Salt Lake Astronomical Society

February Sky Quest

"West of the Milky Way"

You may find the Constellation chart #7 and Calendar Chart #1, in "The Stars, A New Way to See them" by H.A. Rey, helpful.

- 1: Start in Orion. Look to his Northwest, (your upper right) and find the brightest star in Taurus, Aldeberan.
- 2: Look for the large, scattered Hyades star cluster around Aldeberan. BINOCULARS will help!
- 3: Continue northwest from Aldeberan and The Haydes to see the sparkling little Pleiades star cluster.
- 4: Near The Pleiades, see brilliant Jupiter. Look to its Northeast, (above, and slightly to your left) find 2nd magnitude Hamel nearby. Just to Hamal's west (your right) is slightly fainter Sheratan. These are the brightest stars in Aries and the most prominent in the neighborhood, other than (planet) Jupiter.
- 5: Between Jupiter and Aldeberan, and somewhat south, (below) look for 2nd magnitude Menkar, the second brightest star in Cetus the Whale, and rather lonely in its place.
- 6: Look southwest, (right and down) from Orion's bright western foot (Rigel) to locate somewhat dim, at third magnitude, but still prominent, Zaurak. This little star lies at the bend in "Eridanus, The River." The name Zaurak means "The Bright Star of the Boat."

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR SKY QUEST!

These stars should help you find logical connections from the Winter Octagon, to the Constellations of the Autumn Sky.





