Our Night Sky for November 2nd 2026

Things are picking up with much improved chances of spotting interesting objects in our sky. This is helped by the moon being only a sliver, less than the last quarter not rising until after one am. This will be an excellent time for us to look for the jewel box, also known as the Seven Sisters, a beautiful open cluster of six or seven visible stars. More on that in a moment.

Last week I mentioned the ecliptic. This circle across our sky is the center line of all the outer planets and shows the path each planet takes across our sky. Tonight you can first pick it up by finding Saturn, almost 37 degrees above due south. Later, after 1 am Jupiter will rise about due east. This gives you two locations to now picture the position of the ecliptic, the equator of our solar system. Uranus and Neptune are still close to Saturn and both on this same line across our sky. Let's go back along the ecliptic where you will see Orion's belt. Follow a line right from the belt up a bit more than a hand width to a bright yellow star Aldebaran. A few degrees above Aldebaran you will find the jewel box. The Pleiades, a beautiful sight , these stars are part of an open cluster or group of similar aged stars consisting of more than a thousand stars. Star brightness or magnitude is very stable and can be measured down to several decimal places. For casual astronomy the Pleiades is consisted a good test since its brightest star is magnitude 2.8 (lower number, brighter star) and 6.4 a dimmer star just past the range of naked eye visibility and requiring excellent viewing conditions. Check out this gem, in Our Night Sky.