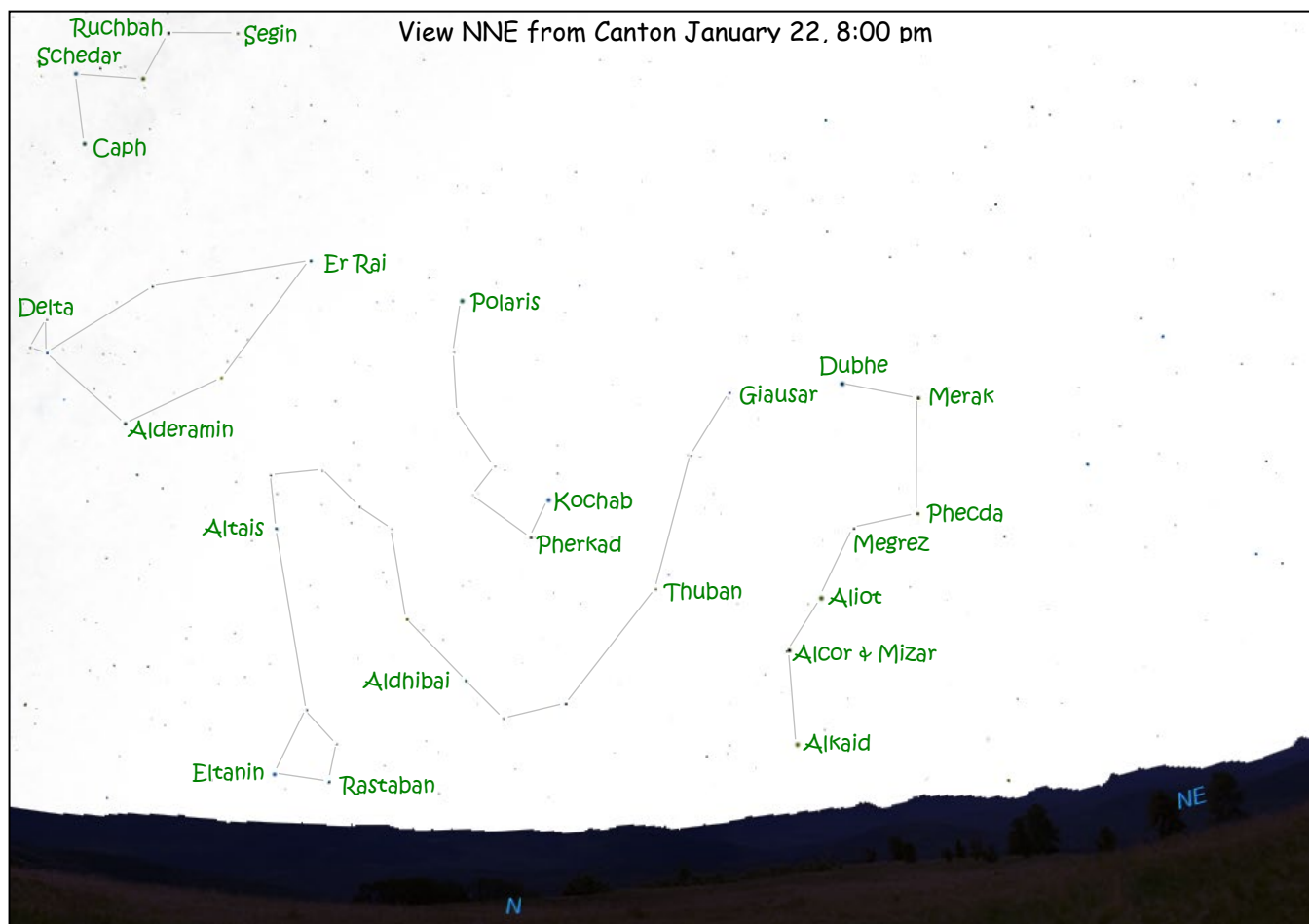


Fill out the table⁶ and **LABEL the stars of Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, Draco, and Boötes that you are able to actually SEE** by labeling them with their name.¹⁵ Write about your experience at the bottom and on the back of this page (or type it up separately).⁸



| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Name: Aileen O'Donoghue | Companions: Willa and Benny |
| Date: 1/12/2025 | Time: 8:15 pm |
| Sky: Partly cloudy | Moon: Not visible (waning crescent) |

Spend at least $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour outside at night looking at the sky. Use the space below and the back of this sheet to describe what you observe (stars, constellations, sky conditions, the moon, meteors, aurora, satellites ... bats, anything) and reflect on the experience. Can you pick out the constellations? Can you see the bear? Do all the stars look the same? Can you see the Milky Way? Does a poem or a song come to mind? Does the memory of camping trip come back to you?

Though the clouds were pesky, I was able to pick out the major stars of the dippers, Draco, Cassiopeia, and Cepheus ... though Delta Cephei is always a challenge to see, as are the middle stars of the Little Dipper and fainter ones in Draco. Cassiopeia and the Big Dipper are the easiest to spot. It wasn't horribly cold, but the wind was sharp. There were loads of satellites, but I didn't see any meteors nor any signs of aurora tonight. I could see the great bear, but not all at once since some parts would be covered by passing clouds.

I always think about Enya's "Paint the Sky with Stars" when I observe ... "Night has brought to those who sleep, only dreams they cannot keep. I have legends in the deep. Paint the sky with stars." Too cold for the telescope or I'd be out looking for the galaxies of M81 & M82, M101, and M51. They are so beautiful, even through my little 6" scope.