

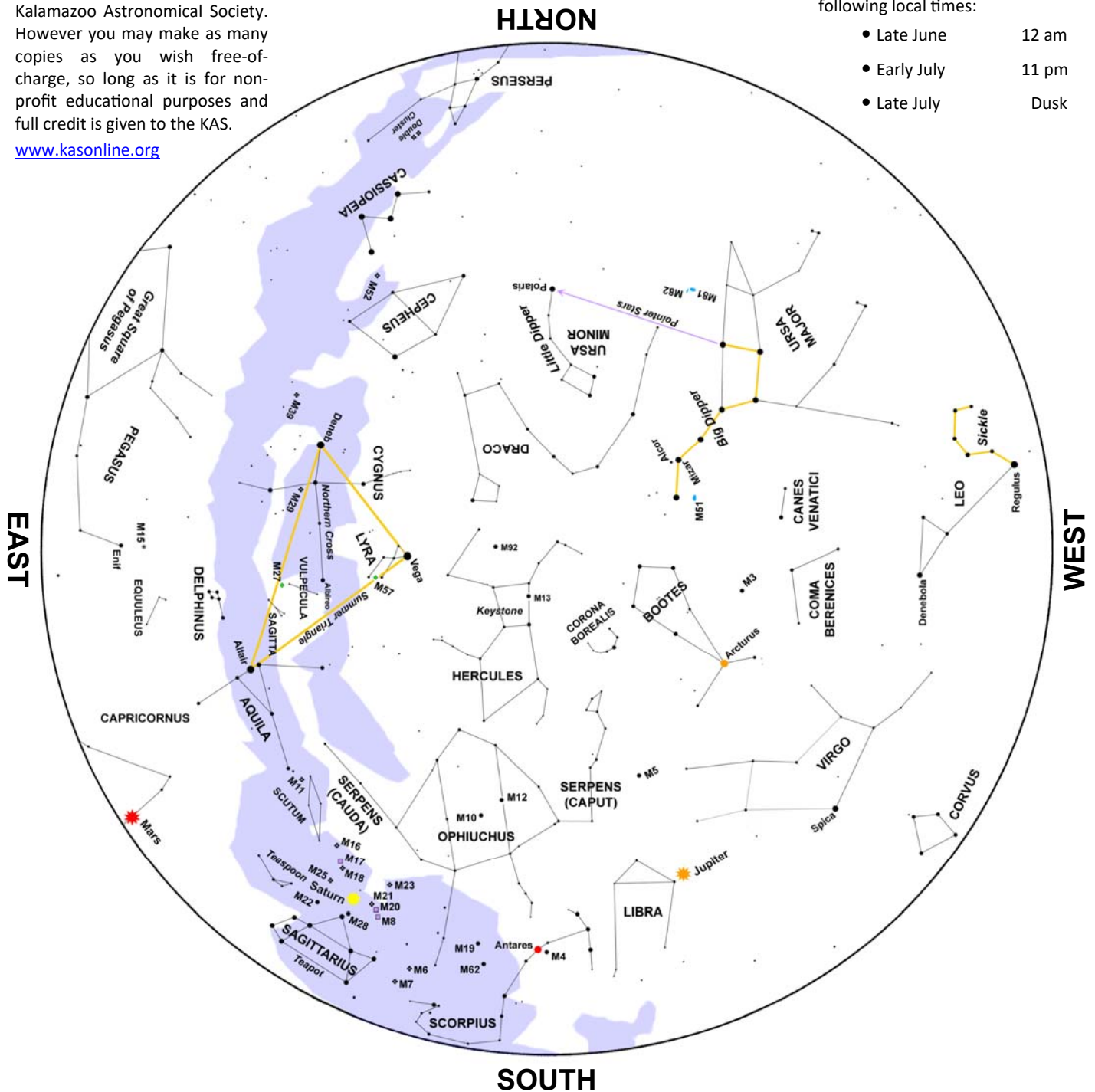
— July Night Sky —

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This map represents the sky at the following local times:

- Late June 12 am
- Early July 11 pm
- Late July Dusk



Mars appears opposite the Sun in our sky this month, shining brighter and appearing larger than it has in 26 months. Some Mars oppositions are much closer than others, owing to the elliptical nature of the Red Planet's orbit.

The 2018 opposition is the best apparition since August 2003. With opposition on

July 27th and closest approach on July 31st, the disk of Mars will appear larger than that of Saturn for much of the summer, and for a time will even outshine giant Jupiter.

Mars will be larger than 24" in angular diameter between July 23rd and August 9th, nearly as large as the 2003 opposition

size of 25". Mars will not be as large again until 2035.

On opposition night, Mars will appear as a -2.8 magnitude orange-red star in Capricornus. The Full Moon will be hard to miss 7° to Mars' upper right. Mars reaches its maximum altitude (23°) at 1:50 am on July 28th.