

December Evening Skies

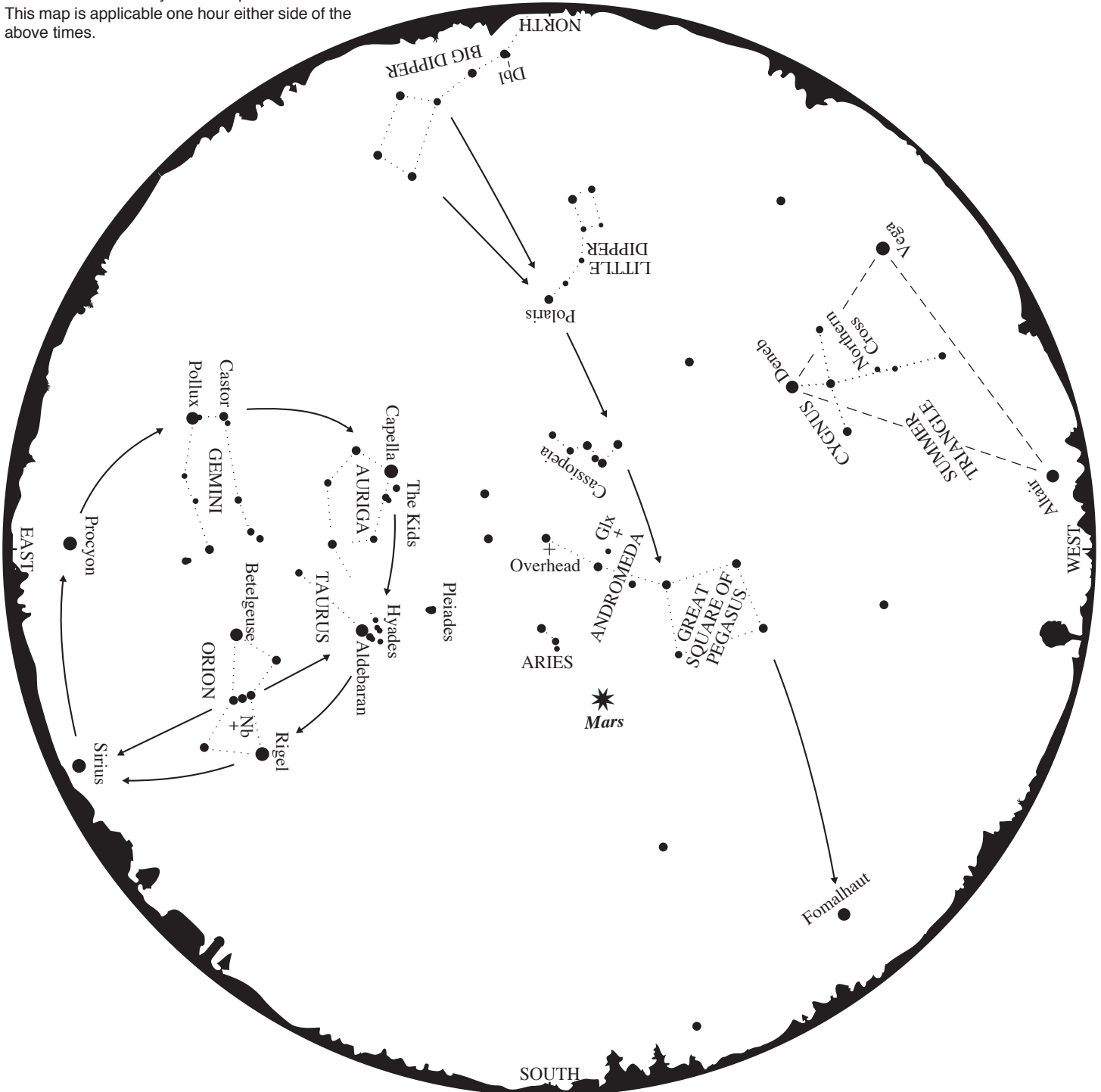
This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local standard times:

Late November	10 p.m.
Early December	9 p.m.
Late December	8 p.m.
Early January	7 p.m.
Late January	6 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times.

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Mars is plotted for mid-December 2020. At chart time 12 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Sirius, Mars, Vega, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Altair, Aldebaran, Pollux, Fomalhaut, and Deneb. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper should be detectable above the tree

tops in the north. The famous Orion Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that constellation. The position of an external star system, called the Andromeda Galaxy after the constellation in which it appears, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch