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The Hunter of the Beast

By Tim Thompson

Begirt with many a blazing star,
Stood the great giant Algebar,
Orion, hunter of the beast!
His sword hung gleaming by his side,

(Continued on page 4)
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As we swing into winter, one of the most attractive constellations will swing into the evening sky. Enter Orion, hunter of the beast, as Longfellow calls him in an excerpt from his poem, *The Occultation of Orion*. Orion is one of the easiest constellations to see; it is large & distinctive, and is packed with more objects of astronomical interest than this newsletter has room for.

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Los Angeles Astronomical Society
c/o Darrell Dooley
1815 Avalon Street
Los Angeles, CA  90026

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*And, on his arm, the lion’s hide
Scattered across the midnight air
The golden radiance of its hair.*

Mare Nectaris, taken by David Nakamoto using a web camera and a 127 mm aperture Maksutov operating at f/12 during the same star party that produced the Jupiter image on the page 11. Note the partial outer ring outside the main ring around the mare. Also note the small crater Rosse with the eject debris heading up and to the right on the mare floor. ✤
Film—Journey to Palomar
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Map to Monterey Park Observatory
(The place to build your telescope)

The red supergiant Betelgeuse is so large that the Hubble Space Telescope can see the disk of the star.

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Orion, as he appears in Johann Bayer’s Uranometria atlas in 1603.

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Both article 3 and article 4 passed

Let’s give all our support to the board members, old and new, in the coming year. ✩

- Jupiter, taken by David Nakamoto during the Griffith star party, June 3rd 2006. Notice the dark spot at the left edge; it’s the shadow of Europa, which might be the small white spot further on to the right. Red spot Jr. is located to the left and below the Great Red Spot. Even with such a small telescope, a lot of detail can be seen in the atmosphere. ✩

Mt Wilson 60” Nights

There are currently no more Mount Wilson 60” nights scheduled. Please send any suggestions for possible future nights to Secretary@laas.org

This picture shows the conspicuous features of Orion, the bright stars Rigel & Betelgeuse, M42, the Horsehead & flame. Also shown are the red glow of Barnard’s loop on the left, and the giant, old supernova remnant above Orion.
scene of lively star formation, heavily studied by professional astronomers, and observed by every instrument. It was in M42 that the Hubble Space Telescope observed the first \textit{proplyds}, protostars still enshrouded in the gas & dust from which they formed. The trapezium cluster is one of the most popular objects for amateur astronomers, easily visible even in a small telescope.

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The stars in Orion’s belt, from left to right are Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka. The Flame Nebula sits right next to Alnitak, and the Horsehead Nebula is just below Alnitak. This image comes from the Palomar Digitized Sky Survey, and is synthesized by adding images taken through different color filters.

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