

2009 JULY-AUGUST STARMAP

Date and Time:	
Early July:	12:30 A.M.
Late July:	11:30 P.M.
Early August:	10:30 P.M.
Late August:	9:30 P.M.

- How to Use This Map:**
1. Find North in the sky using the Big Dipper and the North Star.
 2. While facing North, hold the starmap straight in front of you with NORTH at the bottom.
 3. Look for the constellations in that area of the sky.
 4. When you want to look at other areas, always turn the map so that the direction you're facing is at the bottom of the map.

Key:

CONSTITUTION NAMES
 Star Names
 STAR GROUP NAMES
Deep Sky Object Designations
 Planet Names

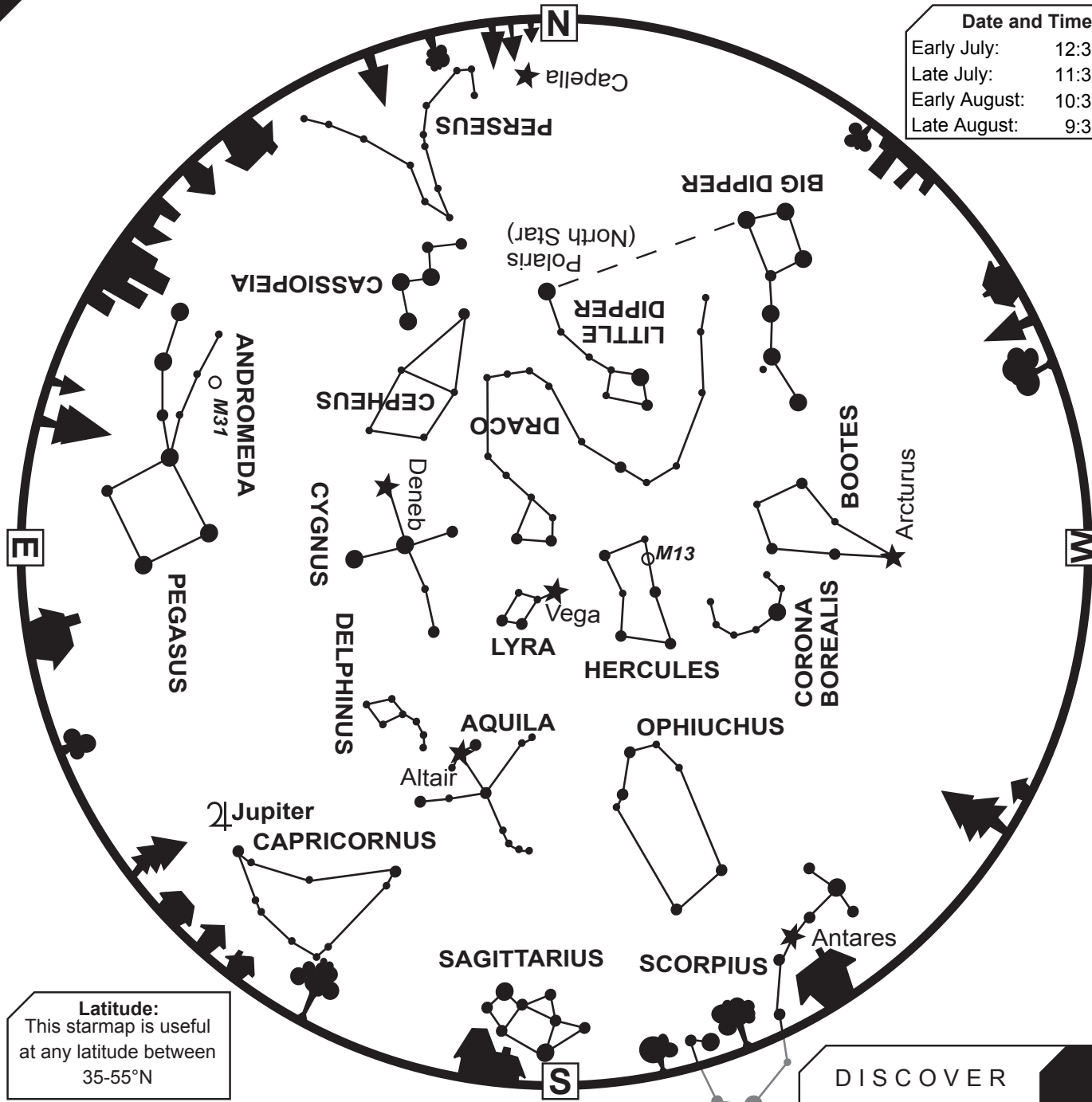
- ★ 1st magnitude stars
- 2nd magnitude stars
- 3rd magnitude stars
- 4th magnitude stars
- Deep sky objects:
 M13 - Hercules Globular Cluster
 M31 - Andromeda Galaxy
- Planets:
 ♃ - Jupiter

Willard Smith Planetarium

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Latitude:
 This starmap is useful
 at any latitude between
 35-55°N



Further Afield

Getting out of the city allows for even better views of the sky. Here are some favorite stargazing locations within a few hours of Seattle. Most are fee-based public areas.

Battle Point Astronomical Association on Bainbridge Island has a telescope and good stargazing. Info: <http://www.bpastro.org/>

Staircase Campground in Olympic National Park. This is a favorite location for Pacific Science Center's Planetarians. When you get there, sit on the bridge for the best views. Info: www.nps.gov

Campground on Lake Kachess in the Cascades just off I-90. The boat ramp in the "Day Use Only" section of the park has a good view towards the Northeast. Info: www.reserveamerica.com

Lake Ozette in Olympic National Park, near the tip of the Olympic Peninsula, has a good reputation for dark skies. Stay near the water (out of the trees) for the best sights. Info: www.nps.gov

The Boeing Employee's Astronomical Society recommends **Bowman Bay Campground in Deception Pass State Park** on Whidbey Island. Info: www.parks.wa.gov

Driving East: Once you get over the Cascades, the weather tends to be clearer, and Seattle's light pollution is completely blocked.

Approximate stargazing locations, thanks to Google Maps



Summer Stargazing in Seattle

Looking for stars in Seattle? The farther you can get from streetlights, the better. Darkness is what you need for the best stargazing.*

City Parks:

Solstice Park, 7400 Fauntleroy Way SW in West Seattle. The overlook is unlit, and the park hours are 4am-11:30pm

Green Lake Park, 7201 E Green Lake Dr. N in North Seattle. The park is open 24 hours.

If you would like to join other astronomers, **the Seattle Astronomical Society** hosts stargazing parties in two locations in Seattle.

July 25 and August 29 at 7pm
Green Lake Star Party: on the north shore.
Paramount Park Star Party: NE 155th and 8th NE in Shoreline.

UW Observatory Open House: look through the UW's 110-year-old refracting telescope, and listen to a short talk.

July 1 and 15 from 9pm-11pm
 August 5 and 19 from 9pm-11pm

*Please use caution walking in the city in the dark. Also, be aware that many of Seattle's parks close at dusk or 11:30pm.

The Perseid Meteor Shower

If you spend any time stargazing this summer, be sure not to miss the Perseid meteor shower.

Dates: July 23-August 22
 Time: After midnight
 Best Viewing: August 12 12am-3am

To see the Perseids, turn to face the constellation Perseus, which will be rising in the Northeast a bit before midnight.



Mars as Big as the Moon? Nope.

You may get an e-mail this summer from a friend or family member telling you that Mars will appear as big as the Moon in the August skies. It will not. This e-mail is a mis-communication.

Mars will just barely be visible in the August skies - rising around 2 or 3 in the morning. In December 2009 and January of 2010 Mars will be more visible, though without a telescope it will still look like an orange-ish star as it always does.

More details: <http://www.alicesastroinfo.com/2008/08/mars-hoax-again-again-and-again/>

Astronomy Internet Resources

Sky Information:

<http://stardate.org/nightssky/weekly.php>

UW Observatory:

<http://www.astro.washington.edu/groups/outreach/tjo/>

Seattle-Area Astronomy Events:

<http://www.seattleastro.org>

Advanced Astronomy Updates:

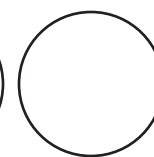
<http://www.PacificScienceCenter.org/AstroInfo>

Astronomy Hotline: 206-443-2920



**First
Quarter**

July 28
August 27



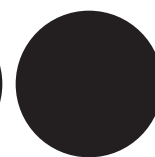
**Full
Moon**

July 7
August 5



**Third
Quarter**

July 15
August 13



**New
Moon**

July 21
August 20

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