

1
00:00:06,419 --> 00:00:08,879

Your guide to constellations,

2
00:00:08,880 --> 00:00:14,500

deep-sky objects, planets, and events:

3
00:00:14,500 --> 00:00:22,460

Tonight's Sky. Highlights of the January sky:

4
00:00:37,299 --> 00:00:44,780

The winter sky is filled with brilliant stars.

5
00:00:44,780 --> 00:00:47,500

An ancient constellation, Auriga was

6
00:00:47,500 --> 00:00:53,039

pictured as a goat herder by the Greeks and Romans.

7
00:00:53,039 --> 00:00:57,060

Auriga is a beautiful circlet of jeweled stars,

8
00:00:57,060 --> 00:01:01,859

gracing the sky overhead.

9
00:01:01,859 --> 00:01:05,120

Capella, the sixth-brightest star in the sky,

10
00:01:05,120 --> 00:01:08,160

is a double star.

11
00:01:08,159 --> 00:01:11,819

The two stars are yellow stars like our own Sun,

12
00:01:11,819 --> 00:01:14,399

but they are about 10 times larger

13
00:01:14,400 --> 00:01:20,340

and 50 and 80 times brighter.

14
00:01:33,799 --> 00:01:41,459

Near Auriga is the large constellation Taurus, the Bull.

15
00:01:41,459 --> 00:01:45,199
In Greek legend, this group of stars represented Zeus

16
00:01:45,200 --> 00:01:51,120
in the disguise of a white bull with golden horns.

17
00:01:51,120 --> 00:01:53,820
His eye is the orange Aldebaran,

18
00:01:53,819 --> 00:02:02,579
a red-giant star nearing the end of its life.

19
00:02:02,579 --> 00:02:06,399
The Bull's V-shaped head is created by the Hyades,

20
00:02:06,400 --> 00:02:08,879
a beautiful cluster of stars,

21
00:02:08,879 --> 00:02:13,979
easily seen with the naked eye.

22
00:02:19,080 --> 00:02:25,219
The Pleiades star cluster lies near the head of the Bull.

23
00:02:25,219 --> 00:02:28,719
Large and bright, this star cluster is the

24
00:02:28,840 --> 00:02:31,400
best known in the sky and is often called

25
00:02:31,400 --> 00:02:35,360
"the Seven Sisters."

26
00:02:35,360 --> 00:02:39,260
The unaided eye can see just six or seven stars,

27
00:02:39,259 --> 00:02:50,099
but the Pleiades cluster contains over 250.

28
00:02:50,099 --> 00:02:55,199
Binoculars showcase the cluster at its best.

29

00:02:55,199 --> 00:03:01,179

The stars in this stellar swarm are hot and young.

30

00:03:01,180 --> 00:03:08,939

They are passing through a dusty cloud that reflects their blue light.

31

00:03:24,680 --> 00:03:27,300

Saturn and Mercury rise together

32

00:03:27,300 --> 00:03:30,460

every morning before sunrise.

33

00:03:30,460 --> 00:03:33,640

Over the course of the month, the two planets shift

34

00:03:33,639 --> 00:03:37,659

position in the predawn sky.

35

00:03:37,659 --> 00:03:40,620

They appear to converge in the middle of the month,

36

00:03:40,620 --> 00:03:46,120

and then slowly swap places.

37

00:03:46,120 --> 00:03:47,900

With a backyard telescope,

38

00:03:47,900 --> 00:03:54,060

the two are easy to distinguish.

39

00:04:03,520 --> 00:04:06,040

Bright Jupiter and reddish Mars

40

00:04:06,039 --> 00:04:12,759

rise together a few hours before the Sun.

41

00:04:12,759 --> 00:04:15,139

On the morning of January 6,

42

00:04:15,139 --> 00:04:18,180

they appear less than half a degree apart,

43

00:04:18,180 --> 00:04:20,920

and can be seen in the same field of view

44

00:04:20,920 --> 00:04:27,699

in a backyard telescope.

45

00:04:41,939 --> 00:04:45,199

The Quadrantid meteor shower peaks on the night

46

00:04:45,199 --> 00:04:49,699

spanning January 3 and 4.

47

00:04:49,699 --> 00:04:53,360

Skywatchers who brave the cold might spot up to

48

00:04:53,360 --> 00:04:58,199

40 meteors per hour.

49

00:04:58,199 --> 00:05:03,899

The night sky is always a celestial showcase.

50

00:05:03,899 --> 00:05:10,159

Explore its wonders from your own backyard.