

Stargazing Targets, January, 2026

DMAS Ashton Public Nights



Targets – west to east	Angular size	Distance	Dia (Sep)	Mag
Uranus, planet 7	3.7 arcsec	19 AU	4.0 E	5.7
M31 Andromeda spiral gal	189 arcmin	2500 kly	140 kly	3.4
M33 spiral gal (Triangulum)	69 arcmin	2800 kly	56 kly	5.7
M45 open cluster (Pleiades)	120 arcmin	430 ly	15 ly	1.5
Almach (Gamma And) dbl star	-	390 ly	(1180 AU)	2.2/5.0
M42 Orion Nebula	85 arc min	1400 ly	35 ly	4.0
M79 globular cluster	1.3 arc min	4200 ly	16 ly	7.7
M1 Crab Nebula	6 arc min	6200 ly	10.8 ly	8.4
NGC 2237 Rosette Nebula	80 arc min	5500 ly	128 ly	5.5
M38 open cluster (Starfish)	20 arc min	4600 ly	27 ly	6.4
M36 open cluster (Pinwheel)	10 arc min	4300 ly	13 ly	6.0
M37 open cluster	14 arc min	4500 ly	18 ly	5.6
M35 open cluster	40 arc min	3000 ly	35 ly	5.1
Castor (alpha Geminorum) dbl star	-	50.9 ly	(89 AU)	1.6/3.0
M52 open cluster	15 arcmin	4.6 kly	20 ly	6.9
NGC 7789 open cl (Caroline's Rose)	25 arcmin	5.9 ly	43 ly	6.7
NGC 457 Owl Cluster	20 arcmin	7.9 kly	46 ly	6.4
NGC 869/884 Double Cluster	18/18 arcmin	6.8/9.6 kly	36/50 ly	5.3/6.1
Polaris double star	-	430 ly	(2410 AU)	2.0/9.1
M81 spiral galaxy (Bodes)	25 arc min	12 Mly	85 ly	6.9
M82 spiral galaxy (Cigar)	11 arc min	12 Mly	38 ly	8.4
Jupiter, planet 5	44.6 arc sec	4.4 AU	11 E	-2.5
Moon: full = Jan 03; new = Jan 18	32.0 min	240,000 mi	2,160 mi	-12.4max

Notes: Most data from SkySafari Pro7 smartphone application, 2026.

Angular size=as viewed from Earth; Distance=distance from Earth; Dia=overall true size; (Sep)=distance between double stars;

Mag=apparent visual magnitude from Earth.

min=arcminute; sec=arcsecond; ly=light year (~5.9 trillion miles); kly=ly x1000; Mly=ly x1,000,000.

AU=astronomical unit, 1AU=the average distance from Earth to Sun (~93,000,000 mi). Oort Cloud ≈3.75 ly dia.

Constellations/stars rise approx. 4 minutes earlier/day. The planets move differently per orbit. Moon about 45 minutes later/night.

Milky Way ≈100x1 kly; total stars =100-400 billion. MW rotates Solar System ≈483,000 mph. The MW thru space ≈1,300,000 mph.