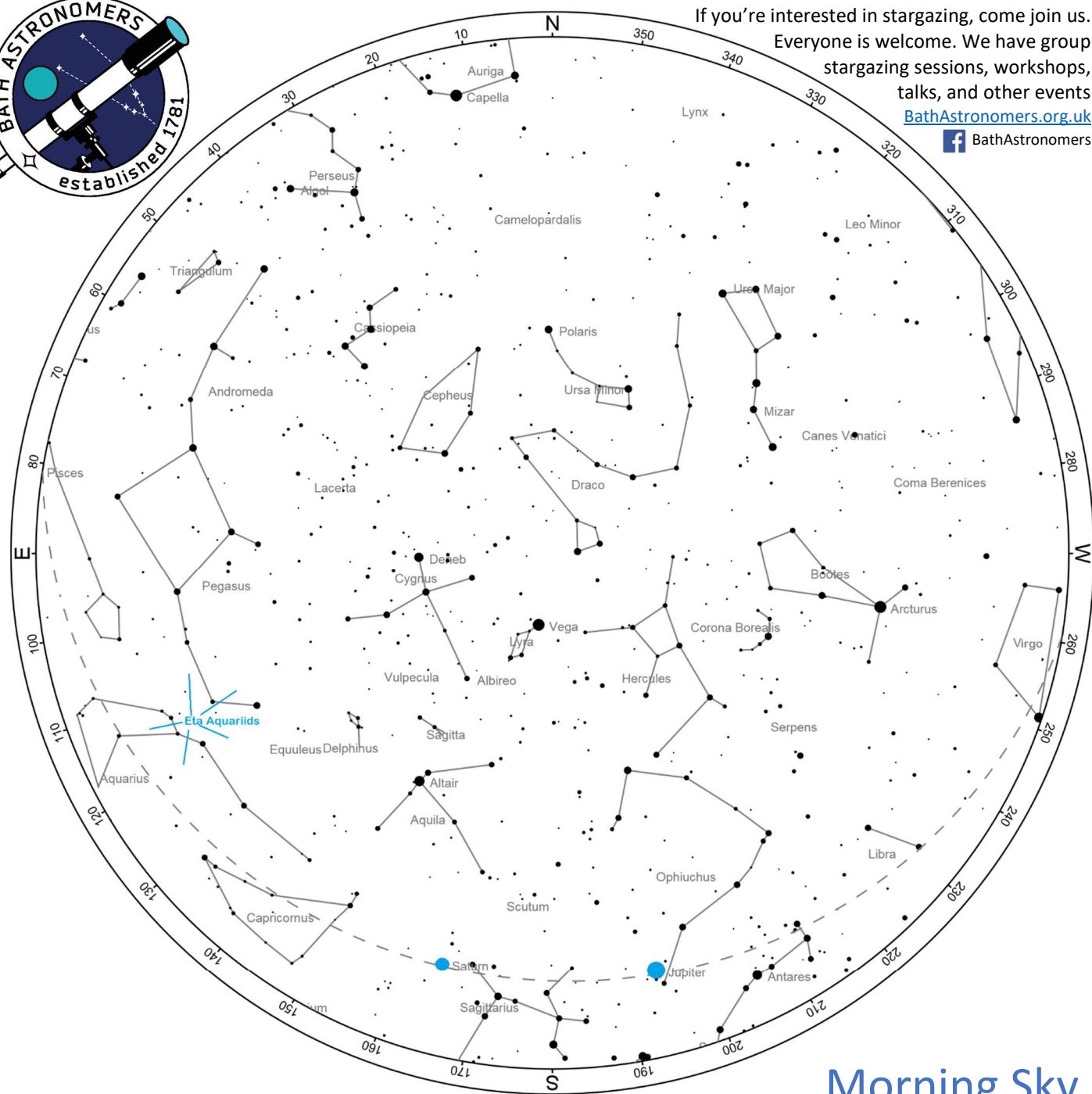




If you're interested in stargazing, come join us. Everyone is welcome. We have group stargazing sessions, workshops, talks, and other events BathAstronomers.org.uk



From 24th May, twilight will persist all night long for stargazers in the UK; the Sun just doesn't get low enough below the horizon for it to get really dark this time of year. You'll have to wait until late July for darkness beyond twilight to reappear. There is still plenty to see of course but fainter objects become more elusive.



Daylight information for the month is:

Sunrise: 05:42 (1st) 04:59 (31st)
 Sunset: 20:31 (1st) 21:15 (31st)



New Moon: 4th May
 First Quarter: 12th May
 Full Moon: 18th May
 Last Quarter: 26th May



The highlight of the month is Saturn and Jupiter straddling a line Due South just before dawn. Both are low in the sky but bright enough to be easily recognisable.

Jupiter sits in the constellation missed from the traditional signs of the Zodiac, Ophiuchus; perhaps 13 signs would have been unlucky? Jupiter rises at midnight at the start of the month followed by Saturn 2 hours later. By the end of the month Jupiter will be rising at 10pm and so opportunities improve to see this gas giant before bed time.

Venus rises at 5am at the start of the month in the East.

The Eta Aquariid meteor shower peaks in the early hours of 6th May. The apparent source of the shower sits between Aquarius and Pegasus and will be low in the East during the peak. The number of meteors you might see is impossible to predict but one every 5 minutes or so is not an unreasonable guess.

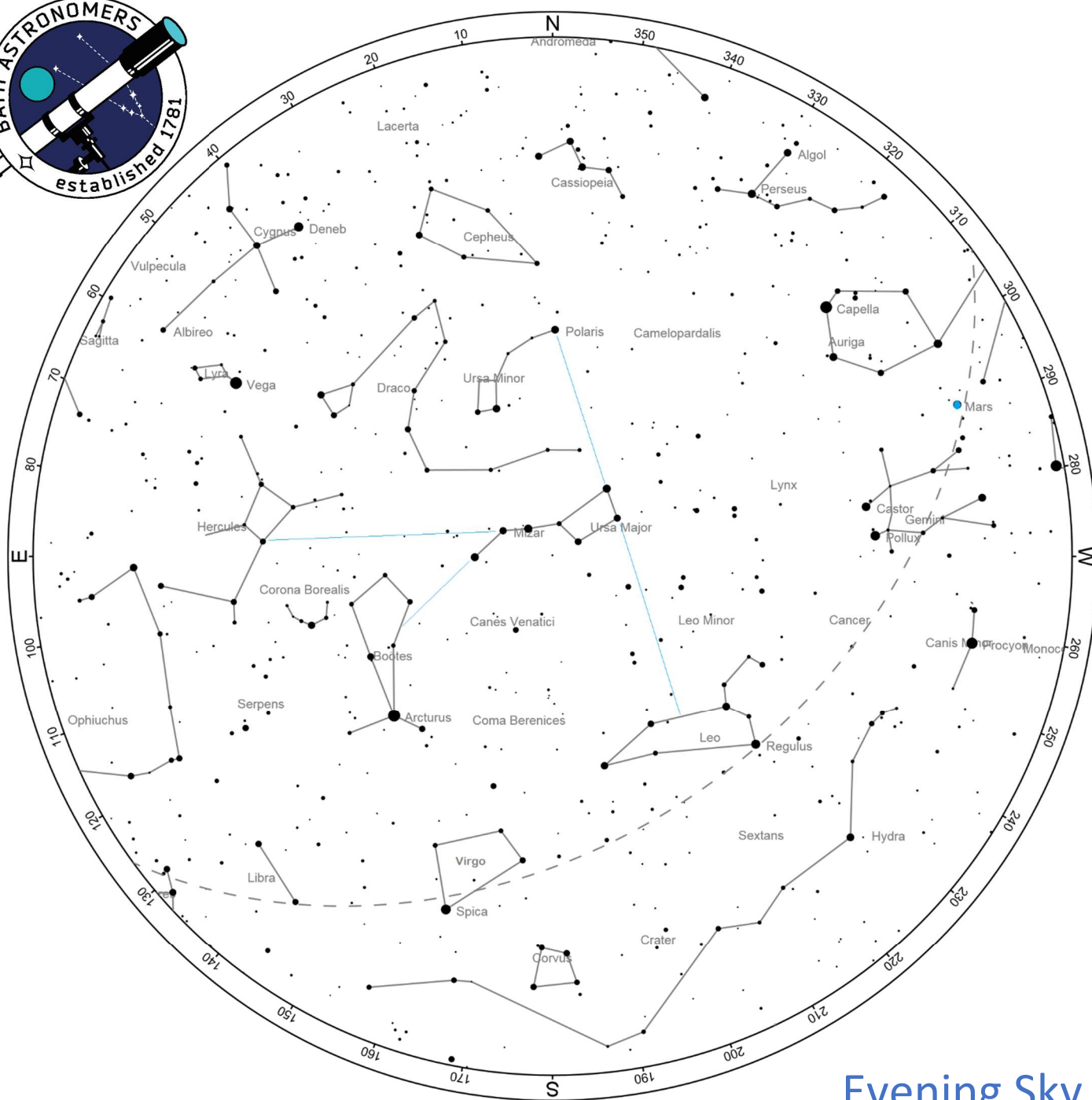


With the improved accessibility of both Saturn and Jupiter, now is a good opportunity to have a look under reasonable magnification. The two planets appear a similar width when you include Saturn's rings. If sky conditions aren't too wobbly then up the magnification.

Morning Sky in May 2019

Location: Bath, UK, 51.3758°N, 2.3599°W

Time: 16 May 2019 04:00 (UTC +01:00)



Location: Bath, UK, 51.3758°N, 2.3599°W
Time: 15 May 2019 22:00 (UTC +01:00)

Evening Sky in May 2019

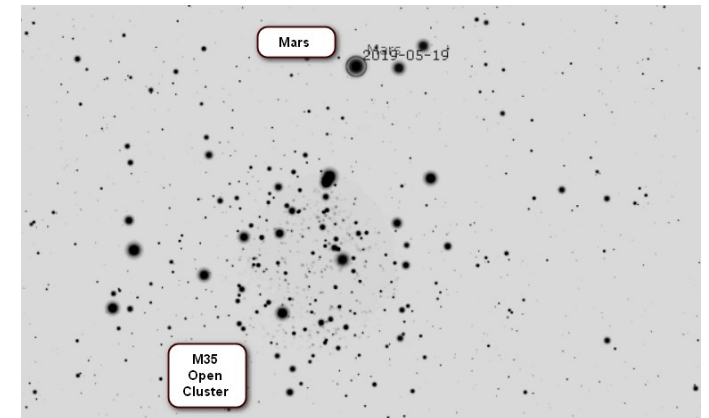


The evening skies have the Plough directly overhead and so is very easy to find and share with others. It is also good to learn how to find other constellations from this grouping of stars. The bent handle of the saucer points back to Boötes containing the bright star Arcturus. The straighter section of the handle points to Hercules above Boötes. In between is the faint curve of the Northern Crown, Corona Borealis. The end two stars of the actual pan point north to the North Star, Polaris, and south to the constellation of Leo and bright star Regulus. Why not try to learn these constellations.

Shortly after the Sun sets and before it rises, keep looking up for the pale blue of noctilucent clouds formed of high-altitude ice crystals. The season starts from mid-May until August annually in the Northern Hemisphere.



On 18/19th May, Mars will race past an Open Star Cluster called M35 in the constellation of Gemini. It is only visible as the sky darkens after sunset just above the west northwestern horizon. The separation will be about half the width of the full Moon.



At the end of the month, Mercury is visible for an hour after sunset. It is low in the northwest and will sit between Mars and the Sun.



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