

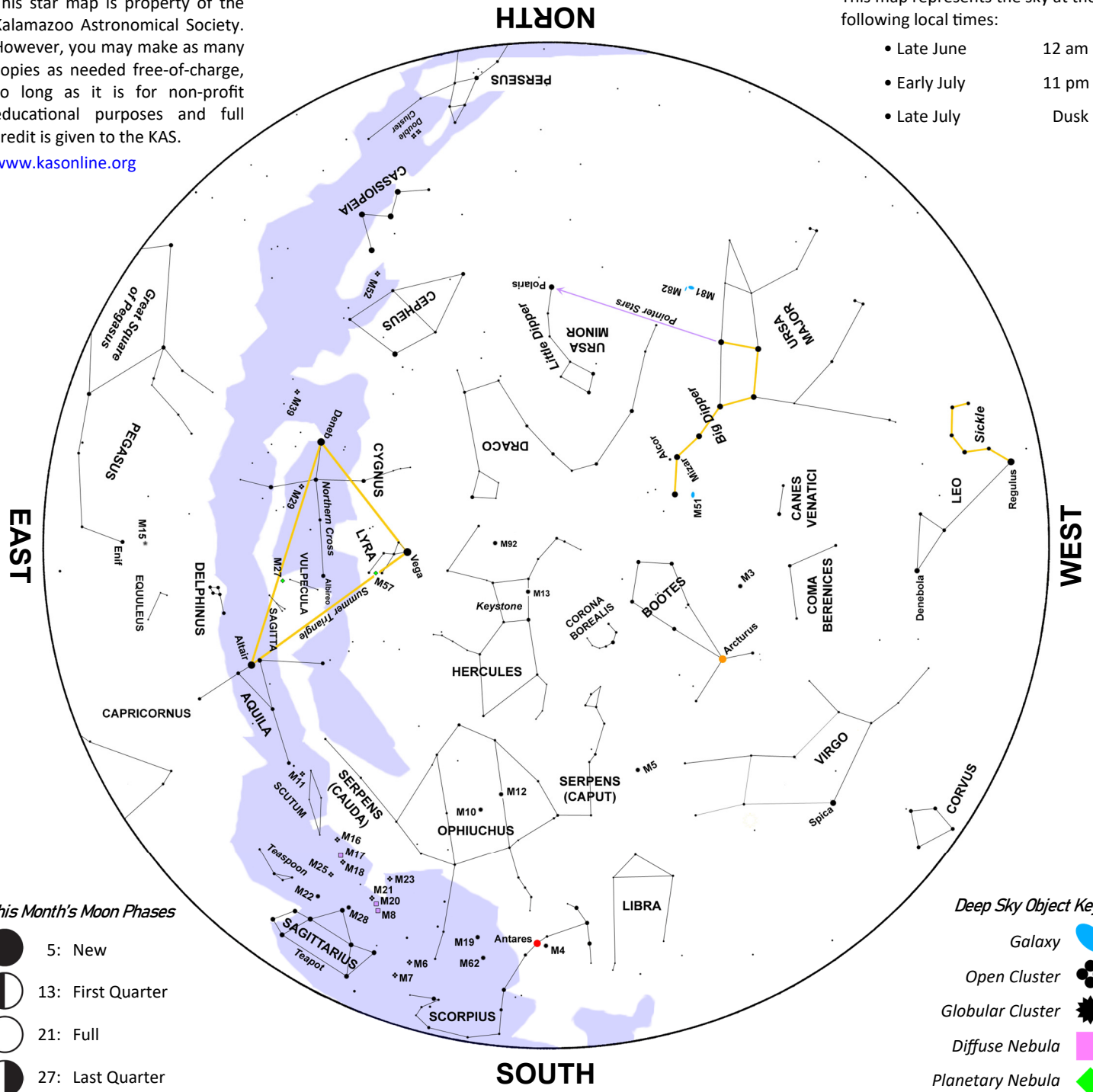
July Night Sky

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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



This Month's Moon Phases

-  5: New
-  13: First Quarter
-  21: Full
-  27: Last Quarter

Deep Sky Object Key

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

Mercury is the most illusive planet in the solar system. Its orbit is so small that it can never get farther than about 28° from the Sun. You have an excellent chance to spot it again (or for the first time) at dusk on July 7th. Look for the two-day-old waxing crescent Moon hanging above the west-northwest horizon. Using binoculars, look about 3° below the Moon to spot the innermost planet.

The first-quarter Moon will occult (or cover up) Virgo's brightest star, Spica, on the night of July 13th. At 11:12 pm EDT, the dark limb of the Moon will block the first-magnitude star. It will reappear in dramatic fashion 71 minutes later, at 12:23 am. You can view this occultation with the unaided eye, binoculars, or a telescope.

A waxing gibbous Moon will be 3½° to the

lower left of Antares, the red supergiant star representing the heart of Scorpius, on the evening of July 17th. You might need binoculars to cut through the Moon's glare.

From July 29th to 31st, early morning risers can enjoy the gathering of a waning crescent Moon, Jupiter, Mars, Aldebaran, and the Pleiades above the eastern horizon shortly before dawn.