TONIGHT'S SKY

January 2017

1
00:00:07,000 --> 00:00:11,000
Your guide to constellations deep-sky objects,

2
00:00:11,000 --> 00:00:14,000
planets and events.

3
00:00:14,000 --> 00:00:19,500
Tonight's sky, highlights of the January sky.

4
00:00:35,500 --> 00:00:39,500
After the Sun sets, look in the southwestern sky

5
00:00:39,500 --> 00:00:41,000
for bright Venus

6
00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:46,000
and for the fainter reddish Mars above it.

7
00:00:54,070 --> 00:00:57,000
The two planets will edge closer toward each other

8
00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:01,500
as the month goes on.

9
00:01:14,900 --> 00:01:20,500
The winter sky is filled with brilliant stars.

10
00:01:20,500 --> 00:01:22,600
An ancient constellation,

11
00:01:22,600 --> 00:01:29,400
Auriga was pictured as a goat herder by the Greeks and Romans.

12
00:01:29,400 --> 00:01:32,570
Auriga is a beautiful circlet of jeweled stars,

13
00:01:32,570 --> 00:01:38,410

gracing the sky overhead.

14
00:01:38,410 --> 00:01:41,800
Capella, the sixth brightest star in the sky,

15
00:01:41,800 --> 00:01:46,700
is a double star.

16
00:01:46,700 --> 00:01:51,100
The two stars are yellow stars like our own son

17
00:01:51,100 --> 00:01:53,620
but they are about 10 times larger

18
00:01:53,620 --> 00:01:58,000
and 50 and 80 times brighter.

19
00:02:09,200 --> 00:02:14,020
Near Auriga is the large constellation Taurus the Bull.

20
00:02:16,300 --> 00:02:17,740
In Greek legend,

21
00:02:17,740 --> 00:02:20,680
this in the group of stars represented Zeus

22
00:02:20,680 --> 00:02:26,500
in the disguise of a white bowl with golden horns.

23
00:02:31,820 --> 00:02:35,000
His eye is the orange Aldebaran,

24
00:02:35,000 --> 00:02:39,060
a red giant star nearing the end of its life.

25
00:02:41,780 --> 00:02:46,180
The bulls V-shaped head is created by the Hyades,

26
00:02:46,260 --> 00:02:48,700
a beautiful cluster of stars,

27
00:02:48,720 --> 00:02:54,000
easily seen with the naked eye.

28
00:02:56,500 --> 00:03:00,600
The Pleiades star cluster lies near the head of the Bull.

29
00:03:00,620 --> 00:03:02,500
Large and bright,

30
00:03:02,580 --> 00:03:05,980
this star cluster is the best known in the sky

31
00:03:06,080 --> 00:03:10,340
and is often called the "Seven Sisters."

32
00:03:13,720 --> 00:03:17,960
The unaided eye can see just six or seven stars,

33
00:03:17,960 --> 00:03:23,900
but the Pleiades cluster contains over 250.

34
00:03:26,140 --> 00:03:32,000
Binoculars showcase the cluster at its best.

35
00:03:32,060 --> 00:03:37,700
The stars in this stellar swarm are hot and young.

36
00:03:37,720 --> 00:03:40,200
They are passing through a dusty cloud

37
00:03:40,220 --> 00:03:43,000
that reflects their blue light.

38
00:03:58,440 --> 00:04:01,600

Jupiter makes an appearance in the eastern sky

39
00:04:01,600 --> 00:04:07,000
after midnight, alongside the bright star Spica.

40
00:04:17,000 --> 00:04:21,500
Use a telescope to spy the giant planets cloud bands

41
00:04:21,540 --> 00:04:25,420
and a few of its large moons.

42
00:04:30,540 --> 00:04:34,500
Just before dawn, search for Saturn and Mercury

43
00:04:34,560 --> 00:04:38,340
rising above the south eastern horizon.

44
00:04:49,180 --> 00:04:53,800
A small telescope will reveal Saturn's rings.

45
00:04:53,800 --> 00:04:56,619
A larger telescope might also show what phase mercury is in.

46
00:04:56,619 --> 00:05:00,000
what phase mercury is in.

47
00:05:13,639 --> 00:05:16,099
The Quadrantid meteor shower peaks

48
00:05:16,099 --> 00:05:21,200
on the night spanning January 3rd and 4th.

49
00:05:21,240 --> 00:05:23,120
Sky watchers who braved the cold

50
00:05:23,120 --> 00:05:28,520
might spot up to 40 meteors per hour.

51
00:05:31,560 --> 00:05:36,100
The night sky is always a celestial showcase.