

What's Up?

December 1-31, 2025

Made with the 2025 RASC Observer's Handbook, 2025
Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

[Today's Solar Activity](#)

Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	“Noon”	Daylight	Max Altitude
Dec 1	4:35 p.m.	6:19 p.m.	11.5 h	5:46 a.m.	7:31 a.m.	12:03 p.m.	9.1 h	23.5°
Dec 31	4:43 p.m.	6:29 p.m.	11.6 h	6:05 a.m.	7:51 a.m.	12:17 p.m.	8.9 h	22.3°

Halifax Dec 01



Winter Solstice

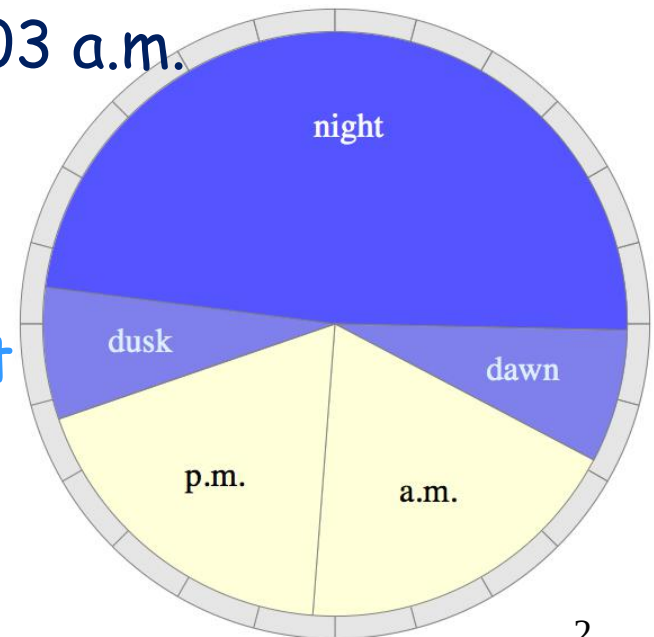
21 December at 11:03 a.m.

Earliest sunset

4:33 p.m.

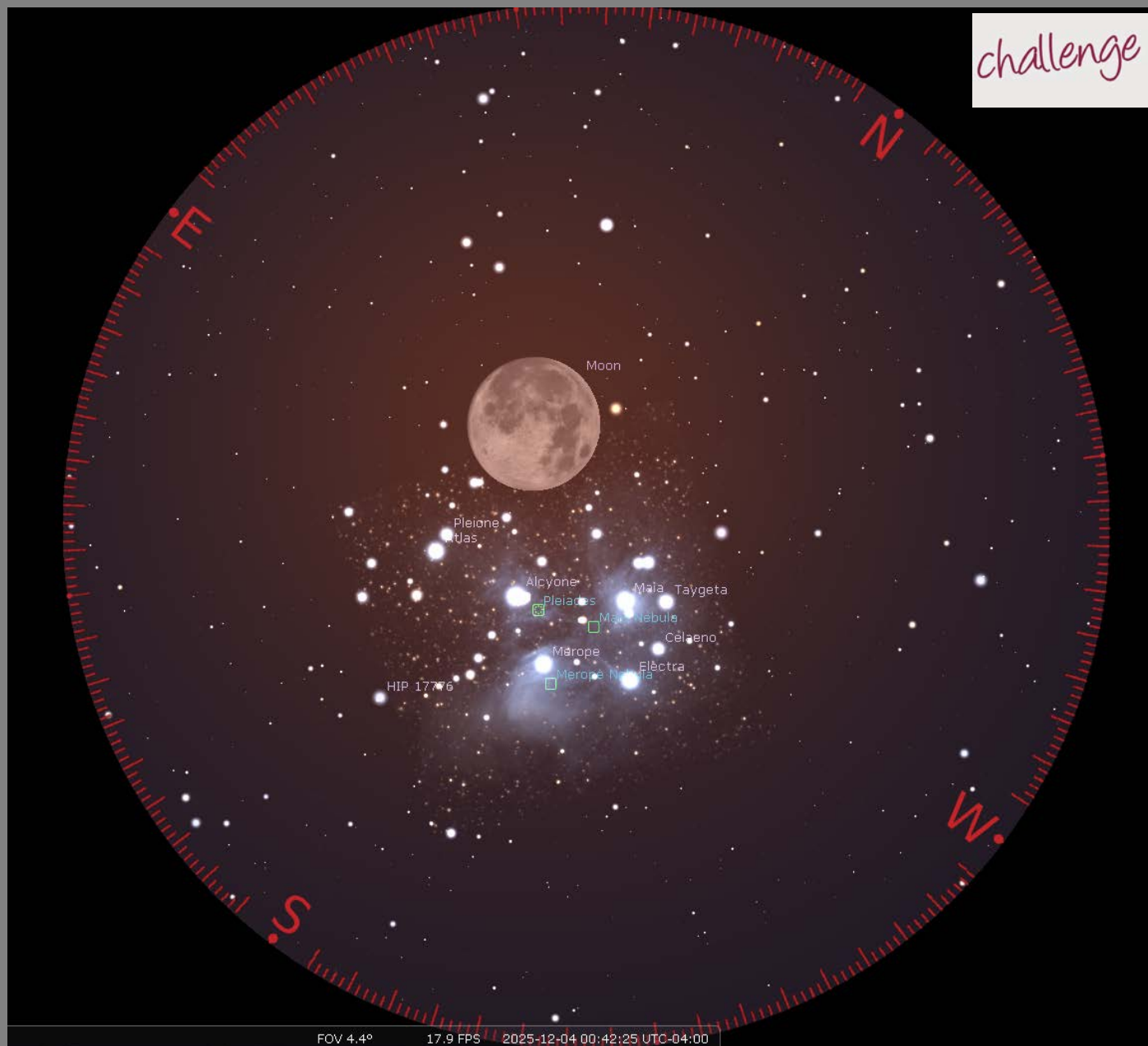
Dec 7-12

Halifax Dec 31



The Moon This Month

Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
Dec 4	Moon near the Pleiades		
Dec 4	Moon at Perigee (357,000 km)		
Dec 4	<i>Full Moon</i>	Rivers Freezing Over	<u>Keptekewiku's</u>
Dec 7	Moon near Jupiter		
Dec 10	Moon near Regulus		
Dec 11	<i>Last Quarter</i>		
Dec 13-14	Geminid Meteor Shower Peak		
Dec 17	Moon at Apogee (406,300 km)		
Dec 19	<i>New Moon</i>	Winter/Chief Moon	<u>Kesikewik'us</u> or Kjiku's
Dec 21-22	Ursid Meteor Shower Peak		
Dec 26	Moon near Saturn		
Dec 27	<i>First Quarter</i>		
Dec 31	Moon near the Pleiades		



Dec 4 @ 1:00 a.m. (15x70 binoculars, FOV) 4.4°



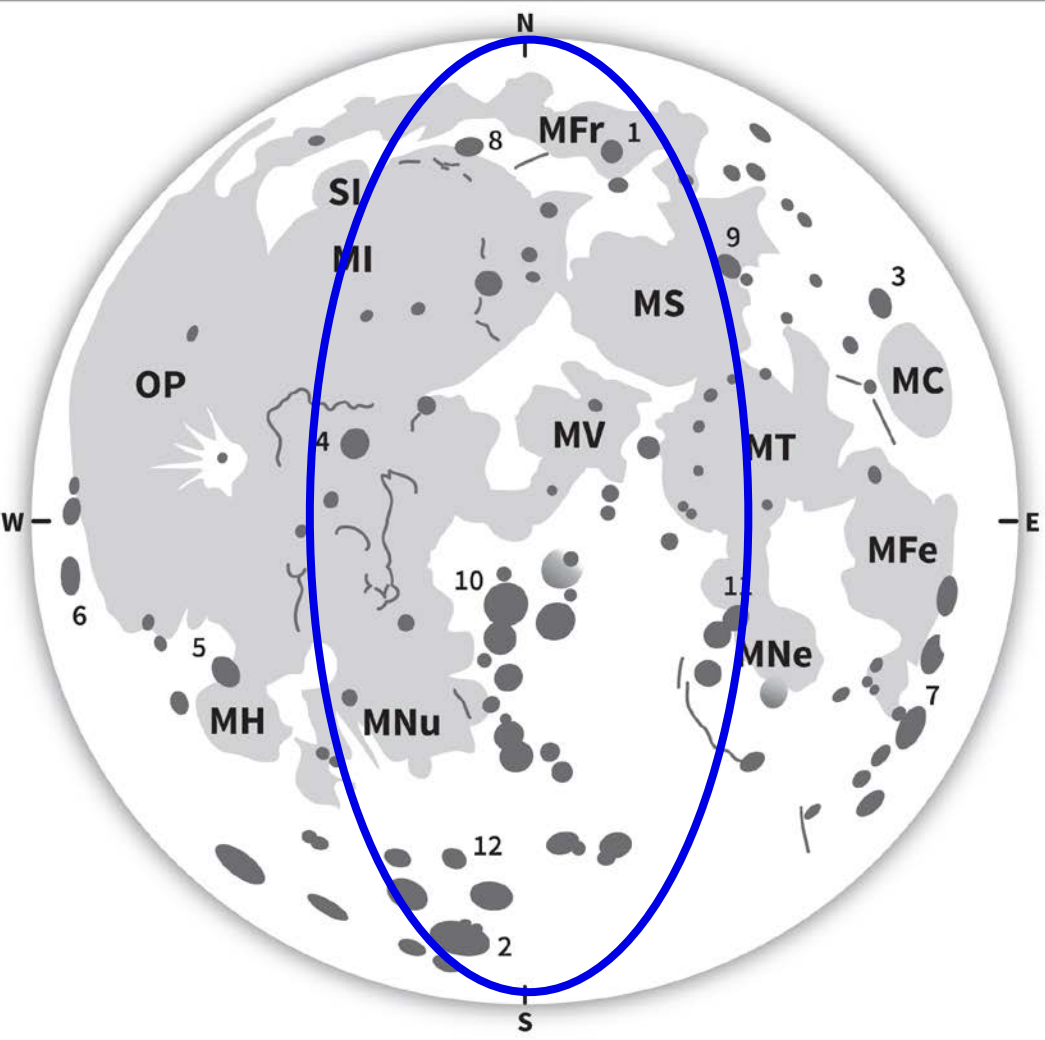
Dec 10 @ 1:00 a.m. (15x70 binoculars, FOV 4.4°)



Dec 26 @ 7:00 p.m. (7x50 binoculars, FOV 7.1°)



Dec 31 @ 8:00 p.m.



MARE

MC: Mare Crisium

MFe: Mare Fecunditatis

MFr: Mare Frigoris

MH: Mare Humorum

SI: Sinus Iridum

MI: Mare Imbrium

MNe: Mare Nectaris

MNu: Mare Nubium

MS: Mare Serenitatis

MT: Mare Tranquillitatis

MV: Mare Vaporum

OP: Oceanus Procellarum

December 25-29

The Moon in

Explore the Universe

observe 3 of each in binoculars⁸

challenge

CRATERS		
1. Aristoteles	5. Gassendi	10. Ptolomaeus
2. Clavius	6. Grimaldi	11. Theophilus
3. Cleomedes	7. Petavius	12. Tycho
4. Copernicus	8. Plato	
	9. Posidonius	



photo: David Hoskin

Lunar X and V

Clair-obscur effect

"X" formed by light and shadow on
on the rim of the Blanchinus, La
Caille and Purbach craters

"V" formed by Ukert crater and
several other small craters

View on 26 Dec starting at 10 p.m.



Geminid Meteor Shower

Peak: nights of Dec 13-14

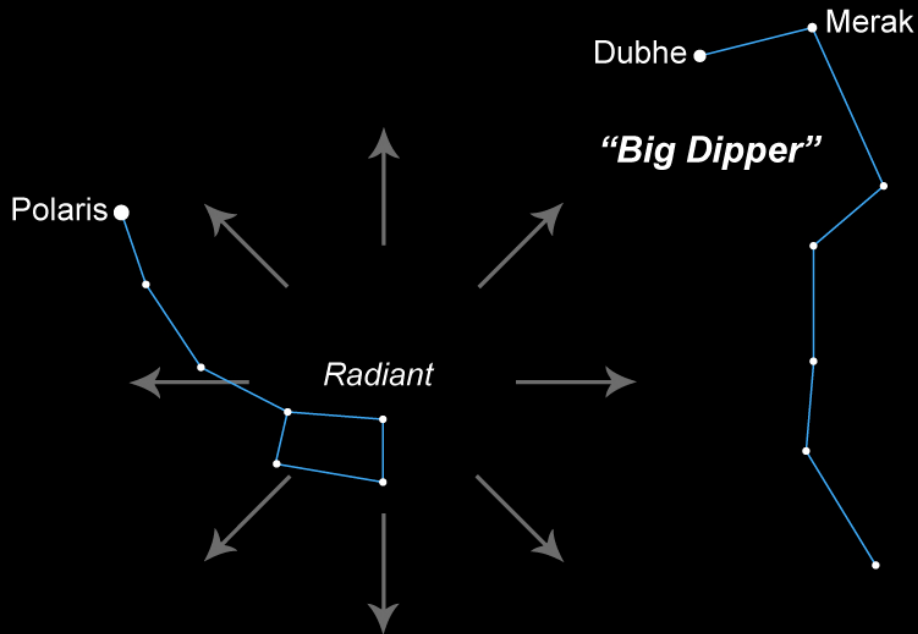
up to 120 meteors/h at a dark site

long, slow tracks

source: 3200 Phaethon debris

radiant above horizon late evening

North-Northeast, Midnight



EarthSky.org

Ursid Meteor Shower

Peak: night of Dec 21

up to 10 meteors/h at a dark site

source: 8P/Tuttle debris

radiant is circumpolar

Explore the Universe:

Winter Constellations

Auriga

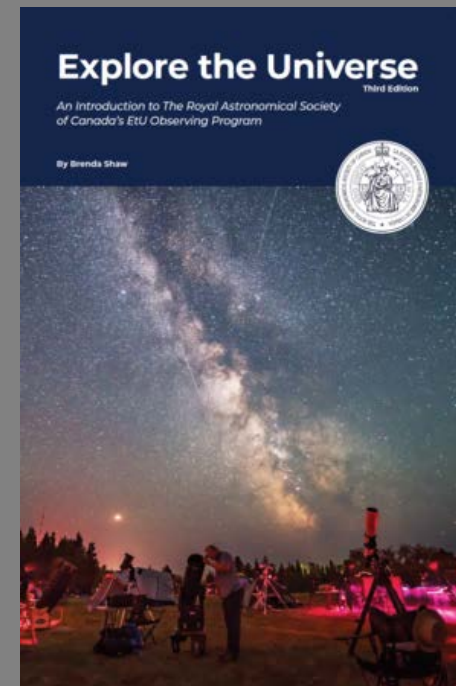
Gemini

Taurus

Orion

Canis Major

Canis Minor





Beehive

Pollux

Castor

Winter Hexagon

Capella

Procyon

Winter Triangle

Betelegeuse

Aldebaran

Pleiades

Hyades

Sirius

Rigel

photo: Dave Chapman



Explore the Universe:

Winter Stars

Ranking:

#1 Sirius (N)

#6 Capella (N)

#7 Rigel (N)

#8 Procyon (N)

#10 Betelgeuse (N)

#13 Aldebaran (N)

#16 Pollux (N)

#45 Castor

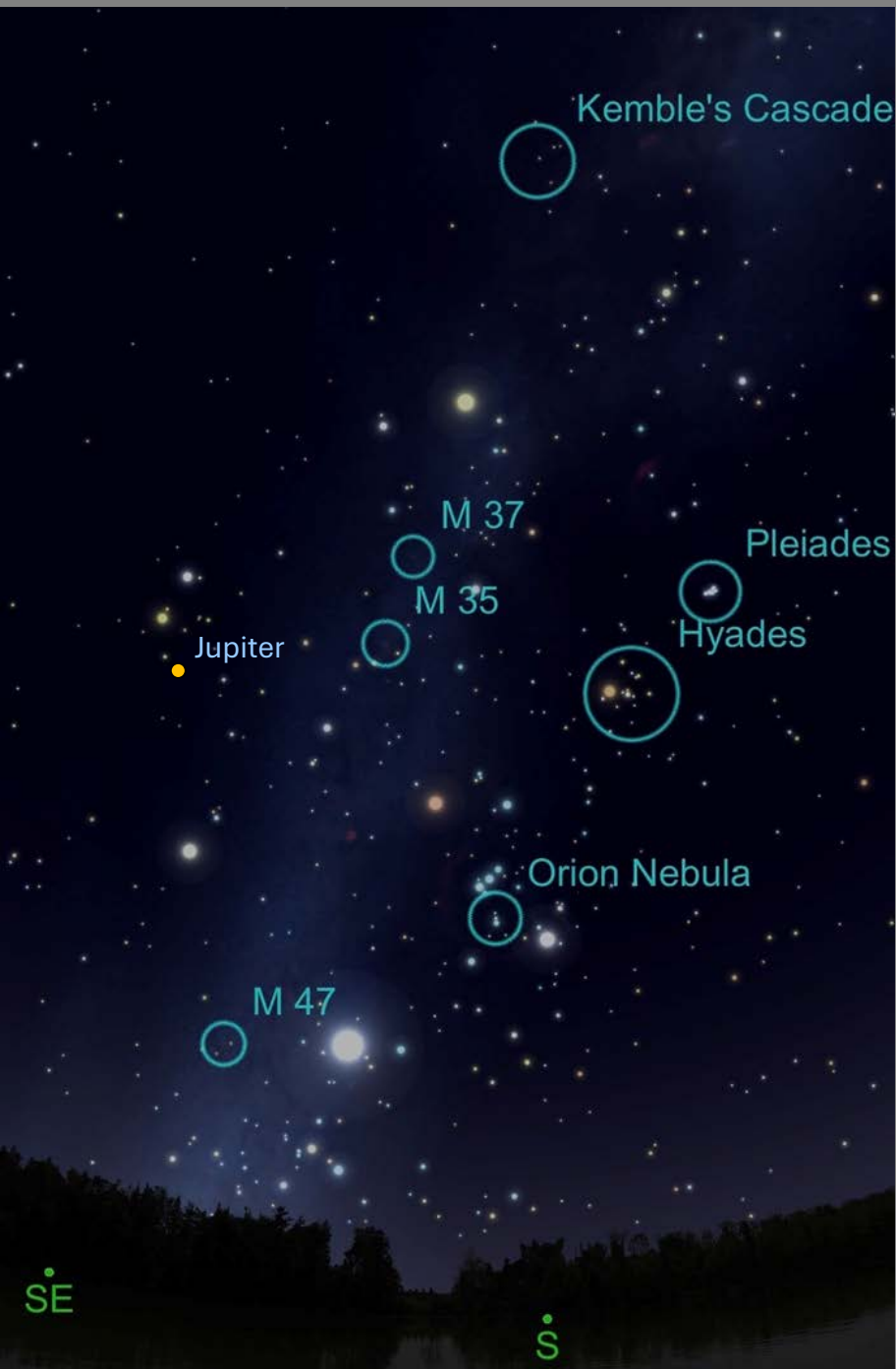
Gomeisa

N = Navigation

all good for SynScan alignment

most good for Celestron alignment

Explore the Universe: Winter Deep-Sky Objects



Kemble's Cascade (asterism)





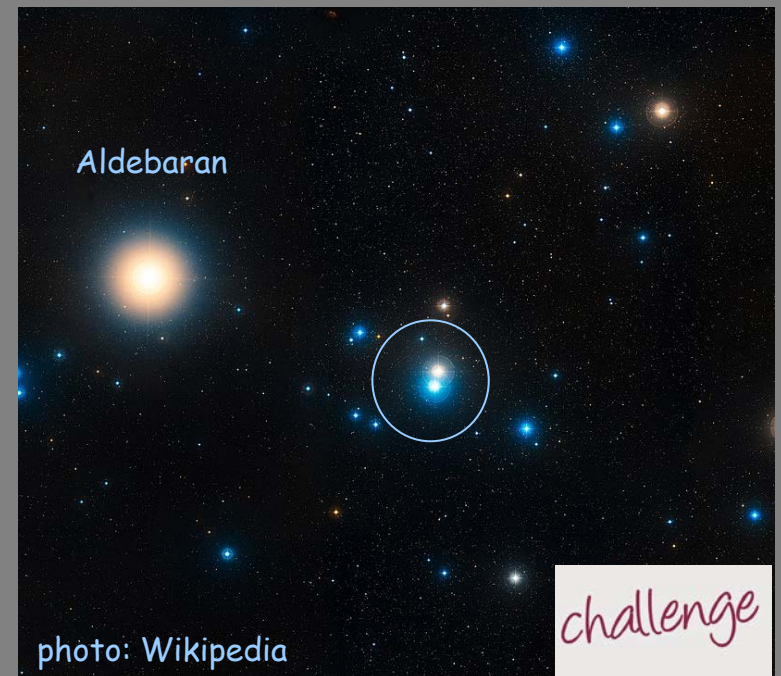
Explore the Universe: Winter Double Stars

Theta Tauri (3.4, 3.9, 348")

Two 3rd magnitude stars

Theta1 Tauri (yellow) @ 152 LY

Theta2 Tauri (blue) @ 157 LY



Questions?

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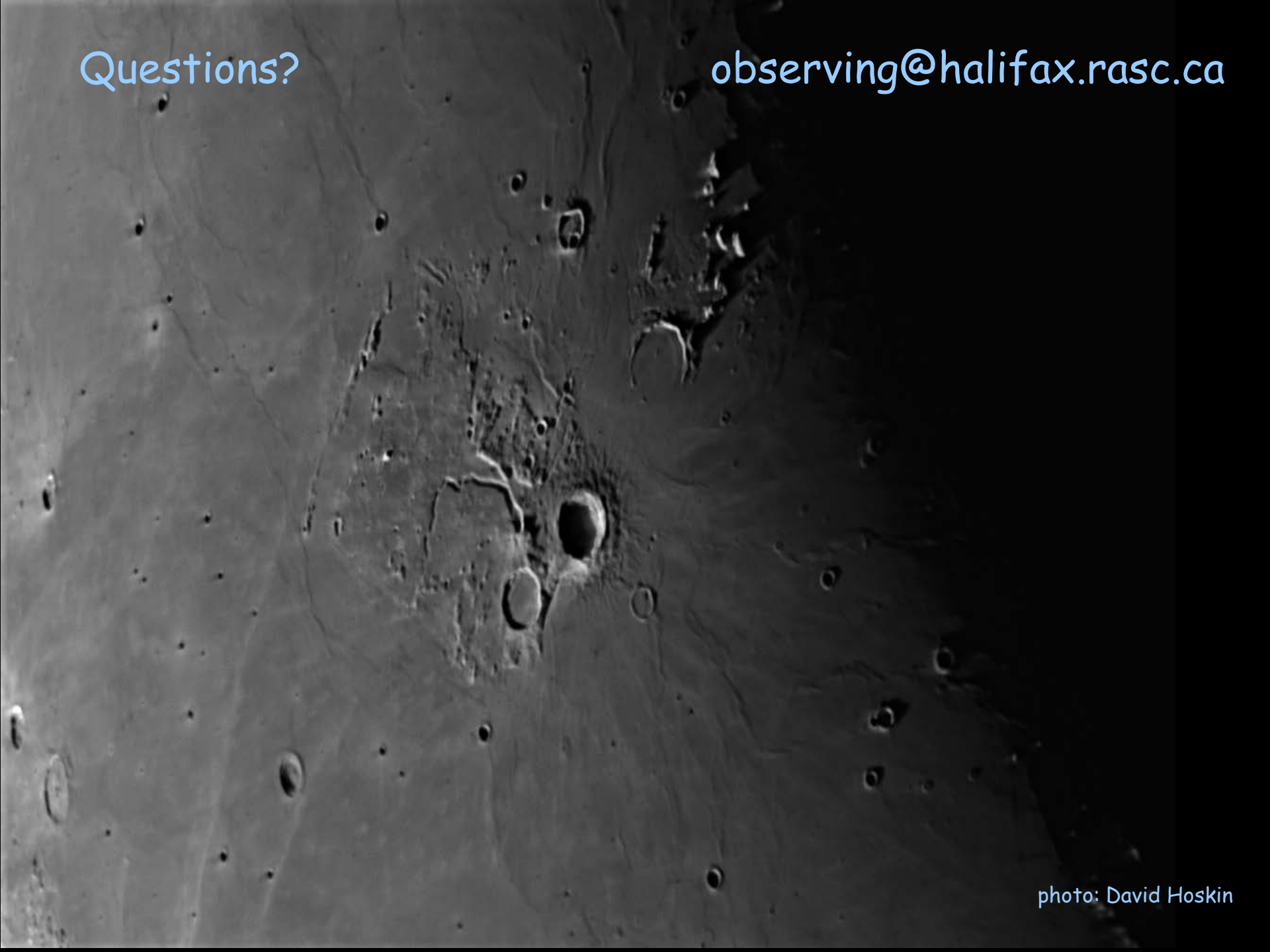


photo: David Hoskin