

Fall 3 Notes

Auriga: Holder of the Reins, Charioteer; one of Ptolemy's 48 original
Alpha: *Capella*, The Driver or She Goat (Amalthea, nurse of Zeus); Giant G star
Beta: *Menkalinan*, Shoulder of the Rein-holder
Gamma: *Alnath*, Heel of the Rein-holder; shared with Taurus (Beta); Blue-White B star

Canis Venatici: Hunting Dogs (of Boötes), Hounds; Location of Whirlpool M 51 and Sunflower M 63 Galaxies;
Modern addition to 88 official IAU constellations
Alpha: *Cor Caroli*, Heart (of Charles II); Double star (White A and G Yellow)

Cassiopeia: Woman of the chair (throne); Arab "Stained Hand" or Two dogs (with Cepheus); W or M depending on season; First Woman of Diné culture (so'naalkaah);
one of Ptolemy's original 48 constellations;
Alpha: *Schedir* from *Al Sadr*, Breast; Orange K star;
Beta: *Caph* from *Al Arāf*, Camel's hump; Tycho's star; White-Yellow F variable Giant
Gamma: no name; white A variable
Delta: *Ruchbah*, Knee; White A star

Cepheus: Many conflicting descriptions, but usually a Royal Father; dim constellation but high in the sky
Two stars [Alpha: *Alderamin*, The right arm;
Flock of sheep [Beta: *Alfrik* no individual name; Beta Cepheid type star
Gamma: *Alrai*, Shepherd
Delta: no individual name; Delta Cepheid Variable type star;
possible Yellow G-White F Supergiant

Draco: Dragon; 6000 yr old constellation of Babylonians; one of Ptolemy's original 48
Alpha: *Thuban*, Dragon (large snake); Pole star 2750 BCE +/- to 350BCE ; Giant White A star
Beta: *Rastaban*, Head (Ras) of the Dragon; Yellow G Supergiant

Ursa Major: Greater Bear; UK Plow (Big Dipper asterism); First Man of Diné culture
pointers to [Alpha: *Dubhe*, Back of the Great Bear; 2nd brightest star; Spectrographic binary;
North Star [Beta: *Merak*, Loin of the bear; white A star
Gamma: *Phekda*, (from *Al Fahdh*) Thigh; white A star
Big Dipper handle [Delta: *Megrez*, Base (Root) of the tail
Bear tail [Epsilon: *Alioth*, Fat tail; Brightest star
"good for nothing people [Zeta: *Mizar*, Girdle; double star (with *Alcor*)
whose rising and setting [Nu: *Alkaid*, Leader; 3rd brightest star
bring no rain" (RHAllen)
Omicron: *Muscida*, Muzzle or nose; multiple G class star system

Ursa Minor: Lesser Bear; Little Dipper Asterism with Pole Star (Polaris)
Alpha: Polaris, Pole Star since 500CE +/-, until 2105CE +/- ; Fire Star of the Diné culture
Al Kaukab al Shamāliyy, Star of the North (Prayer star);
double star (Yellow G and White A)
Handle of Dipper [Beta: *Kochab*, STAR or bright one; Pole Star between 1100BCE +/- to 100CE+/-; 59th brightest
star in the sky; Giant Orange-Red K star
Gamma: *Pherkad*, Dim one or Guardian of the Pole; Giant White A double star;

Pole Star = Precession 26,000 years period

