

Our Night Sky for December 22 nd, 2025

This week I think we are seeing cold high pressure zone moving in and you may have an opportunity enjoy crisp clear skies. All week you can spot Saturn about 30 degrees above the horizon in our western sky and as a bonus Neptune is a little above and left. You might even spot Neptune in the eyepiece of your binoculars. Throughout the week both planets are very close together and if you don't catch it tonight try again any night this week, well worth the effort. Now swing around and face due east, and again about thirty degrees above the horizon you should easily spot Jupiter. Jupiter is pretty easy to spot because it is large and bright, but it has competition nearby and a little left are the bright stars Castor and Pollux the twins in Gemini. Now pan a short jump right to the bright red giant Betelgeuse the upper shoulder in the guardian of our winter sky Orion. Now pan down to the three stars in Orion's belt and just below the belt to Orion's sword. Continue panning down, you should see a faint wispy glow. This is the great Orion Nebula, a star forming region very similar to the well know Pillars of creation. You may not see detail, but you should get a hint of the enormous cloud of gas and dust about 1300 Light years away from us and is about 25 light years across.

Yesterday at about 7 am the northern hemisphere reached its maximum tilt away from the sun , the northern solstice and the first day of winter.

A lot to see, In Our Night Sky