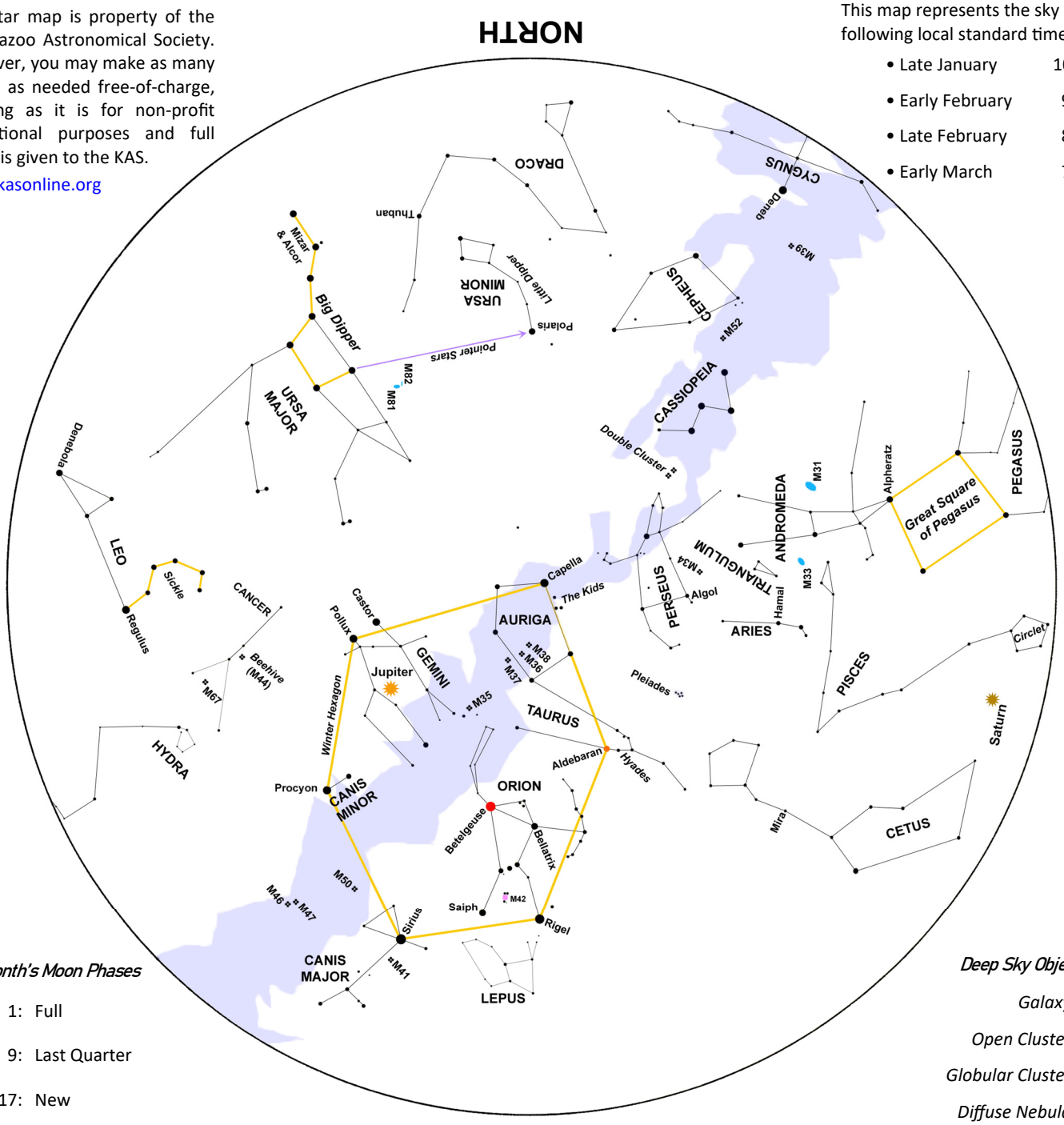
February Night Sky

This map represents the sky at the following local standard times:

- Late January 10 pm
- Early February 9 pm
- Late February 8 pm
- Early March 7 pm



This Month's Moon Phases

- 1: Full
- 9: Last Quarter
- 17: New
- 24: First Quarter

Deep Sky Object Key

- *Galaxy*
- *Open Cluster*
- *Globular Cluster*
- *Diffuse Nebula*
- *Planetary Nebula*

The Moon, just one day past full, will occult Leo's brightest star, Regulus, on the evening of February 2nd. From West Michigan, Leo's blazing heart suddenly disappears at about 8:45 pm EST, only to dramatically reappear at 9:43 pm. Make sure to observe the occultation with binoculars or a telescope for a better view.

A waning gibbous Moon and Virgo's brightest star, Spica, will be only 1½° apart when they rise above the east-southeastern horizon on the evening of February 6th. On the morning of February 11th, the waning crescent Moon will be positioned 3½° to the upper right of Antares.

Grab your binoculars shortly after sunset on February 18th to search for a very young waxing crescent Moon, just one day past new. You can find Mercury, the elusive innermost planet, only 50′ (0.8°) above the Moon. Venus will be ~7° below this pair.

A waxing crescent Moon will be near Saturn, which is located 3¾° to the lower left, at dusk on February 19th. On February 23rd, the first-quarter Moon will appear near the Pleiades in the evening sky. Binoculars will be required!