

The Gibbous Moon Joins the Pleiades & Mars

On the nights of **January 29-31**, the waxing gibbous Beaver Moon sails by the Pleiades star cluster and our neighboring planet Mars, in the constellation Taurus – the Bull.

On these nights, orange-tinted Mars is located some 80 million miles (7 light minutes) behind the Moon, while the Pleiades star cluster, aka the Seven Sisters, is positioned about 430 light years away.

Use a pair of binoculars to enhance your enjoyment of the wonderful view of the young stars that populate the Pleiades star cluster.

On the night of Jan. 30/31, Mars will experience a very close encounter with the lunar limb here in Asheville, but some parts of the country, well south and southwest of Asheville, will be treated to a lunar occultation of the planet!

