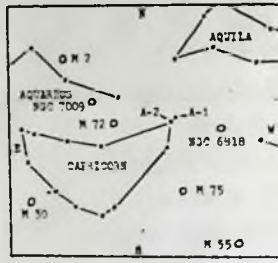


The Cosmic Reporter



“Capricorn”
By Tim Linder

This week let's take a look at the constellation of Capricorn, the mythical “Sea Goat.” Capricorn is part of the Zodiac (band of constellations through which the sun and planets pass) and in this area there are a number of interesting astronomical objects most of which are globular star clusters. Capricorn is now in the mid-southern sky at 9 p.m. so let's take a look to see what we can find:

The first object is M2 which is actually in Aquarius. This object is a globular star cluster and is of magnitude 7. Since this object is fairly bright it should be easy to spot through binoculars and will appear as a bright fuzzy ball or light.

Next is the planetary nebula NGC 7009 also known as the Saturn Nebula. This planetary nebula is one of the brightest in its class being at magnitude 8.5 and should be fairly easy to spot through binoculars or a small telescope. It will appear as a bright blue disk.

M72 is a globular star cluster to the north of Capricorn. This cluster is of magnitude 9 and is

quite dim. M 72 may be hard to find with binoculars but is easy to spot through a small telescope.

NGC 6818 is very much like NGC 7009 except that it is a little dimmer. This planetary nebula is of magnitude 10 and can only be seen through a telescope. Through a telescope at about 45x NGC 6818 appears as a small blue oval disk.

Next is M75. This is a globular cluster between the constellations of Capricorn and Sagittarius. M 75 is of magnitude 9 and is quite dim but it may still be seen through binoculars or a small telescope if the sky is dark and clear.

M 55 is another globular star cluster to the southwest of Capricorn. M 55 is of magnitude 6 and is the brightest globular cluster in this area. This globular cluster can be seen easily with binoculars and appears as a bright fuzzy patch of light.

The last globular cluster in this area is M 30. M 30 is to the east of Capricorn and is of magnitude 8. Since this cluster is of medium brightness it should not be hard to pick up with binoculars.

The last object of interest in this area is Alpha Capricorni (A-1 and A-2 on the star map). This is a nice naked-eye double star and both of the components are yellow in color. A-1 is of magnitude 6 and A-2 is of magnitude 4. Through a telescope each of the stars of this double appears as an individual double star itself making this a double-double system.

That's it for this week, HAPPY STARGAZING!!!!!!!

The Bulletin, 10c Per Copy

There will be a Musical Festival Sun., Oct. 5 at 4 p.m. Garrison Chapel Baptist Church, Tryon. Benefits Women's Day, Linda Douglas, sponsor.

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