



The second brightest star in the night sky

Have you seen it?



The rising of certain stars can herald a new season, such as Arcturus bringing in the early spring. Waiting for special stars to rise and make their first appearance every year can provide a special comfort for observers – much like greeting an old friend. For some folks in the southern United States, one such star is **Canopus**. To some watchful observers, when it finally appears late in the evening, it means winter is upon us. Of course for those folks, winter's grip isn't too tight with many nights being quite pleasant.

From most parts of the country, it never can be seen in the night sky, but for those living in the southern United States, it is a different story. Skywatchers below 35° N latitude can see it, although for those living close to 35°, its sighting is very problematic.

If you either live in or visit the southern part of the country why not seek out **Canopus**?

Skywatchers, who head for more southerly latitudes from late fall through late winter, should look for this bright star. For a new New Year's Eve tradition, step outside 30 minutes before year's end and look south. Below the more customary New Year's star, Sirius, shines a new one, Canopus.

Canopus Info:

RA: 6h 24m

Dec: -52° 41'

Magnitude: -0.72

Distance: 310 light-years

Luminosity: 17,000 suns

Culmination Altitude from different latitudes

37° N 0°

30° N 7°

25° N 12°

15° N 22°

Dates and Times of Culmination (at longitudes divisible by 15)

Nov 1 4:45 (DST)

Nov 15 2:50 (ST)

Dec 1 1:50

Dec 15 12:50 am

Jan 1 11:40 pm

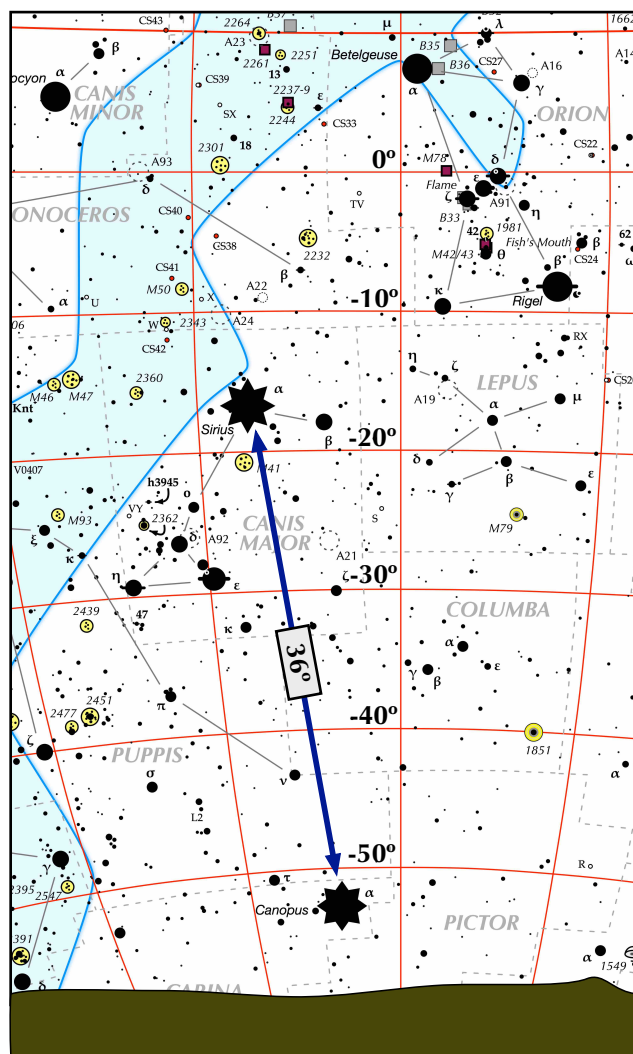
Jan 15 10:45

Feb 1 9:40

Feb 15 8:45

Mar 1 7:50 (ST)

Mar 15 7:50 (DST)



Once you spot Canopus, it'll be a friend for life!