

Our Night Sky for April 22, 2024

A good place to start on the constellations of the zodiac is with a constellation we are familiar with. Any night this week if you locate Orion, it is low in the western sky. Orion's right arm is holding up a fleece and just above that fleece are the feet of Castor and Pollux. If you pick out the two brightest stars, Castor is the one just above Pollux. Now look back down toward Betelgeuse. About halfway between you will see a line of four similar brightness stars. These are the feet of Castor and Pollux. That is the basic outline of the twins.

Now let's move over to the right of Orion. The constellation to the right of Orion is Taurus the bull, a large complicated star field. Instead of working through the stars of Taurus we will find the jewel box of the night skies. Try this at nine pm, the darkness of the sky will improve as time goes by but the objects will also move closer to setting. Starting from Orion's left shoulder move right horizontally and continue past the very bright star in Taurus called Aldebaran, a red giant only sixty five light years from earth. Continue horizontally about the same distance you have already moved and you should have found The Pleiades sometimes called The Seven Sisters, a group of seven eye visible hot blue stars. Another beautiful sight in our Night Sky