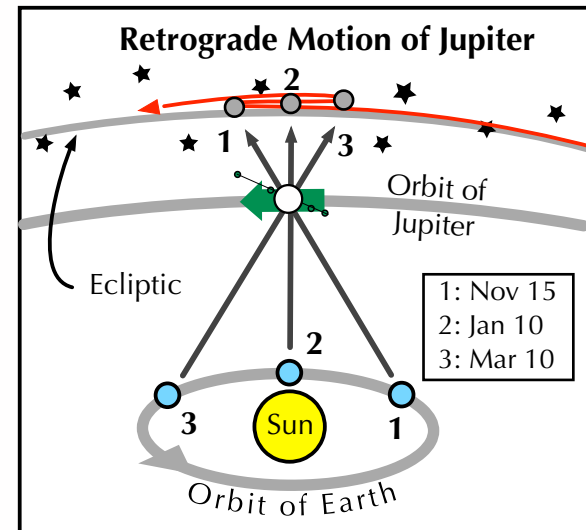
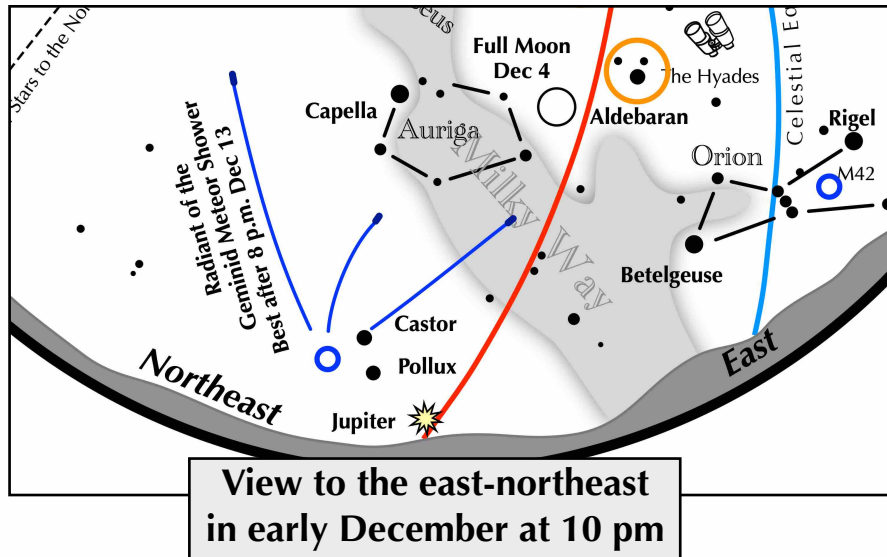


On evenings in December (and January), try this challenge:

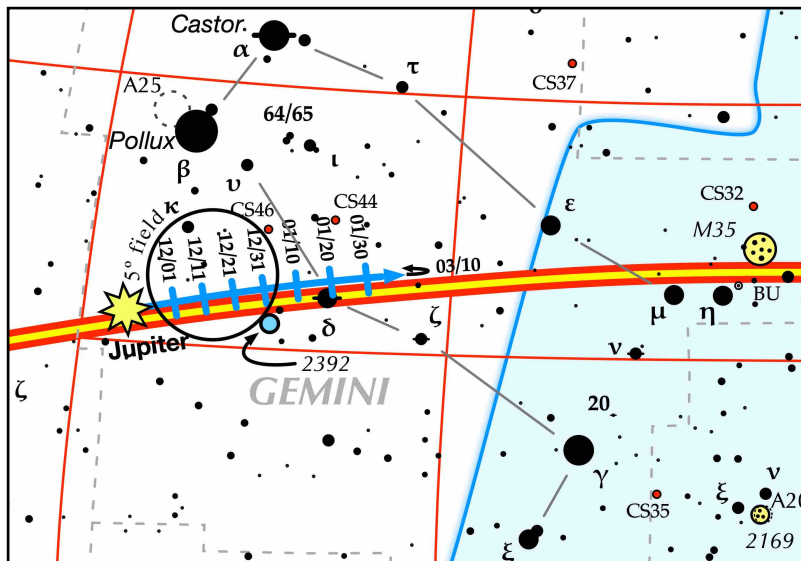


Jupiter moves in retrograde

On evenings in December, the Giant Planet slides westward in central Gemini to the lower right of Castor and Pollux.

Observe, then plot its motion in the heavens. It continues its westward journey in January, but begins to slow in February. On about March 11, it halts and reverses direction.

The passing bright moon will hamper observations on December 4-8.



Why do this activity? This planetary dance can only be explained if both Earth and Jupiter orbit our sun following definable and slightly elliptical paths. Our view from Earth clearly shows this to those people who take the time to look carefully enough.

