

STGZ319

07/03 - 07/09

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE STARS July 2023

HI STARSHINES, I'M TRACE – THIS WEEK IS THE 4TH OF JULY! WHAT BETTER WAY TO CELEBRATE THAN ENJOYING THE NIGHT SKY AFTER THE FIREWORKS? YOU CAN FIND RED, WHITE, AND BLUE STARS – IT'S EASY!

THIS IS THE SKY AT 11PM ON THE 4TH LOOKING SOUTH. FIRST – LOOK FOR ANTARES, THE TWINKY STAR IN THE CONSTELLATION SCORPIUS THE SCORPION. IT'S A RED SUPERGIANT 400 TIMES LARGER THAN THE SUN! SECOND – FACE EAST; THERE YOU CAN FIND ALTAIR IN AQUILA THE EAGLE. THIS YELLOW-WHITE STAR IS 13TH BRIGHTEST IN THE SKY.

FINALLY – TURN YOUR BACK TO ALTAIR AND LOOK WEST. THERE LOOK FOR SPICA – WHICH IS TWO SUPER-HOT BLUE STARS ORBITING EACH OTHER EVERY 4 DAYS! AS A BONUS FOR THE PATIENT – THE RINGED SATURN AND THE MOON WILL RISE IN THE SOUTHEAST CLOSER TO MIDNIGHT.

TO PARAPHRASE A LETTER TO THOMAS JEFFERSON FROM FREEDMAN ASTRONOMER BENJAMIN BANNEKER: "HOWEVER VARIABLE WE MAY BE... WE ARE ALL OF THE SAME FAMILY," KEEP LOOKING UP!