

Mountaineer Skies

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<http://www.as.wvu.edu/~planet/index.html>

January - March, 2007

From the Editor's Desk

This is the first year for the new dates for **Daylight Saving Time (DST)**. New Federal Law mandates that DST will begin on the second Sunday in March and will end on the first Sunday in November. This change will result in nearly eight months of DST each year. This year, 2007, Daylight Saving Time will begin on March 11 and end about 238 days later on November 4.

The **Quadrantids meteor shower** will occur between December 28, 2006 and January 7, 2007, peaking on January 3 when as many as 40 - 80 per hour may be expected.

The **first day of Spring**, also known as the Vernal Equinox, falls on Tuesday, March 20 this year.

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In The Sky This Month

Visible Planets in the Night Sky

Beginning of January, 2007

	Const	Rise	Transit	Set	Mag
Sun		07:41	12:23	17:06	-26.8
Mercury	Sgr	07:38	12:10	16:44	-1.0
Venus	Sgr	08:49	13:33	18:18	-3.9
Mars	Oph	06:07	10:47	15:27	1.5
Jupiter	Oph	05:12	10:00	14:52	-1.8
Saturn	Leo	20:30	03:22	10:13	1.4

Beginning of February, 2007

	Const	Rise	Transit	Set	Mag
Sun		07:27	12:33	17:39	-26.8
Mercury	Aqr	08:18	13:39	19:01	-0.9
Venus	Aqr	08:39	14:06	19:33	-3.9
Mars	Sgr	05:45	10:24	15:04	1.4
Jupiter	Oph	03:37	08:22	13:11	-1.9
Saturn	Leo	18:18	01:12	08:06	1.2

Beginning of March, 2007

	Const	Rise	Transit	Set	Mag
Sun		06:52	12:32	18:12	-26.8
Mercury	Cap	06:04	11:33	17:09	2.3
Venus	Psc	08:07	14:22	20:37	-4.0
Mars	Cap	05:12	10:04	14:56	1.3
Jupiter	Oph	02:05	06:48	11:32	-2.1
Saturn	Leo	16:16	23:13	06:10	1.3

Leo	Leo, The Lion
Sgr	Sagittarius, The Archer
Oph	Ophiuchus, The Serpent Bearer
Aqr	Aquarius, The Water Bearer
Cap	Capricornus, The Goat
Psc	Pisces, The Fishes

About: Stonehenge, part 3



from Wikipedia with permission

If you look at the enclosed **Stonehenge at its Height** graphic, you will see what this site looked like when it was at its most pristine.

The outer most ring is the **bank** of earth gotten from the next inner most ring, the **ditch**. Both of these circles are broken in several places. Just inside the ditch are the 56 **Aubrey holes** which form another ring. Cremated human remains have been found in several of these.

To the northeast you will notice that there is an access road or path called **The Avenue**. It is surmised that this is the way priests or astronomers entered the structure.

To the northwest and southeast are two **barrows** that are normally associated with burials, but these two were, apparently, never used for this purpose.

The central area holds the features that were the most difficult to construct. First there is the **Sarsen**

Circle. This contained 30 vertical standing stones made of hard grained sandstone. Next comes the first of two circles made up of the so-called **Blue Stones** quarried from the Prescelly Mountains. Next we find the U shaped grouping of the famous **Trilithons**, almost certainly the most difficult to erect because of the connecting lintel. The open side of the U points toward **The Avenue** or to the northeast. The inner most circle is made up of the second circle of **Blue Stones**.

Finally we come to the **Heel Stone** located in **The Avenue**. From an astronomical point of view, this may be the most significant stone of all, for if you stand at the center of Stonehenge, on the first day of summer, the summer solstice, you will see that the sun rises directly over the pointed tip of the **Heel Stone**.

Today, Stonehenge has become a skeleton of its original self. This is due to age, weather, and vandalism. About half of Stonehenge now lies in ruin. Some of the Sarsen stones and Blue Stones have fallen; some of the smaller ones were taken away to be used in local domestic construction. This is the same fate that befell the Coliseum in Rome. Fortunately for us, what remains has come under the protection of the British government so that it should be available for tourists and scholars (and pseudo scholars) for a long time to come.

And yes, just 20 miles away, there is a **Woodhenge**.

2007 Planetarium Shows



January 12 & 26, 2007 <i>Sky Quest</i>	February 9 & 23, 2007 <i>Sky Quest</i>	March 9 & 23, 2007 <i>Sky Quest</i>
April 13 & 27, 2007 <i>Sky Quest</i>	May 11 & 25, 2007 <i>Sky Quest</i>	June 8, 2007 <i>Sky Quest</i>

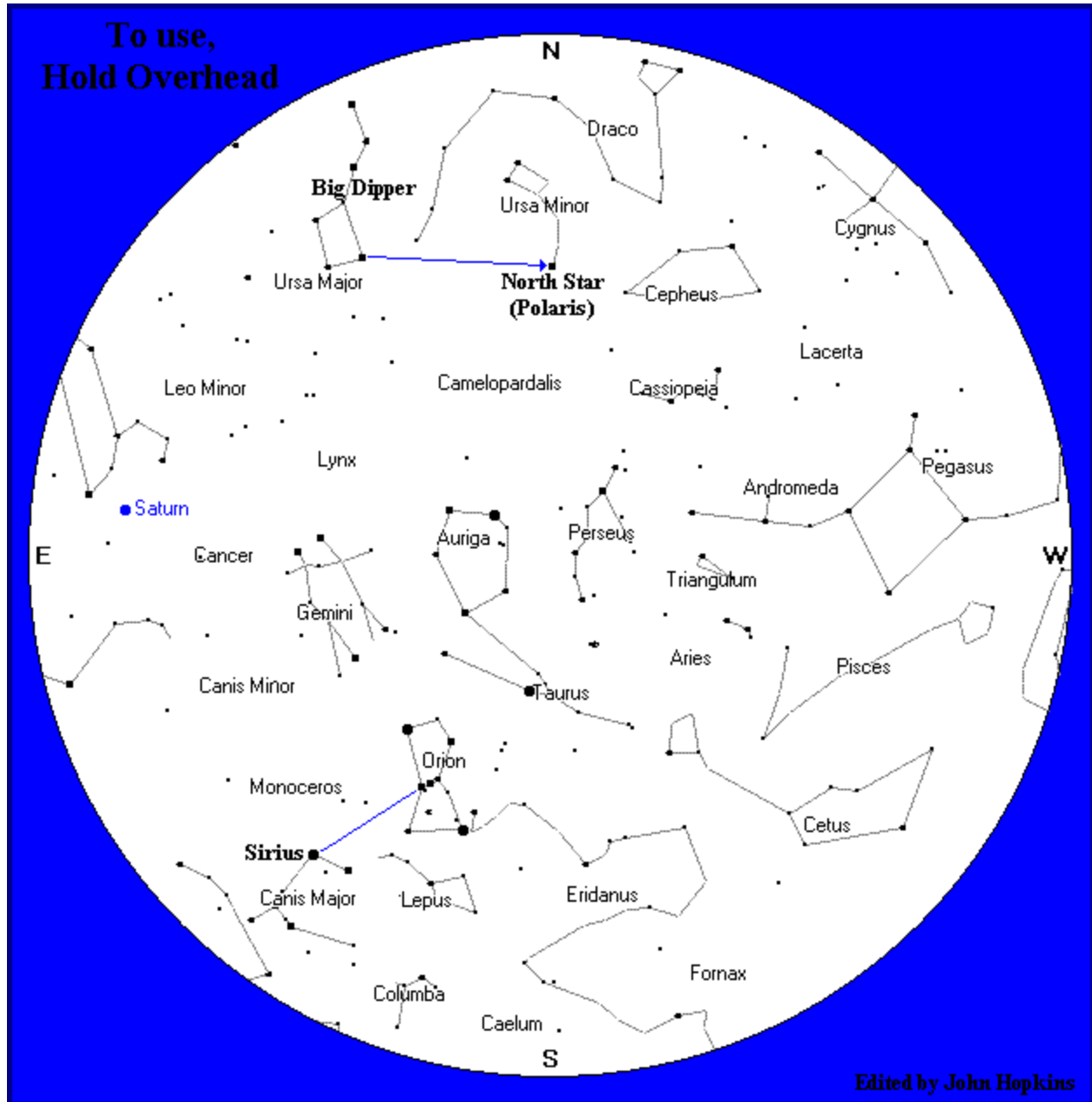
For those who are interested in bringing a group, such as schools or scouts, during the day, please call for more information. These shows are usually given on Tuesday or Thursday mornings.

For further information or reservations, please call John Hopkins at (304)293-3422, extension 1443 or by email at: jhopkins@mail.wvu.edu

Selected Sunrise/Sunset and Moon Rise/Moon Set Times

Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Moon Rise	Moon Set	Moon Phase
Jan 3	7:39 A.M.	5:12 P.M.	5:14 P.M.	8:03 A.M.	Full Moon
Jan 11	7:38 A.M.	5:19 P.M.	12:29 A.M.	11:40 A.M.	Last Qtr
Jan 18	7:36 A.M.	5:26 P.M.	7:33 A.M.	4:53 P.M.	New Moon
Jan 25	7:33 A.M.	5:34 P.M.	11:06 A.M.	12:15 A.M.	First Qtr
Feb 2	7:26 A.M.	5:43 P.M.	6:19 P.M.	7:53 A.M.	Full Moon
Feb 10	7:18 A.M.	5:52 P.M.	1:20 A.M.	11:01 A.M.	Last Qtr
Feb 17	7:10 A.M.	6:00 P.M.	7:18 A.M.	6:15 P.M.	New Moon
Feb 24	7:01 A.M.	6:08 P.M.	10:59 A.M.	1:45 A.M.	First Qtr
Mar 3	6:51 A.M.	6:15 P.M.	6:12 P.M.	6:45 A.M.	Full Moon
Mar 11	7:40 A.M.	7:23 P.M.	2:14 A.M.	11:16 A.M.	Last Qtr
Mar 18	7:29 A.M.	7:30 P.M.	7:11 A.M.	7:18 P.M.	New Moon
Mar 25	7:18 A.M.	7:37 P.M.	11:44 A.M.	2:47 A.M.	First Qtr

January 2007 Sky Chart* for:
 10:00 P.M at the beginning of the month
 9:00 P.M in the middle of the month
 8:00 P.M at the end of the month



*Sky Chart used with the kind permission of [Heavens-Above](http://www.heavens-above.com/) at <http://www.heavens-above.com/>

The TOMCHIN PLANETARIUM is named in honor of the late Harold Tomchin, of Princeton, W.Va., who made a generous donation to ensure its continuing operation, and whose family continues to support the planetarium for the educational benefit of WVU students, staff, and faculty members, as well as the local community. Contributions can be made in support of the planetarium through the WVU Planetarium Project at the WVU Foundation, Inc., phone (304)284-4000. Thank You.



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