



Sky Outlook

January 2018

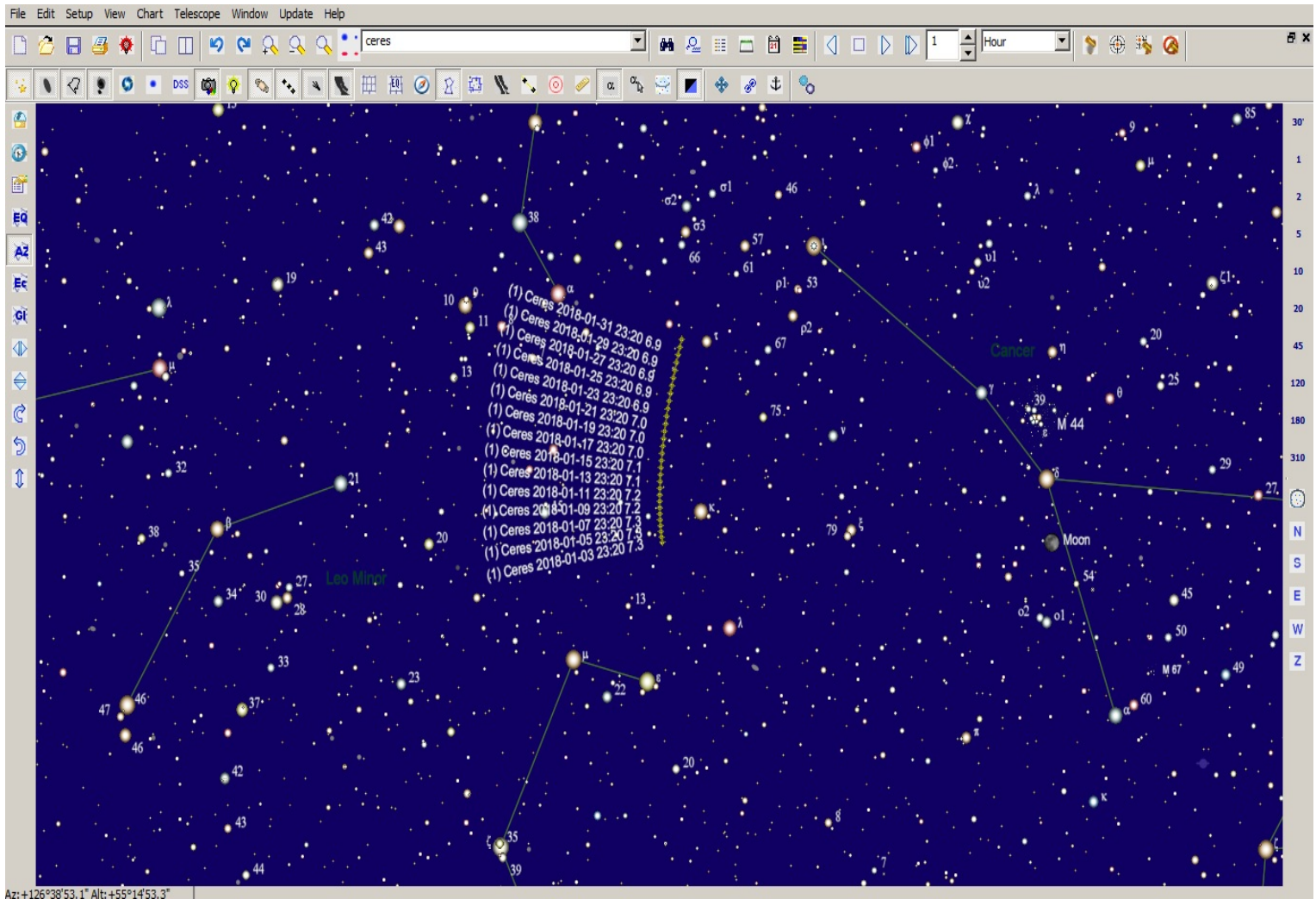
Mercury reached greatest western elongation on the 1st Jan and is low down in the south eastern morning sky in the first part of the month.

Mars is an early morning object in Libra.

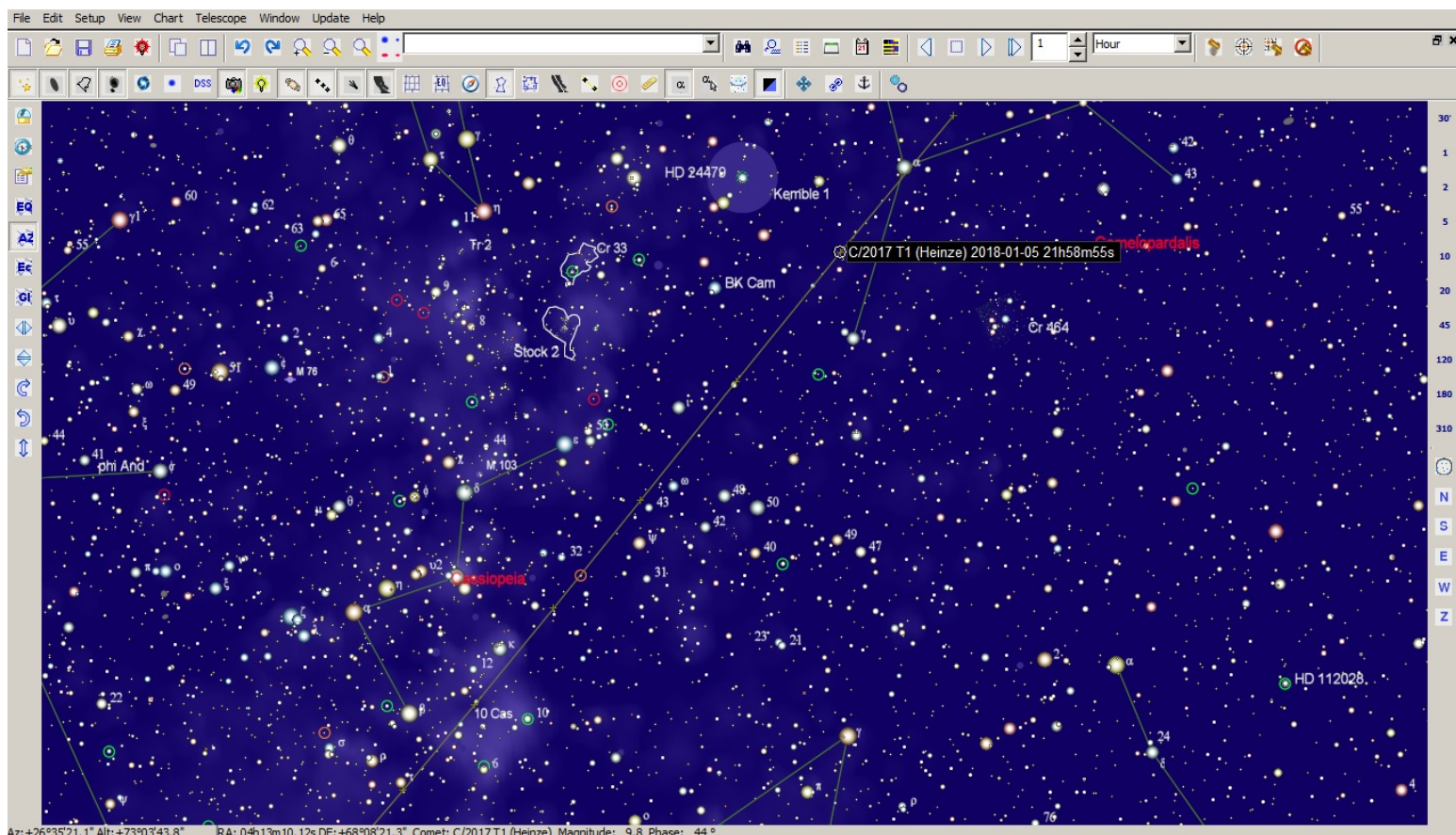
Jupiter an early morning object. Look out for close encounter with Mars on 7th.

Uranus and Neptune still observable in the evening sky with Neptune gradually sinking in the twilight.

**Ceres lies north of Leo at the moment
is at opposition on the 31st January
and at magnitude +7.0 is easy to find.**



Comet 2017 T1 Heinze will be in Camelopardalis at magnitude +9 on the 4/5th Jan as it passes 33 million Km from Earth. A fast moving Comet making its way through Cassiopeia 6-11th Jan.

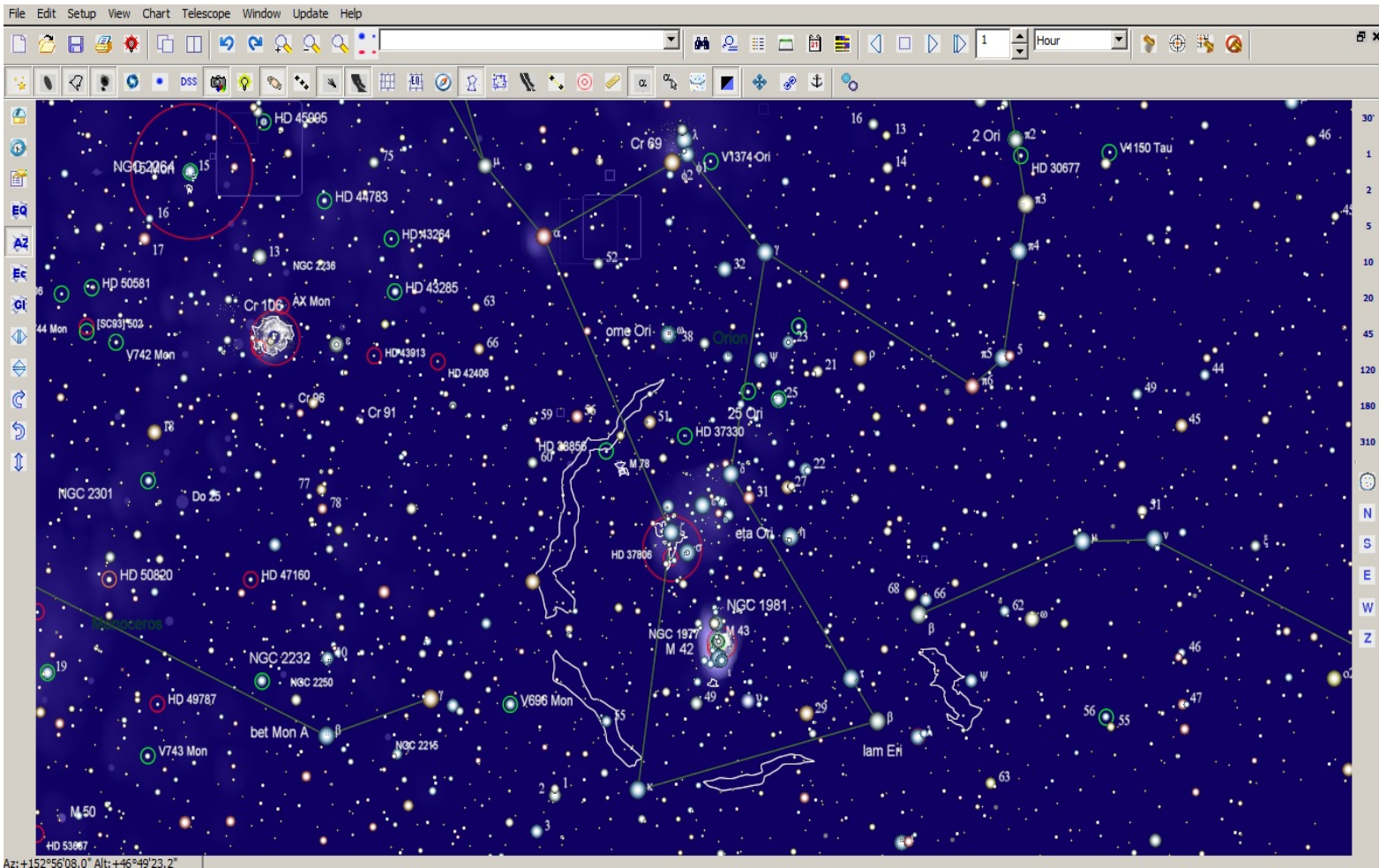


Last Month we looked at Taurus and a challenge was set for images of various targets in and around the constellation. A few images were taken.....

This month the sky will be dominated by the constellation of Orion the hunter, with its unmistakable shape outlined by 8 bright stars.

Betelgeuse, Phi 01 & 02, Bellatrix, Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka and finally Saiph and Rigel. Follow a line down from the belt and stop at the group of stars known as the sword and there you will find Messier's 42 and 43, large star forming area of nebulosity visible in binoculars but

best view is through a larger scope and OIII filter. Also contains a group of stars “the Trapezium”. Moving back up to the belt star Alnitak, here you will find the Flame nebula and the Horsehead nebula. A little more to the left and slightly upwards of the constellation lies the faint nebula of M78. A dark sky, a DSLR on tripod and wide field lens will capture many treasures in and around Orion, including the large Barnard’s Loop (Sharpless 2-276) believed to have been formed by a series of supernovae.



Sketches or images can be sent to

alunhalsey@gmail.com

**and will be presented in next month's
sky outlook.**