

STAR GAZERS  
SG 1718 - 1M  
MAY 1-7, 2017

"LAST CHANCE FOR BETELGEUSE"

DEAN: YOU HAVE ONE MORE WEEK TO MAYBE CATCH ORION.

JAMES: AND YOU CAN LOOK FOR HIS LARGEST STAR BETELGEUSE ONE MORE TIME.

---STOP & DROP

DEAN: IT'S MAY 1ST AT 9:30PM AND YOU CAN JUST BARELY SEE ALL OF ORION - INCLUDING HIS BELT - ABOVE THE WESTERN HORIZON.

JAMES: AS WE MOVE TIME FORWARD, DAY BY DAY, WE'LL SEE THAT ORION SETS EARLIER AND EARLIER. BY THE END OF THIS WEEK, YOU MAY HAVE TROUBLE SEEING HIS BELT.

DEAN: BUT THE LAST MAJOR STAR IN ORION TO SET IS BETELGEUSE.

---STOP & FLY

JAMES: BETELGEUSE IS A GIGANTIC RED VARIABLE STAR ABOUT 640 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH, AND IS ABOUT 1200 TIMES THE DIAMETER OF OUR SUN.

DEAN: IT HAS SUNSPOTS ON IT TOO. OR SHOULD WE CALL THEM BEETLE-SPOTS?

---STOP - BACK ON HORIZON

JAMES: BETELGEUSE IS SO MASSIVE THAT WHEN IT DIES, IT WILL CREATE A BRIGHT SUPERNOVA.

DEAN: IT COULD HAPPEN TOMORROW, OR IT COULD BE DECADES AWAY. SO YOU BETTER...

BOTH: KEEP LOOKING UP!

---STOP