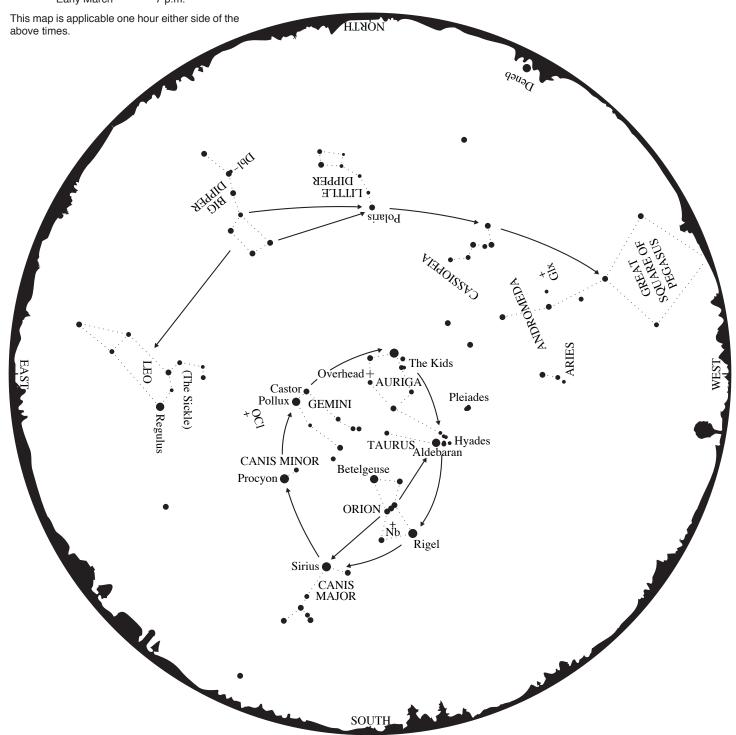
February Evening Skies

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 January 10 p.m.
Early February 9 p.m.
Late February 8 p.m.
Early March 7 p.m.

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No planets are plotted for mid-February 2022. At chart time 9 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Sirius, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Pollux, Deneb and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (DbI) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. The famous Orion Nebula, a cloud of

gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that constellation. The open or galactic star cluster (OCI) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. 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.