

Thanet Astronomy Group

Astronomy for Everyone in Plain English

What to see November 24th

Stars (Polaris, Deneb, Errai, Alfirk, Alderamin, Zeta Cephei, Iota Cephei, Garnet Star)

Constellation (Cepheus)

Meteor shower (Geminids)

At 8pm

Look North 1° up 51° we find **Polaris** (Pole Star), a little higher and to the left you will find the bright star **Deneb**, the tail of Cygnus the Swan. Directly right of the line between **Polaris** and **Deneb** is the **Constellation Cepheus**, best known for its resemblance of a house with a pointy roof. It contains about 10 stars visible by eye.

Look north at 355° and up at 63°. At the tip of its roof we find the star **Errai**, 46 light years away. In 3.5 thousand years it will replace Polaris as the pole star.

Look left to 330° and slightly down at 62°. You will see the star **Alfirk** at the top corner of the house. **Alfirk** is 685 light years away.

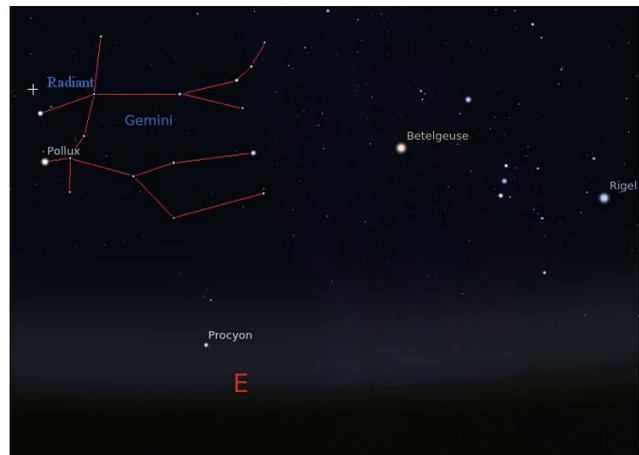
Look left 312° and slightly up at 63°. We find **Alderamin**, 49 light years away. This star is 3.2 million kms in diameter, over twice the Sun's diameter. **Alderamin** rotates once every 12 hours (60 times faster than our Sun). In 7500 years it will be the Pole Star.

Look right at 303° and up to 70°. We find **Zeta Cephei** an Eclipsing Binary System, 836 light years distant.

Look right to 331° and down to 71°. We find **Iota Cephei**, 115 light years away. This completes the upside down house shape.



The Constellation Cepheus



Geminids Radiant is in Gemini

Geminids Meteor Shower 4th-17th December, peak 120 meteors per hour on the 14th. The object responsible is Asteroid 3200 Phaethon, which orbits the Sun every 16 months.

Contact us if you need help or more information.

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See us at, West Bay Cafe, Saturdays 1-4pm.