

# This Circumpolar Region is out of sight

In the northern hemisphere we have a section of the night sky we call the Circumpolar Region consisting of those stars and constellations that never dip below the northern horizon as they circle the north celestial pole (and Polaris) each day.

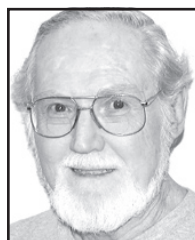
We should call it the North Circumpolar Region since the southern hemisphere has a comparable South Circumpolar Region consisting of the stars and constellations that never dip below the southern horizon as they circle the south celestial pole.

And it is those stars, constellations and other night sky objects of the South Circumpolar Region that we in the U.S. can't see from our mid-northern latitudes as they never rise above our horizon.

Getting to see these hidden jewels is why we northern stargazers get excited about viewing below the equator in places like New Zealand. In a recent column, we cited some of these, like the Southern Cross constellation, stars Alpha and Beta Centauri, Canopus, and Achernar and the Eta Carinae Nebula.

The South Circumpolar Region is also home to two small galaxies known as the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds. Although the explorer Ferdinand Magellan gets credit for "discovering" them in 1519, they were, of course, undoubtedly known to southern hemisphere natives long before the 16th century. But since neither they nor Magellan knew about galaxies at that time, the Europeans called them clouds and named them for Magellan.

The Magellanic Clouds are each



**Paul Derrick**  
● Stargazer

composed of millions of stars and are believed to be companion galaxies gravitationally bound to our much larger Milky Way Galaxy.

Whereas the Milky Way is 100,000 light years in diameter, the Large Magellanic Cloud is 33,000 light years and the Small Magellanic Cloud 20,000 light years in diameter.

The Large Magellanic Cloud is 163,000 light years away and the Small Magellanic Cloud 196,000 light years distant – quite close compared to the Andromeda Galaxy's distance of 2+ million light years.

Easily visible to the naked eye under dark skies, they appear like cosmic clouds, hence their names. Being galaxies, it's not surprising that they look like someone took two patches out of the Milky Way and placed them some distance away. The Large Magellanic Cloud spans some five degrees with the Small Magellanic Cloud half that size. (Your fist held at arm's length is about 10 degrees wide.)

Ironically, the Southern Circumpolar Region, which we never see, is always visible to most residents of the southern hemisphere all night and throughout the entire year, just as the Northern Circumpolar Region is always visible to us. And while in New Zealand, I

was reminded by fellow stargazer Gary Roberts, who has lived in New Zealand all his life, that they never see the stars, constellations, and other night sky objects in the North Circumpolar Region. He lamented that he has never seen the Big Dipper, Cassiopeia, Polaris or even the Andromeda Galaxy.

## April Night Sky Events

Held at arm's length, the width of your fist is 10° and the width of your index finger is 1°. The width of a full Moon is 1/2°.

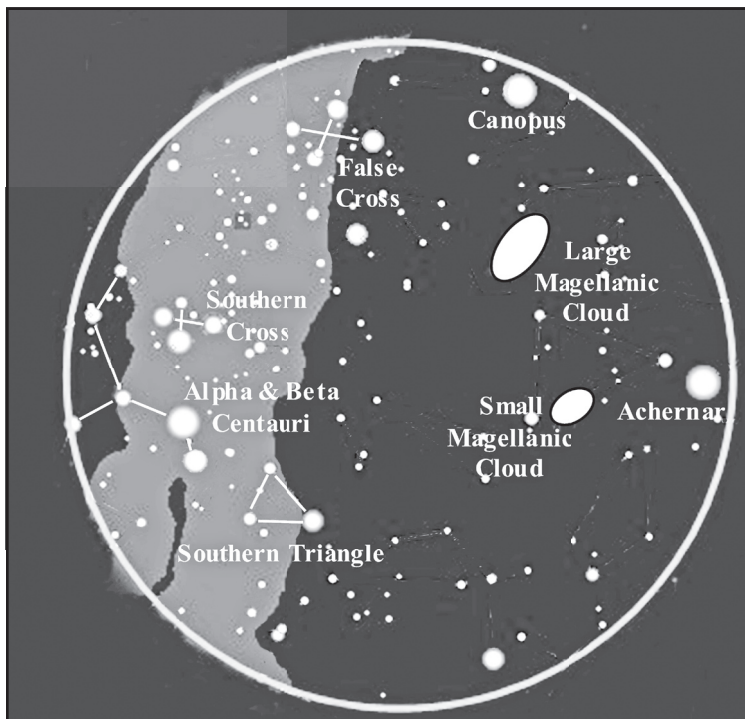
**April 2 Monday and 3 Tuesday evenings:** Venus grazes the Pleiades star cluster (AKA the Seven Sisters) and should create a beautiful sight with naked eyes and through binoculars.

**6 Friday:** The full Moon, called the Egg Moon, Grass Moon and Easter Moon, is immediately to the right of Spica and Saturn.

**15 Sunday:** Mars, having moved back to within 4 degrees of Regulus, resumes direct (eastward) motion (as seen against the background stars) and will again begin moving away from the star.

**15 Sunday all night:** Saturn is at opposition – rising in the east at sunset and setting in the west at sunrise – and its nearest, brightest, and largest-appearing for the year.

**18 Wednesday morning:** Mercury is at greatest elongation 27 degrees west of the rising Sun. The crescent Moon is less than a fist-width (7 degrees) above the tiny planet, and the next morning an even thinner crescent Moon is one fist-width to the left – very



South Circumpolar Region

low in the east as dawn breaks. Binoculars will help.

**22 Sunday morning:** Lyrid meteor shower peaks with no Moon interference this year.

**22 Sunday early evening:** The thin crescent Moon is 4 degrees above Jupiter near the west-northwestern horizon at dusk.

**23 Monday early evening:** The crescent Moon is in Taurus with the Pleiades star cluster 6 degrees to its lower right and the star Aldebaran 8 degrees to its upper left – all near the west northwestern horizon as the evening sky darkens.

**24 Tuesday early evening:** The crescent Moon is 7 degrees above Aldebaran with Venus 6 degrees to the Moon's upper right.

**30 Monday evening:** "Evening star" Venus is at its brightest; only the Sun and Moon outshine it.

**30 Monday evening:** Reddish Mars (left), the Moon (below), and the star Regulus (upper right) form a triangle high in the south-southwest.

**Astro Milestones**  
• April 12 is the 51st anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's 1961 historic 108-minute orbital flight around Earth – the first for humankind.

of Yuri Gagarin's 1961 historic 108-minute orbital flight around Earth – the first for humankind.

• April 21 is the 50th anniversary of the 1962 landing of Ranger 4, the first American spacecraft on the Moon. Intended to soft-land scientific instruments on the lunar surface, a malfunction caused the craft to crash-land, but even that was progress as previous attempts had missed the Moon entirely.

• April 25, 1990, the 8-foot (in diameter) Hubble Space Telescope was deployed by Discovery space shuttle astronauts, but the almost immediate discovery of defective optics was met with bitter disappointment. Thanks to some ingenious scientists, engineers and astronauts, corrective optics were installed in 1993, and to this day astronomers are using Hubble to make remarkable discoveries. And its thousands of images of our cosmos continue to dazzle us like no other scientific instrument.

Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco, Texas. His website ([www.stargazerpaul.com](http://www.stargazerpaul.com)) contains an archive of past Stargazer columns and other basic stargazing information. Contact him at [paulderrickwaco@aol.com](mailto:paulderrickwaco@aol.com) or (254) 723-6346 or write 918 N. 30th St., Waco, Texas, 76707.

## Politician uses campaign pig

MADISON, Wis. (AP) – A former Wisconsin congressman running for U.S. Senate has an unusual running mate by his side on the campaign trail.

Former U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann held a small pink pig named Mr. Favors as he spoke in Milwaukee on Monday. He says Mr. Favors is a symbol of wasteful government spending otherwise known as pork.

Neumann says the country's debt can be paid off in 30 years through a payment system that resembles a home mortgage.

Neumann is part of a crowded Republican field that includes former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald and businessman Eric Hovde. U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin is the only Democrat in the race.

**Bridal Registry**

**Jody Engel**  
**Trent McCain**  
April 7, 2012

**Pamela Morril**  
**Kyle Askren**  
Shower  
March 31, 2012  
Wedding  
May 5, 2012

**OFFICE WORKS & Home Furnishings**

960 South Range Colby, KS 67701 (785) 462-2222 FAX: (785) 462-2262

**Kiwanis Club**  
**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!**  
Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> • Fike Park

**Ages 3 & under** 10 a.m. sharp  
**Ages 4-6** 10:10 a.m.  
**Ages 7-9** 10:20 a.m.

In case of bad weather, listen to KXXX/Q100 for information.

**IT'S GETTING CLOSER**

**TUBBS & SONS FORD SALES**  
810 S. Range, Colby, KS • 785-460-6746 • 800.369.3673 • tubbsford.com

Send local news to [colby.society@nwkansas.com](mailto:colby.society@nwkansas.com)

**SALINA COMMUNITY THEATRE** NATIONAL AWARD WINNING THEATRE

Come hear the music play!

**CABARET**  
APRIL 6-22

SPONSORED BY BENNINGTON STATE BANK PHILIPS LIGHTING

TICKETS BOX OFFICE 303 E. Iron MON-FRI 11:30-5:30 CALL 785.827.3033 | ONLINE [salinatheatre.com](http://salinatheatre.com)

**Colby Trap Club 2012 Summer League**

Summer trap league begins Tuesday evening April 3<sup>rd</sup> then the first Tuesday each month following through October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Put together a 5 person team or show up Tuesday evening, there are teams that are in need of a shooter and are still looking for additional teammates.

**League Fees are \$50 per 5 person team due the first shoot. Shooting Fees are \$15 per shooter each monthly shoot.**

If you are wanting to learn how to shoot and have fun with friends while learning, this is your chance. We have several members that are certified range masters and are always willing to give helpful pointers.

•• We welcome all ••

You can also join the trap club for a \$50 annual fee which will give you a punch card for 8 nonleague 25 round trap or skeet shoot

The trap range will be open at 5 p.m. on April 3<sup>rd</sup>

If you have questions call Paul 785-460-2839

**Lets Get Growing!!**

**- JUST ARRIVED -**

Seed Potatoes      Onion Sets  
Burpee Seeds      Weeks Seeds  
Liberty Garden Seed Assortment

**IT'S TIME TO APPLY**  
Pre Emergent Fertilizer

**Come See Whats New For Spring!**

We don't just sell plants, we grow them!

**Golden Plains Garden Center**

9:30 to 5:30 Mon. - Sat.      &      1140 Plains Ave. - Colby 785-462-7528

**Greenhouse**

Colby Community College Endowment Foundation

**Fiesta On The Plains** Scholarship Benefit Auction

Saturday, April 14, 2012 • Comfort Inn Convention Center

LISTED BELOW ARE A FEW OF THE ITEMS DONATED:

Atwood Floral.....	Floral Wreath	Sport Shoppe.....	Women's Obermeyer Sports Jacket
Beaver Valley Supply and The Great Outdoors.....	Rhythm Amazing Karma Clock	Vision Source.....	Oakley Sunglasses
Cynthia Dixon.....	Hand Painted Mexican Talavera Pot	CCC Administration.....	Power Washer
Inlow Interiors.....	2- 14" x 17" Water Color Paintings by Joyce Kanikura	Montana Mike's.....	Gift Certificate
CCC Faculty Alliance.....	Patio Chiminea	CCC Equestrian Team.....	CCC Horsemanship Camp Certificate
Park Hill Two-Atwood.....	Gift Certificate	Mitten Inc.....	Steak Dinner for 2 at Buckhorns
Bartlett Grain.....	120 Acres of Sprayer Application	Crop Production Service.....	6 bags of Dyna-Gro Corn Seed
Blue Ribbon Tree Farm.....	5 ft Austrian Pine Balled and Burlap	Made of Iron.....	Single Dimension Flower
CHS Inc. Colby Agronomy.....	6 bags of Croplan Corn Seed VT3	CCC PTA/ Nursing.....	Margarita Machine
Colby Ag Center/Hoxie Imp/Oakley Ag.....	Battery Impact Wrench & Sockets	Horlacher Jewelers.....	Fire Opal Pendant with Square Snake Chain
Colby Implement/Oakley Implement.....	Battery Powered Gator	CCC Track & Cross Country.....	Hoodie & T-Shirt
Colby Lumber.....	Gift Certificate	Hi-Noon Feeds- Bird City.....	1- ton of Textured Cattle Feed
Pochop Farm & Ranch.....	5 Bags McNess Range Mineral	Golden Chiropractic.....	Lincoln Head Centre- Set of 4
Cornay Art.....	Cornay Art Framed Print (In the Bridle)	Images by Michele.....	Large Portrait Package
CCC Livestock Judging.....	1/2 hog and Processing	Kathy Britton.....	Mary Kay Miracle Set
Sleep Inn -Oakley.....	1 Night Stay	Logan County Imp.....	Toy NAPA Car
Darrel and Deanna Pabst.....	Cornay Art Framed Print ( Range Breed)	Mike's Locker.....	1/2 hog and Processing
Sunflower Bank.....	KSU vs KU Football Package (2 tickets 2 nights stay)	CCC Livestock Judging.....	Coat
Great Western Tire.....	Park Bench	Oakley Farm & Home.....	Garden Cart with Accessories
Hi Plains Co-Op.....	Lottery Ticket Basket	Ray and Nikol Nolan.....	Jar of Cookies with a Refill
Kansas Quick Lube.....	Gift Certificates	CCC Student Health.....	Print
Lang Diesel.....	2 Belt Buckles and Toy Tractor	Jason & Jayme Pfeifer.....	Luggage Set
Sunflower Bank.....	1 oz American Eagle Gold Coin	Bamboo Gardens.....	1 Lunch Coupon for 1 Year
CCC Beef Program.....	1/4 Beef and processing	Central Detroit Diesel.....	16" Chainsaw
Bankwest.....	The Movement Connection Package	Colby Dodge.....	4 Oil Changes
Colby Bowl.....	2 Family Fun Packages	CCC Trojan Backers.....	42" Flat Screen TV
Edward Jones.....	Flat Screen TV	Farm Imp and Supply of Colby.....	Ford 8N Pedal Tractor
Mill & Seed.....	Gift Certificate	Goulsh.....	Large Abstract Artwork
Orschler Farm & Home.....	Garden Wagon	Crop Production Service.....	160 acres Custom Application at any CPS location in NWKS
Peoples State Bank.....	1 lb. Silver Coin	CCC PTA/ Nursing.....	Margarita Machine
Rocking M Radio.....	Country Stampede Tickets	Horlacher Jewelers.....	Fire Opal Pendant with Square Snake Chain

For Reservations Call: (785) 460-4684  
\$35 per person or \$250 for corporate table of 8  
Doors Open 4:45 p.m. • Buffet Dinner 5:30 p.m.

**COBY RADIO**  
**FREE PRESS**  
**FARM & RANCH REALTY, INC.**