

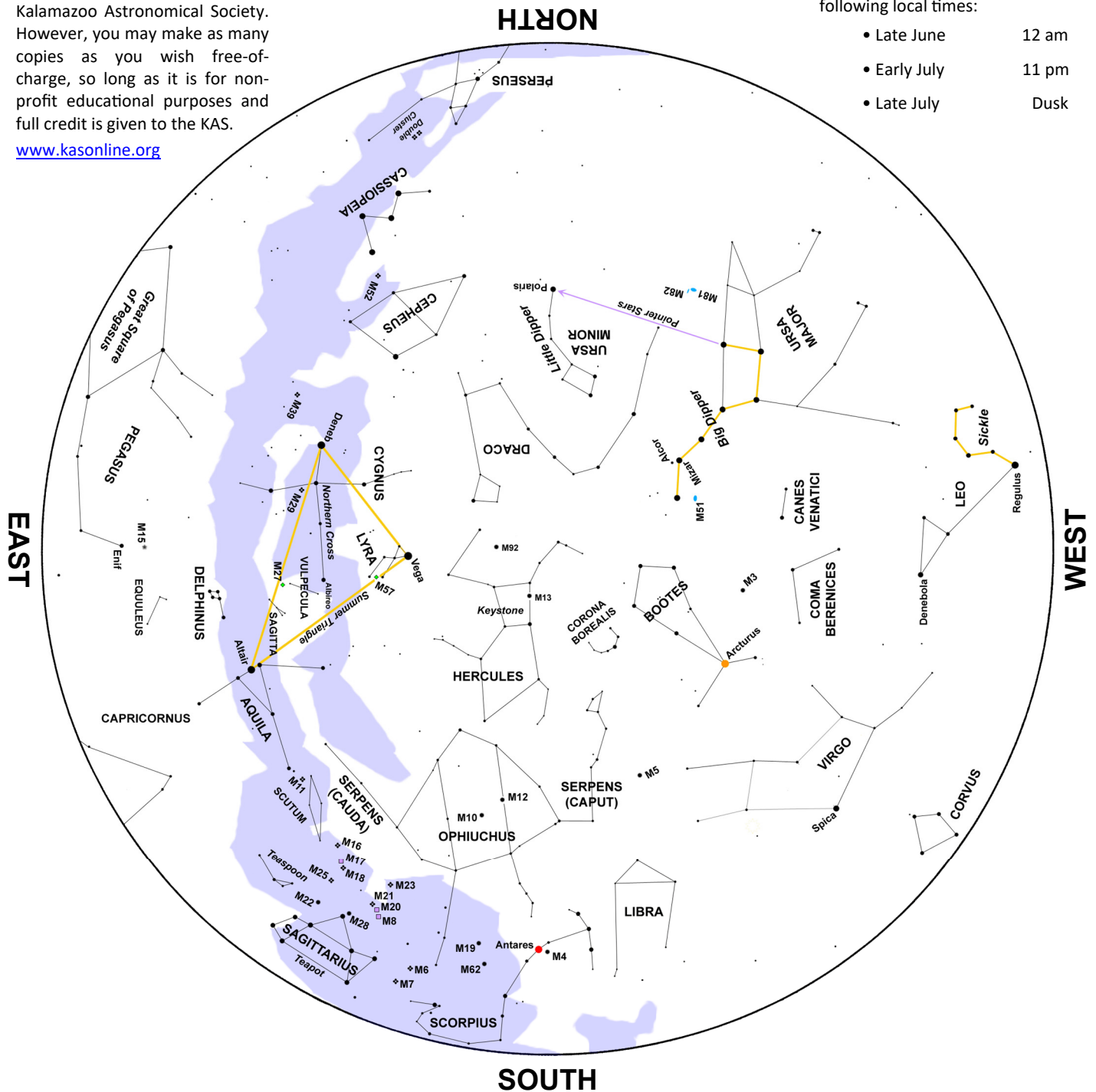
— July Night Sky —

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This map represents the sky at the following local times:

- Late June 12 am
- Early July 11 pm
- Late July Dusk



The evening of July 2nd brings a binocular challenge. Venus poses on the northern (right) edge of the Beehive Cluster in Cancer, the Crab. Find a spot with a clear west-northwestern horizon. Binoculars will be needed to spot the cluster's members.

The one-day old Moon pays a visit to the

innermost planet, Mercury, on the evening of July 8th. The pair will be 4½° apart. Binoculars will greatly enhance the Moon's earthshine. The Moon then forms a 6° long line with the close pairing of Venus and Mars on July 11th. Those two terrestrial planets have a very close conjunction on July 12th. Only ½° of sky separate the two.

Venus closes to within 1° of Regulus, in Leo, on the evening of July 21st.

A waning gibbous Moon appears 7½° above Saturn before sunrise on July 24th. The Moon then forms a shallow arc with Jupiter and Saturn on July 25th. Jupiter and the Moon will appear 5° apart on July 26th.