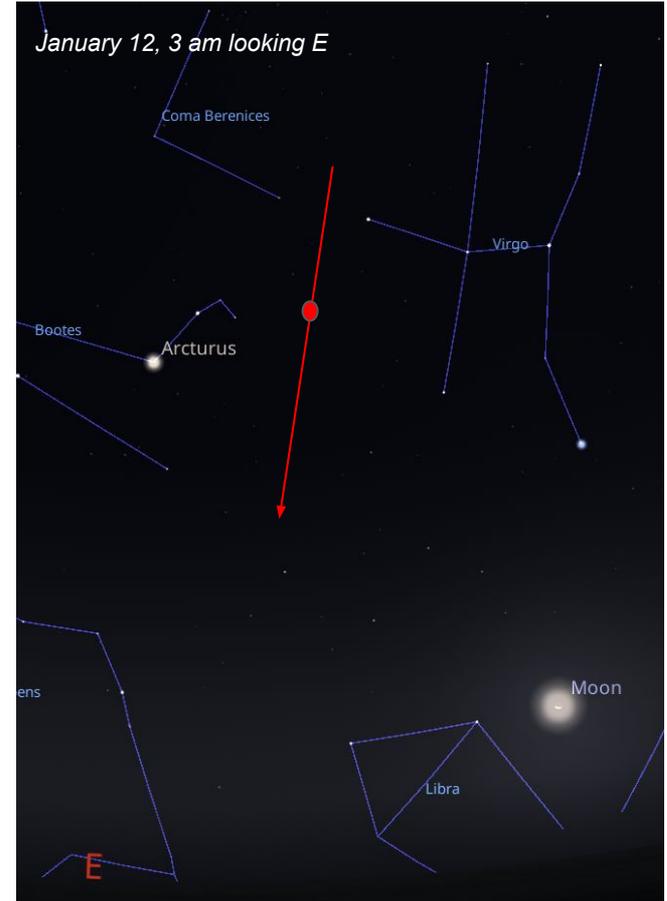
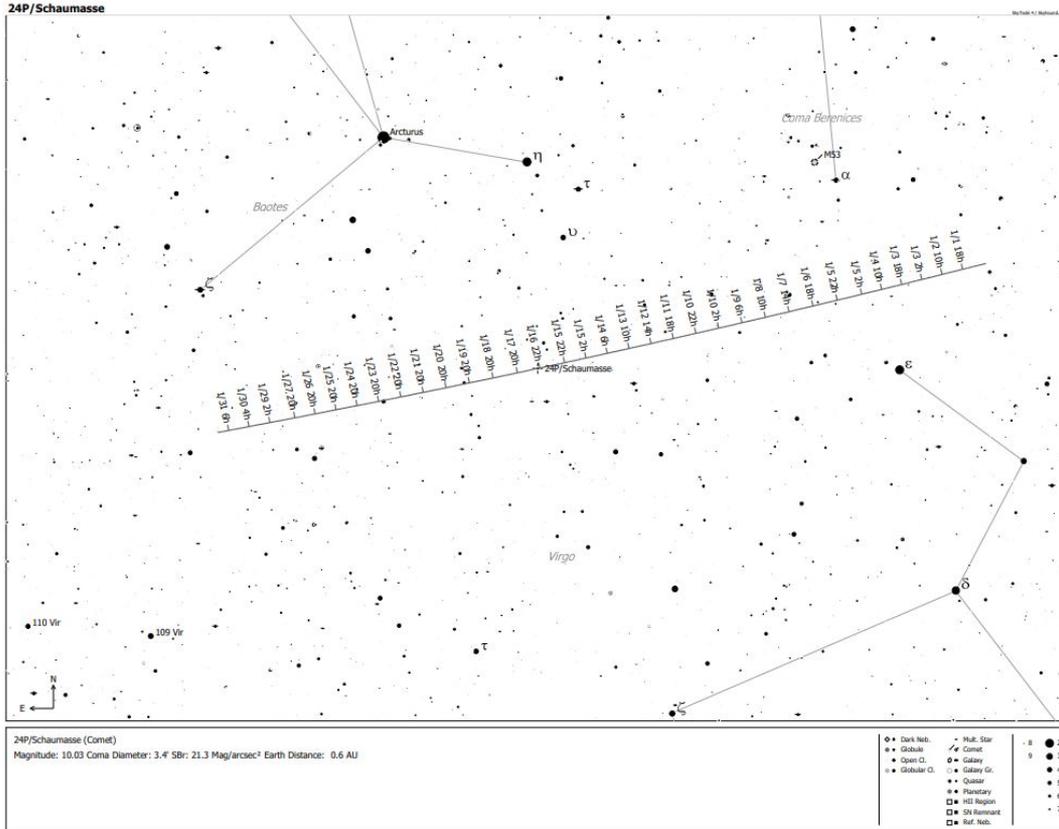
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Comet - 24P/Schaumasse

- Starts the month in Coma Berenices at mag 10 and fades slowly, moving to Bootes at end of January
- Visible with small telescopes at a dark site



Meteor Shower - Quadrantid

Active December 28th - January 12th; peak date was January 3rd (full Moon). Rates will be low, but Quadrantids are known to produce fireballs. Parent object is asteroid 2003 EH, likely the leftover core of a once-active comet.





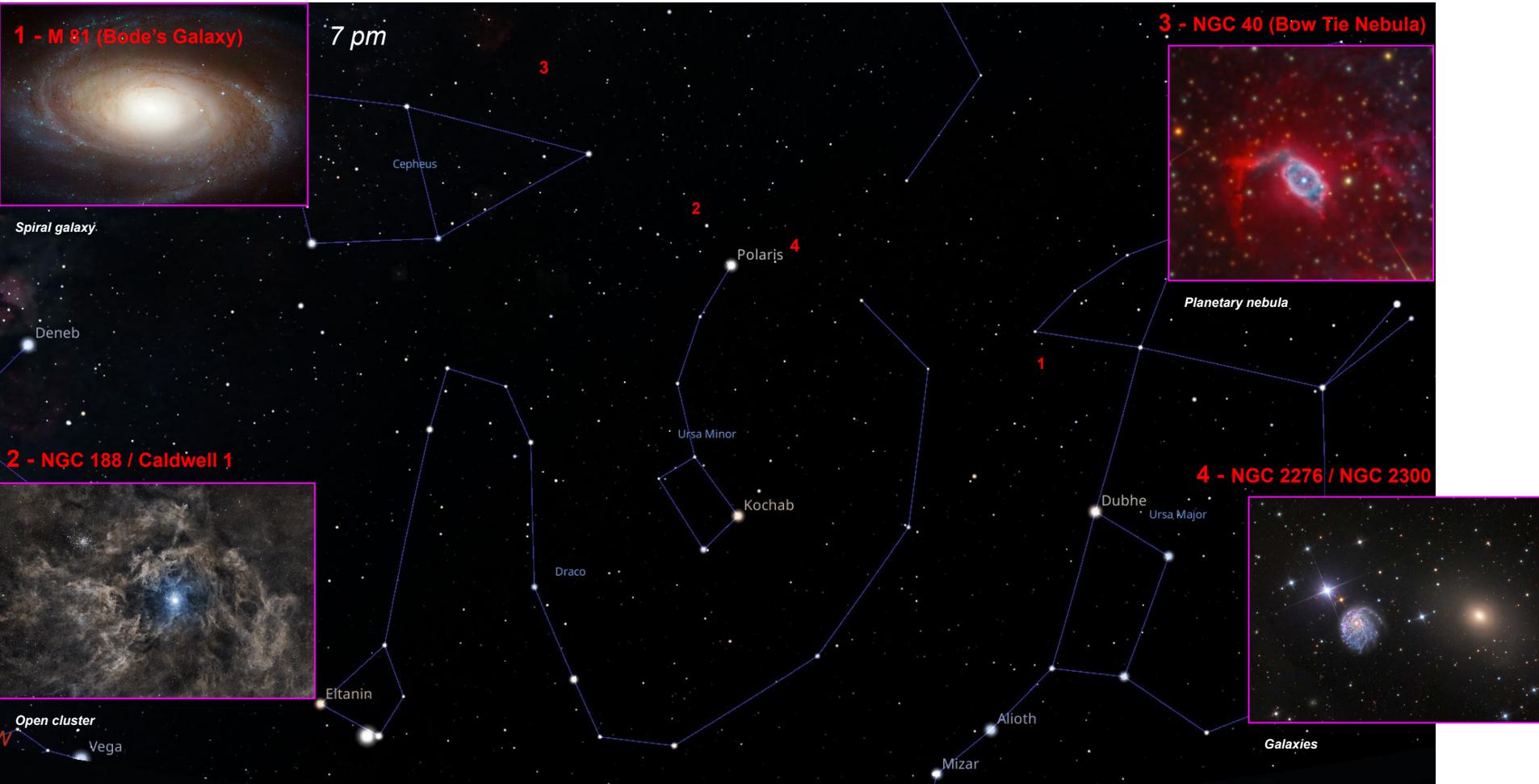
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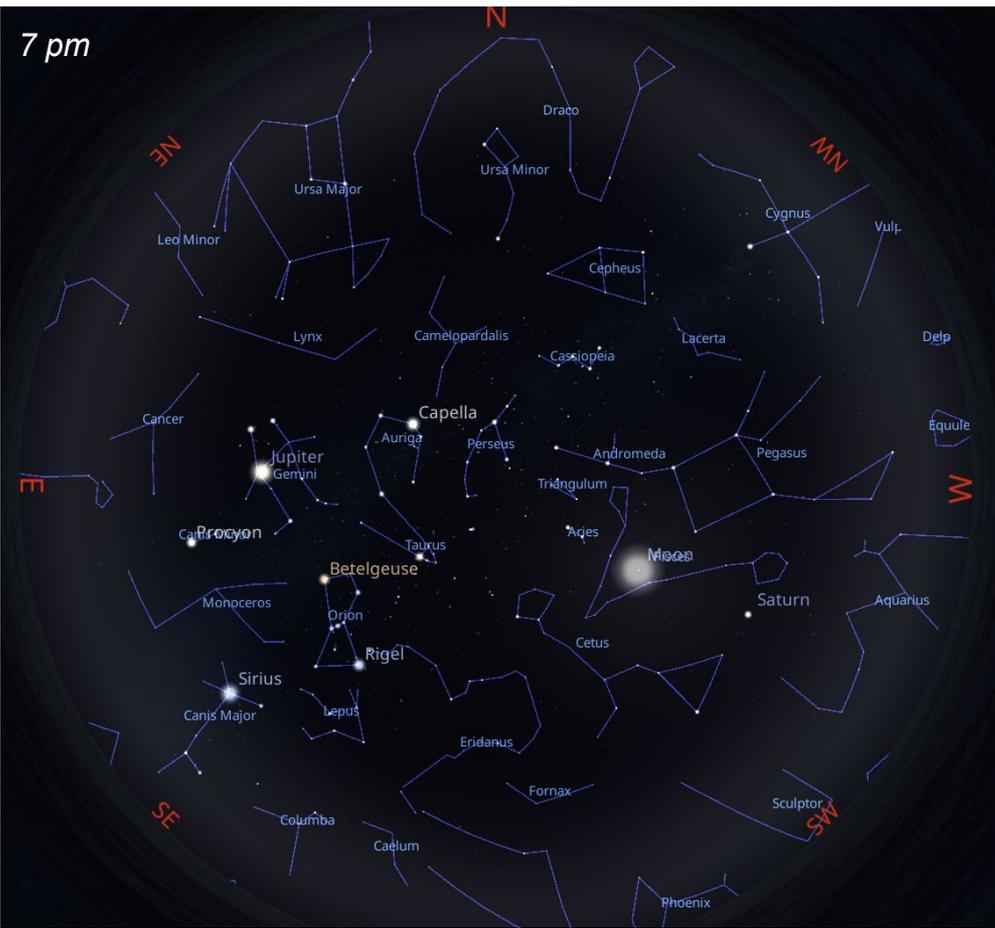
Dark Sky Viewing 22171 Cody Ct - BVS, January 17

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Public Viewing

Cub Lake, January 24



January 2026 Viewing Chronology

- 3 - Full moon
- 10 - Last Qtr Moon; Jupiter/Uranus (*8 pm*)
- 12 - Quadrantid meteor shower (*3 am*)
- 15 - Saturn/Neptune (*8 pm*)
- 17 - Dark Sky Star Party (*7 pm*)
- 18 - New moon
- 24 - Public Viewing (*7 pm*)

24P/Schaumasse comet - all month

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