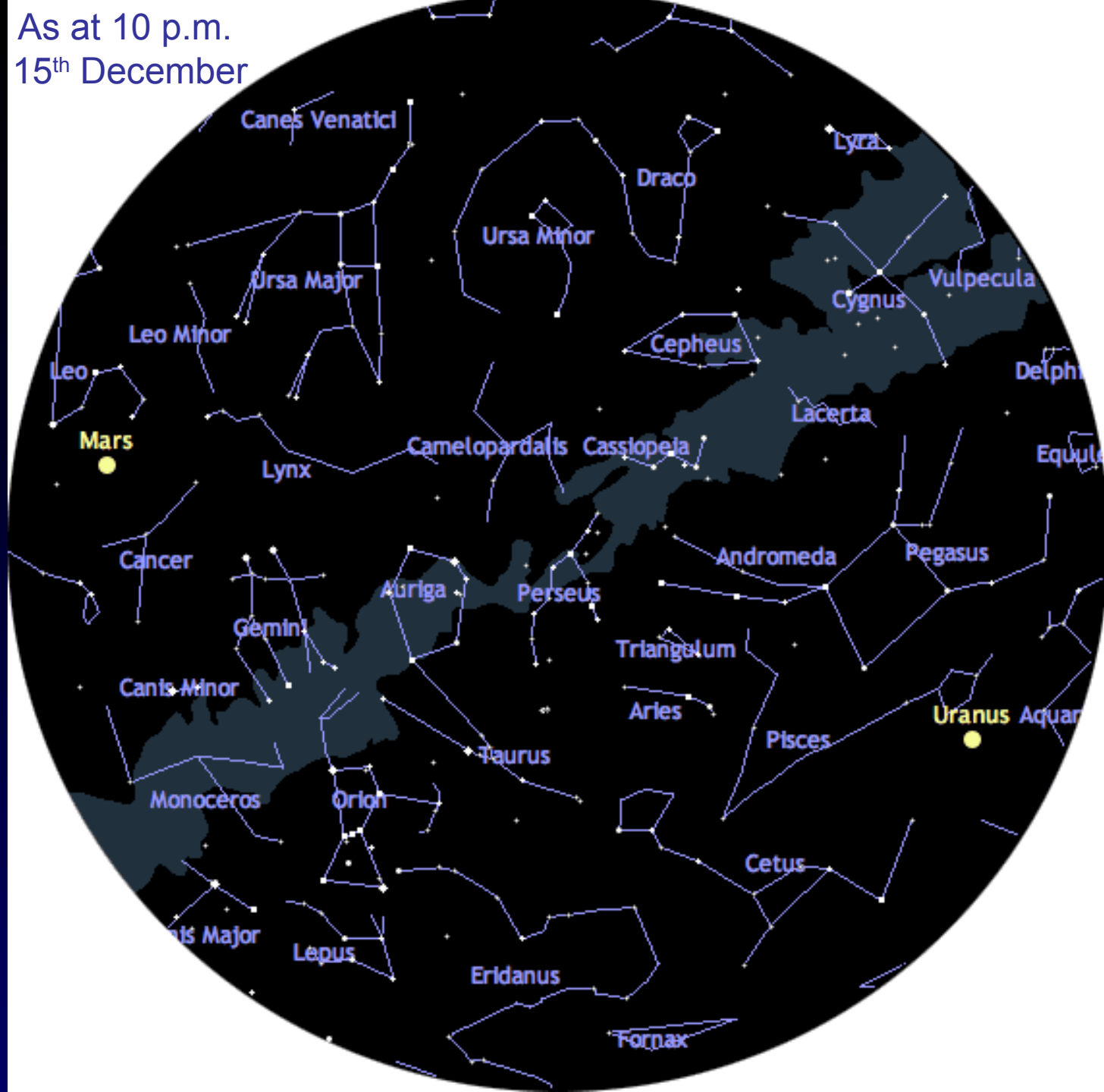


What's Up!

3rd December 2009



As at 10 p.m.
15th December



What's Up - Planets

- **Mercury**

- Evening object throughout Dec, low in S.West after sunset, at Magnitude -0.5, growing from 5" gibbous phase to 8" crescent

- **Venus**

- Mag - 3.8 with 9" disc, but v.low on horizon in the SE, early morning

- **Mars**

- Improving all month, Mag +0.4 to -0.1, increasing from 9" to 12" disc, rising around 22.00 now & by 19.30 at end, goes retrograde on 21st.

- **Jupiter**

- Well past its best, mag -2.0 with 36" disc, low in Capricorn, sets early

- **Saturn**

- Improving! Mag +0.7 17" disc, morning object in Virgo, rising around 00.00 hrs at end of month.

- **Uranus**

- Still there, now in Aquarius, Mag +5.8 only a 3.5" disc,

- **Neptune**

- Still very close to Jupiter, but at mag+7.9 and only 2" disc

What's Up - Phenomena

- **Meteors**

- 13th/14th : Geminids 2nd maxima, favourable Moon
 - ZHR 100/hr
 - Newlands Corner Meteor Watch?
- 22nd Ursids maxima

- **Occultations**

- Friday 4th Moon occults Delta Geminorum (Wasat)
 - at 20.50 (bright edge), reappearing at 21.48 (dark edge)

What's Up - Phenomena

- **December's Photo Opportunities**
 - 13th : Try photographing the Geminids
 - 18th : Mercury just 1.4° south of Moon
 - 20th : Jupiter just 0.6° south of Neptune
 - 31st : Partial Lunar Eclipse 18.52 to 19.52

Meetings at Local Societies

- **Friday 11th December**
 - Crawley AS “Members Evening”
 - Ewell AS “AGM & Members Talks”
- **Tuesday 8th December**
 - Farnham AS, “Members Presentations”

Other Meetings / Events

- **Throughout December**
 - **Cosmos & Culture**
 - Science Museum, London
- **8th December, RAS, London**
 - **The Search for Alien Life**
- **10th December, ROG Christmas Lecture, London**
 - **The Planets, an Inspiration at Christmas**
 - Prof Colin Pillinger
- **11th December, RAS, London**
 - **IYA2009 Summary**
 - Julia Gaudelli reports on GAS IYA activities

Astronomy on TV & radio - December

- **The Sky at Night**
– *“The Winter Sky”*



- *Sir Patrick & Chris Lintott search for the wonders of the winter night skies*

Monday 7th BBC1, 00.35

Monday 7th BBC4, 19.30

Usually repeated on Saturday, BBC2,
around noon