

Revolving Female

Náhookos ba'áadii

Revolving Female is the other half of a pair of figures circling closely around North Fire. Together with Revolving Male they symbolize the importance of a family created by the union of a husband and wife, as well as the significance of family duties and responsibilities.

The circular path followed by these two figures is reminiscent of the circular shape of a hooghan.

Revolving Female is sometimes seen as a reminder of the Navajo custom that a mother-in-law should never be in a hooghan with her daughter's husband. This law is based on the belief that there is only room for one woman in the home. Some traditional Navajo believed a woman would go blind if she ever saw her son-in-law.

The five stars in a distinctive "W" shape were seen by the Lapps of northern Europe as part of a moose's antler. Siberia's Chukchee people saw them as a group of five reindeer.

Some Arab people in the Middle East pictured them as the humps on a camel's back.

People native to the Marshall Islands in the Pacific saw them as the tail of a porpoise.

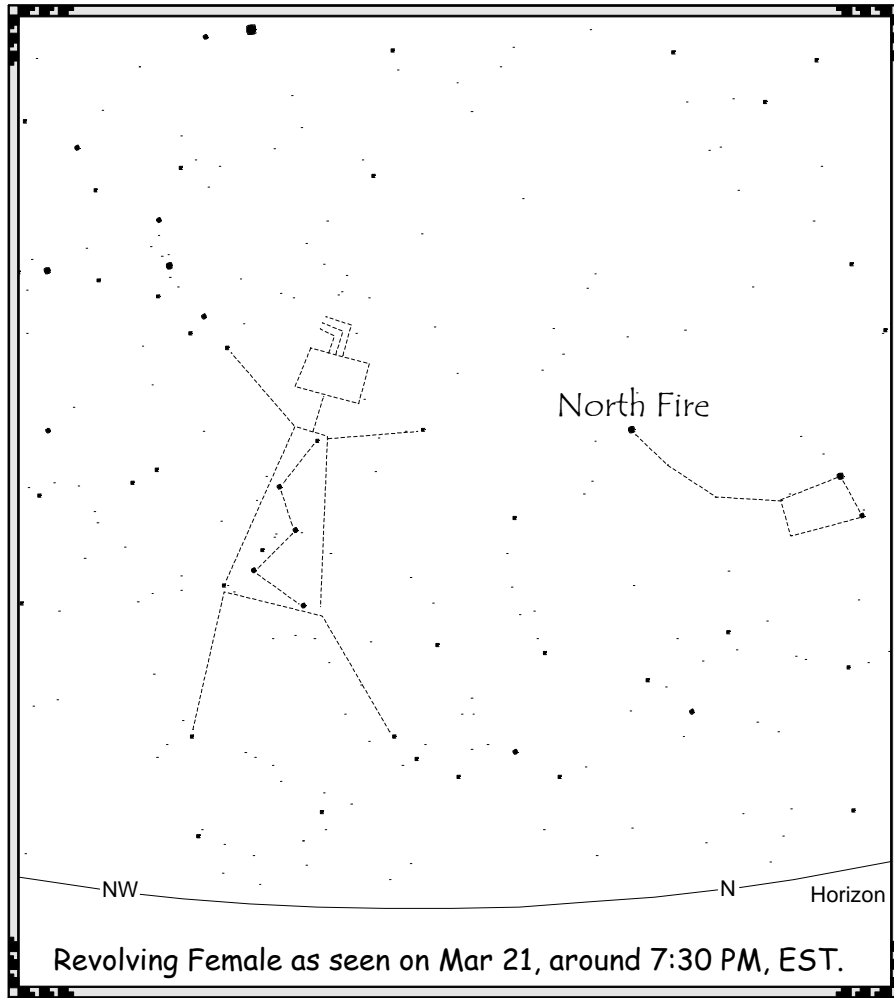
Revolving Female corresponds closely to the brighter stars within the contemporary constellation Cassiopeia, the Queen. During the early winter months, the five brightest stars resemble a squashed letter "M" in the northern sky.

The Greek legends describe Cassiopeia as a boastful queen. She even boasted that she was more beautiful than the gods themselves. Of course the gods did not appreciate this and decided to punish her. She was chained to her throne and hung in the sky, where sometimes she would be seen right-side up and at other times she would be seen in a rather undignified upside down position.

In China, these stars represented Wang Liang, a famous charioteer in the 11th century B.C., and his chariot.

Caph, Arabic for "hand", (2.3; white subgiant).





Finding Revolving Female:

For locations north of 50 degrees latitude, Revolving Female is always visible above the true horizon. Depending on how clear your view of the true horizon in the north is, you may have trouble seeing Revolving Female during the summer months.

WHERE TO LOOK 1 HOUR AFTER SUNSET

<u>WINTER</u>	<u>SPRING</u>	<u>SUMMER</u>	<u>FALL</u>
Overhead, Dec 21	High in NW, Mar 21	Low in N, Jun 21	High in NE, Sep 21



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Schedar, Arabic for “beast”, (2.2; orange giant).

Cih, Chinese for “whip”, is an unpredictably variable star that averages a magnitude of 2.5, (blue subgiant).

Ruchbah, Arabic for “knee”, (2.7; blue-white giant).

Segin lies at the flattened end of the “M” shaped group of stars, (3.4; blue giant).

Revolving Female lies within the bright swath of stars we know as the Milky Way. Looking at this area with

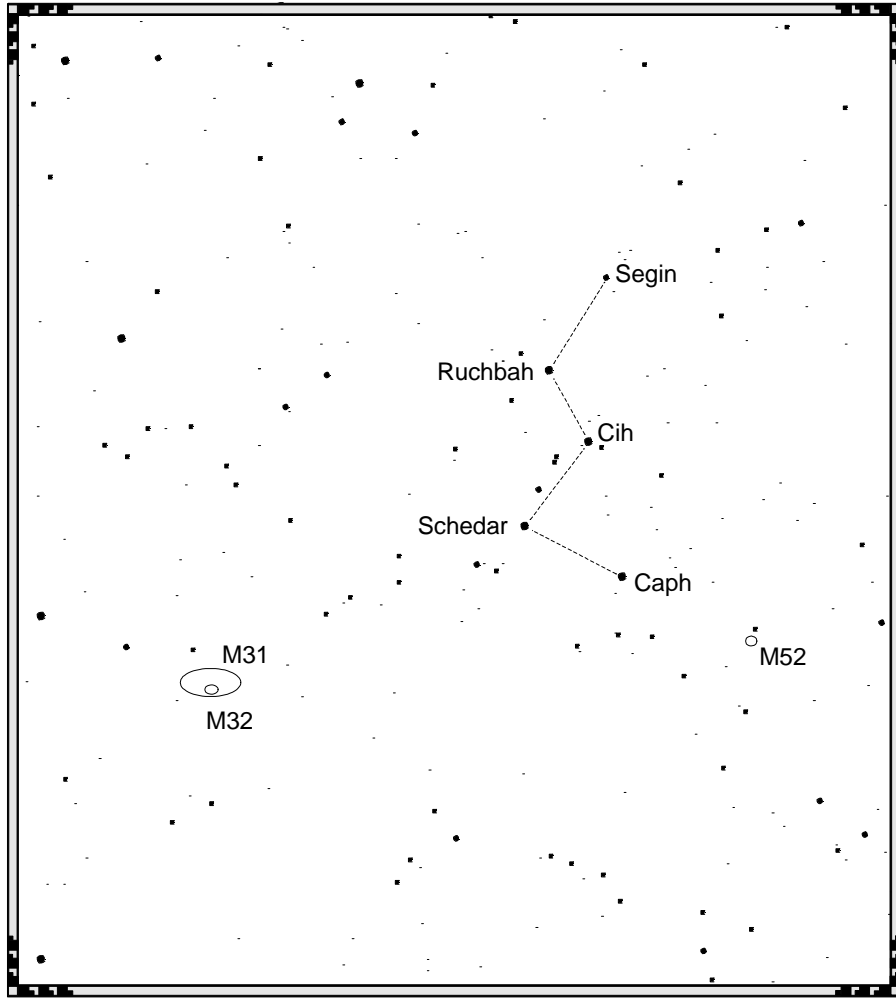
binoculars will reveal thousands of dim stars that appear to the naked eye as a bright haze, as if there were a thin cloud across the sky.



M31, the Great Andromeda Galaxy, actually lies within the constellation Andromeda, the Princess. If you follow a line in the direction where Cih, Schedar, and Caph seem to be pointing, you may find a faint, hazy oval object. This spiral galaxy, similar to our own, is the most distant object visible with the naked eye. It lies about two million light years away. Binoculars can enhance the view, maybe even allowing you to see the 9th magnitude galaxy **M32**, which lies next to M31.

The house-shaped asterism within the constellation **Cepheus**, the King, lies nearby. According to Greek legend, Andromeda was his daughter, the princess, and Cassiopeia, the Queen, was his wife.





Detail view of Cassiopeia

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