Our Night Sky for November 16th, 2026

Once again, I'm going to suggest a couple of night sky objects that may be a little harder to find but worth any trouble you might have finding them. The temperature is dropping slightly but still not too bad; the problem might be scattered clouds. If you check a satellite weather map you can see how chaotic the weather patterns are. The jet stream isn't holding back the clouds coming off the Pacific, so watch for clear areas, looking first in the eastern sky. Previously I've pointed to the Seven Sisters starting at Orion's belt and looking up to Aldebaran. Since we are probably using patches of clear sky, start after 8:30pm or so and locate yellow star Aldebaran and continue up about the same distance Aldebaran is above the horizon. If you are using binoculars, you will see six or seven brilliant blue stars. The Seven Sisters, also called the Pleiades, Subaru Cluster, and Messier 45 (M45) are part of an open cluster of more than a thousand stars, all approximately the same age and color. They were all formed from the same cloud of gas and dust about 100 million years ago.

Next let's check a currently still active star forming region, a star factory.

You will have to wait until about midnight when Orion is about 20 degrees above the southeast horizon. This object is easy to find but you will need at least a good pair of binoculars. The three stars that are the belt of Orion have a sword hanging down, at the middle of the sword is a slightly hazy area. This is the Orion Nebula, Messier 42 (M42). Maybe a friend has a telescope, your best chance to enjoy Our Night Sky.