

Skokie Valley Astronomers

The Star Gazette

<https://SkokieValleyAstronomers.org/>

Always check the Meetings page of the website for the latest information!

Our next meeting, **Friday, December 12, 2025, 7:30 PM**, will be Zoom-only! Please check the website Meetings page for the latest information and Zoom link.

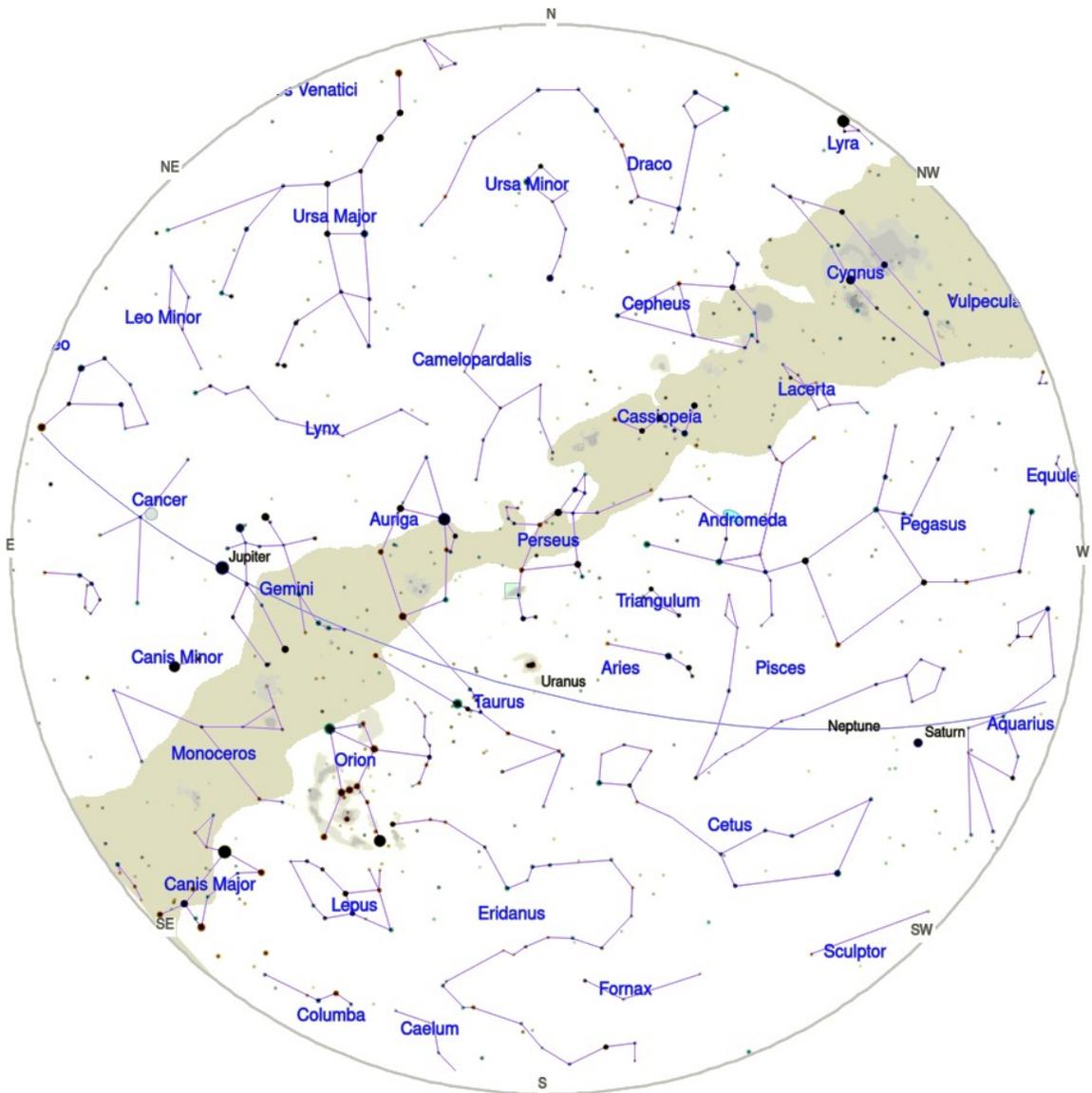
Over the past couple of years, two Chinese companies have designed and marketed automated devices that address the complexities and costs associated with traditional deep sky object (DSO) astrophotography. Club member **Fred Weichselbaum** will compare these relatively low cost and highly portable “smart telescopes” with the more traditional astrophotography rigs in which very serious star gazers typically invest. One of the devices, Dwarf Lab's “Dwarf 2”, will be on display along with examples of images it produces.

Backyard Deep Sky Astrophotography for the Masses

Skokie Valley Astronomer club dues are \$30 per year, which runs from April to March. Please check your mailing label. Does it say “**member through March 2026**”? If not, please consider becoming a member.

2026 Date	Talk	Speaker	Moon Elongation and Phase
January 9 Details TBD	SVA Party Night	(The Membership)	95°W – Last quarter
February 13	Capturing the Night Sky with Just a Cellphone... And More If You Have a Telescope	Andy Weeks	39°W – New Moon

Have you ever wanted to take a picture of the night sky with your cell phone? Were you thrilled with the results? Andy Weeks, who has held many positions in the Fox Valley Astronomical Society, will discuss the basics of how to use your cellphone camera to photograph the night sky and teach tips and tricks to make the most of what you have available. Then he'll describe how a simple and inexpensive cellphone holder can be attached to an eyepiece of a modest telescope to yield even more spectacular results.



Universal Time (UTC): Saturday 2025-12-13 04:00:00
 UTC Adjustment (Time - UTC): -06:00

 Date, Time: Friday 2025-12-12 22:00:00
 Longitude: West 87.80861° = 87° 48' 31"
 Latitude: North 42.07306° = 42° 04' 23"
 Julian Day: 2461022.66666667 (+102.8s = Dynamical time)
 Local Sidereal Time: 03h 38.9m
 Moon Phase: Last Quarter +15°

Object	--Equinox of Date--		---Horizon---		---Ecliptical---		Anglr Size	Illum
	RA	Dec	Azimuth	Alt	Elong	Constel		
Sun	17h 22.5m	-23° 09'	123° WNW	-60°		Sco-Oph	32.5'	
Mercury	15h 59.2m	-18° 44'	168° NNW	-65°	20° W	Sco	6.0"	76%
Venus	16h 57.2m	-22° 24'	134° NW	-63°	6° W	Sco-Oph	9.9"	100%
Mars	17h 52.9m	-24° 11'	112° WNW	-56°	7° E	Sgr	3.9"	100%
Jupiter	07h 41.8m	+21° 34'	272° E	+36°	148° W	Gem	45.3"	
Saturn	23h 46.7m	-03° 58'	64° WSW	+20°	94° E	Psc	17.6"	
Uranus	03h 45.5m	+19° 38'	356° S	+68°	157° E	Tau	3.8"	
Neptune	23h 59.8m	-01° 28'	64° WSW	+24°	98° E	Psc	2.3"	
Pluto	20h 21.5m	-23° 20'	84° W	-28°	41° E	Cap	0.1"	
Moon	12h 21.3m	-04° 48'	244° ENE	-32°	75° W	Vir	29.8'	37%