

STGZ244

12/26 - 01/01

HAPPY PERIHELION DAY 2023!

HOWDY STARFINDERS -- HAPPY PERIHELION DAY! NEXT WEEK ON JANUARY 4 WE'RE CLOSER TO THE SUN THAN AT ANY POINT IN THE YEAR.

WE'LL REACH EXACT PERIHELION AT EXACTLY 1:52AM EASTERN ON JANUARY FOURTH.

PERIHELION HAPPENS BECAUSE EARTH'S ORBIT IS SLIGHTLY OBLONG MEANING THIS WEEK WE ARE 3.2 MILLION MILES CLOSER TO THE SUN THAN IN JULY. EVEN THOUGH WE'RE CLOSER TO THE SUN, THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE IS HAVING WINTER, BECAUSE OF THE TILT OF OUR PLANET. THAT INDIRECT LIGHT KEEPS THE NORTH IN COLD, BUT GIVES THE SOUTHERN HEMI A HOT SUMMER.

IF YOU WATCH THE SKIES THIS WEEK at 1:52AM, YOU'LL SEE THE MOON TO THE BOTTOM OF MARS AND RIGHT NEXT TO THE PLEIADES ON THE 3RD, AND THEN ON TOP OF MARS ON THE 4th... PERIHELION DAY! TAKE A NAP AND COME BACK AND FACE NE BEFORE THE SUN RISES AND LOOK FOR THE QUADRANTIDS METEOR SHOWER! AND THEN ON THE 6TH it's the FULL WOLF MOON.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, AND KEEP LOOKIN UP!