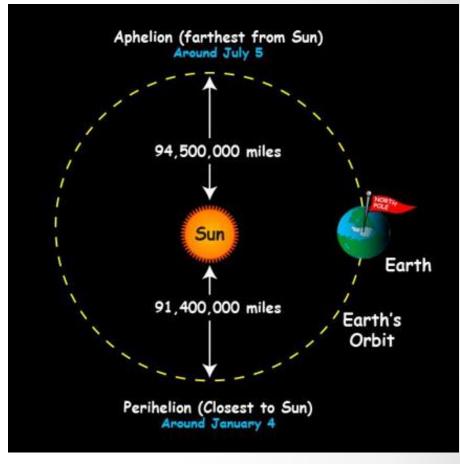
Astronomy Club of Asheville

January 2024 Sky Events

- **★**On January 2nd, Tuesday, **Earth reaches** "**perihelion**" closest approach to the Sun for the year.
- ★The word "perihelion" is from the Greek: "peri" meaning near and "helios" meaning Sun.
- ★Earth is some 3 million miles closer (or one part in 30 closer) at perihelion than at the farthest point (aphelion) in its **elliptical orbit** in early July.
- ★Yet we experience our coldest weather in the northern hemisphere during January.



- ★It's the Earth's 23½° axial tilt combined with its orbital motion, not its distance from the Sun, that causes the seasons.
- **★**In January the northern hemisphere is pointed away from the warmth of the Sun.