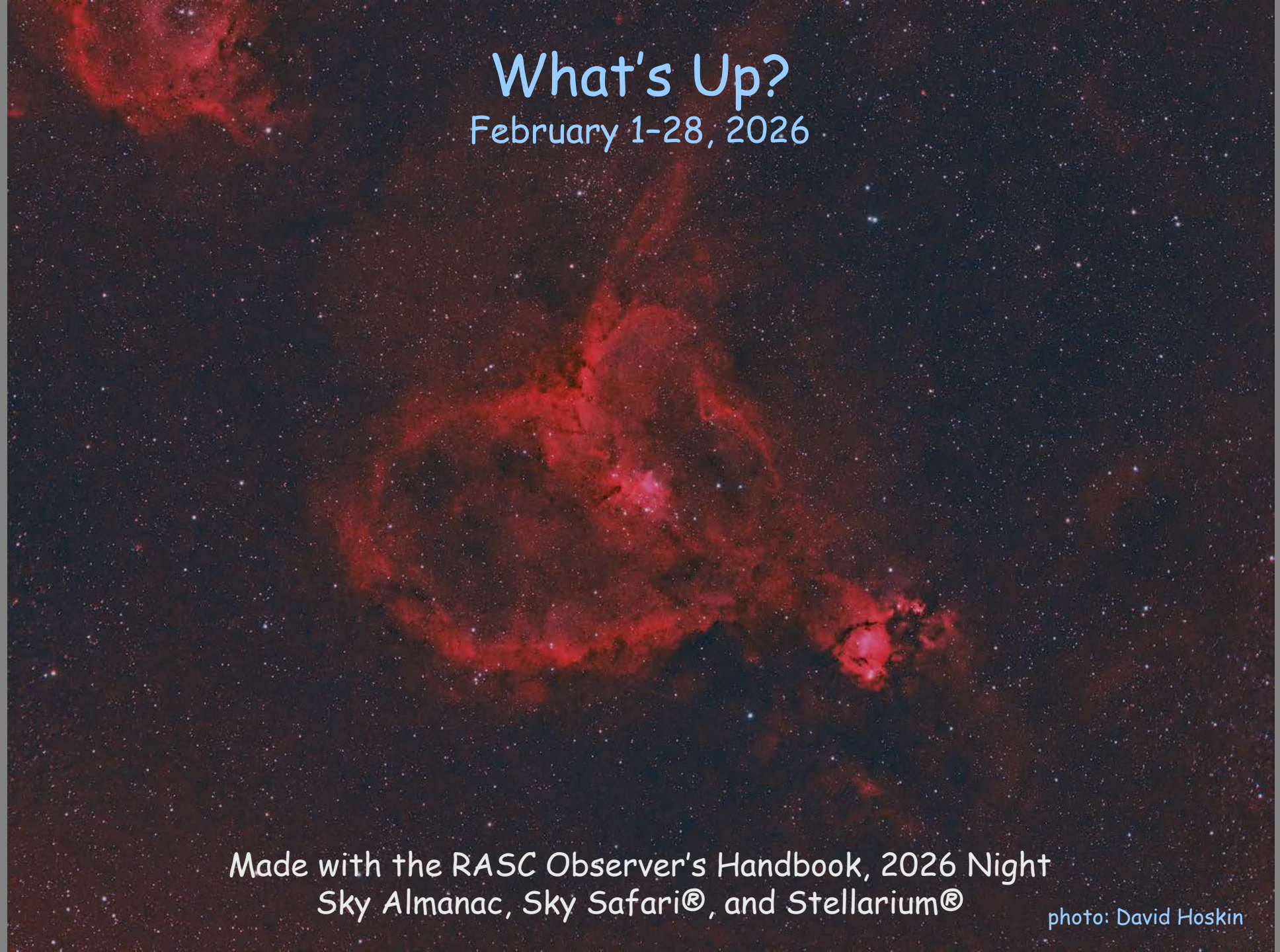
What's Up?

February 1–28, 2026



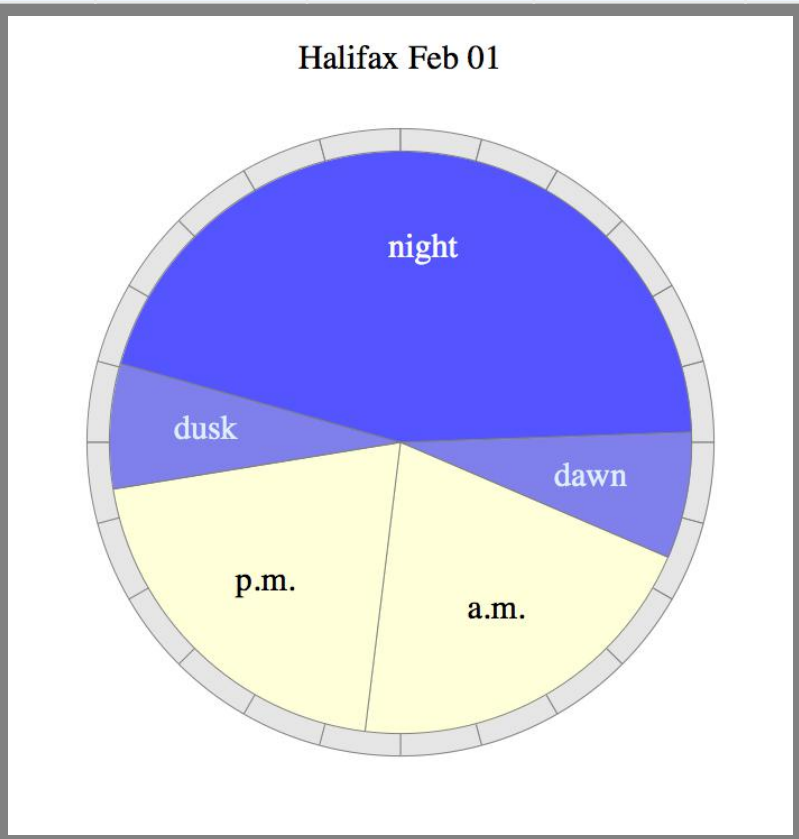
Made with the RASC Observer's Handbook, 2026 Night Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

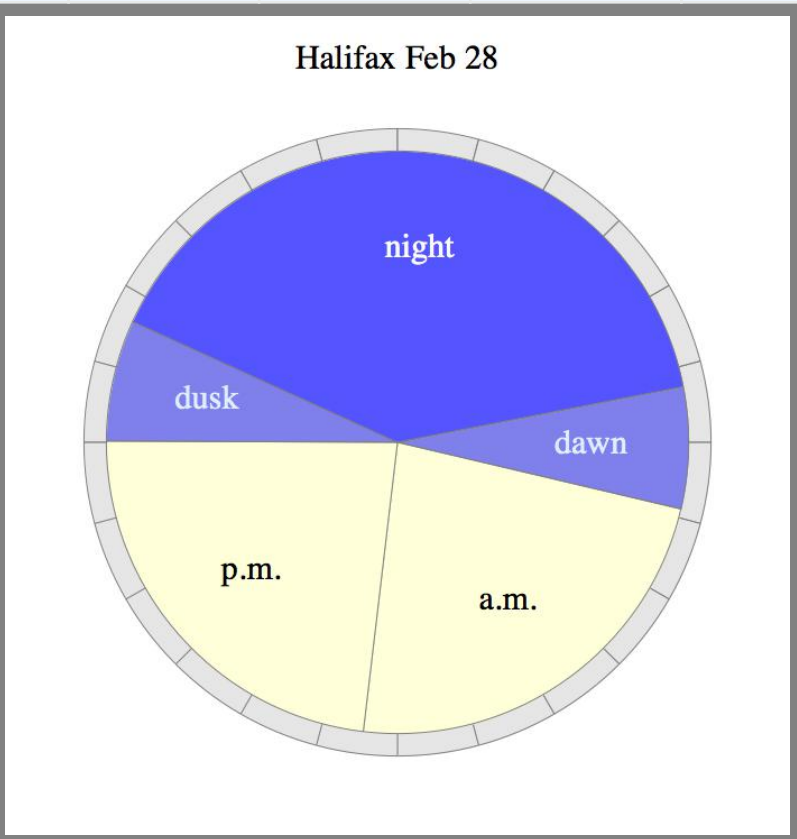
photo: David Hoskin

The Sun This Month

Solar Activity

Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	"Noon"	Sunlight	Max Altitude
Feb 1	5:23 pm	7:03 pm	10 ¾ h	5:52 am	7:33 am	12:27 pm	9 ¾ h	28.4º
Feb 28	6:00 pm	7:37 pm	9 ½ h	5:16 am	6:53 am	12:26 pm	11 ¼ h	37.6º

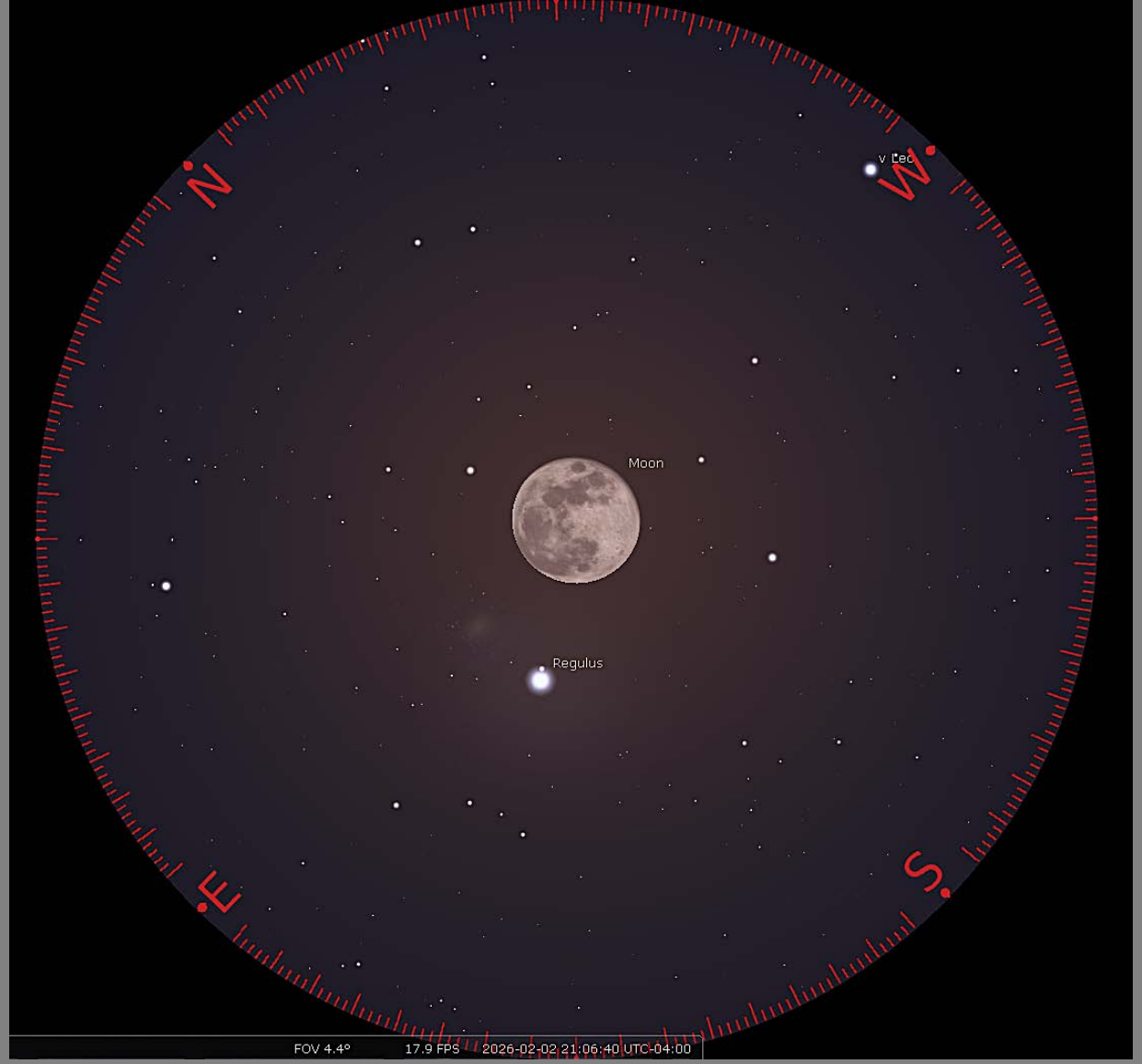




The Moon This Month

Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
Feb 1	*Full Moon*	Tom Cod Spawning	Punamujuiku's
Feb 2	Moon near Regulus		
Feb 7	Moon near Spica		
Feb 9	*Last Quarter*		
Feb 10	Moon at apogee (404,600 km)		
Feb 11	Moon near Antares and M4		
Feb 17	*New Moon*	Snow-Blinding	Apuknajit
Feb 18	Moon near Mercury		
Feb 19	Moon near Saturn and Neptune		
Feb 23	Moon near the Pleiades (M45)		
Feb 24	*First Quarter*		
Feb 24	Moon at perigee (370,100 km)		
Feb 26	Moon near Jupiter		
Feb 28	Moon near the Beehive Cluster (M44)		

challenge



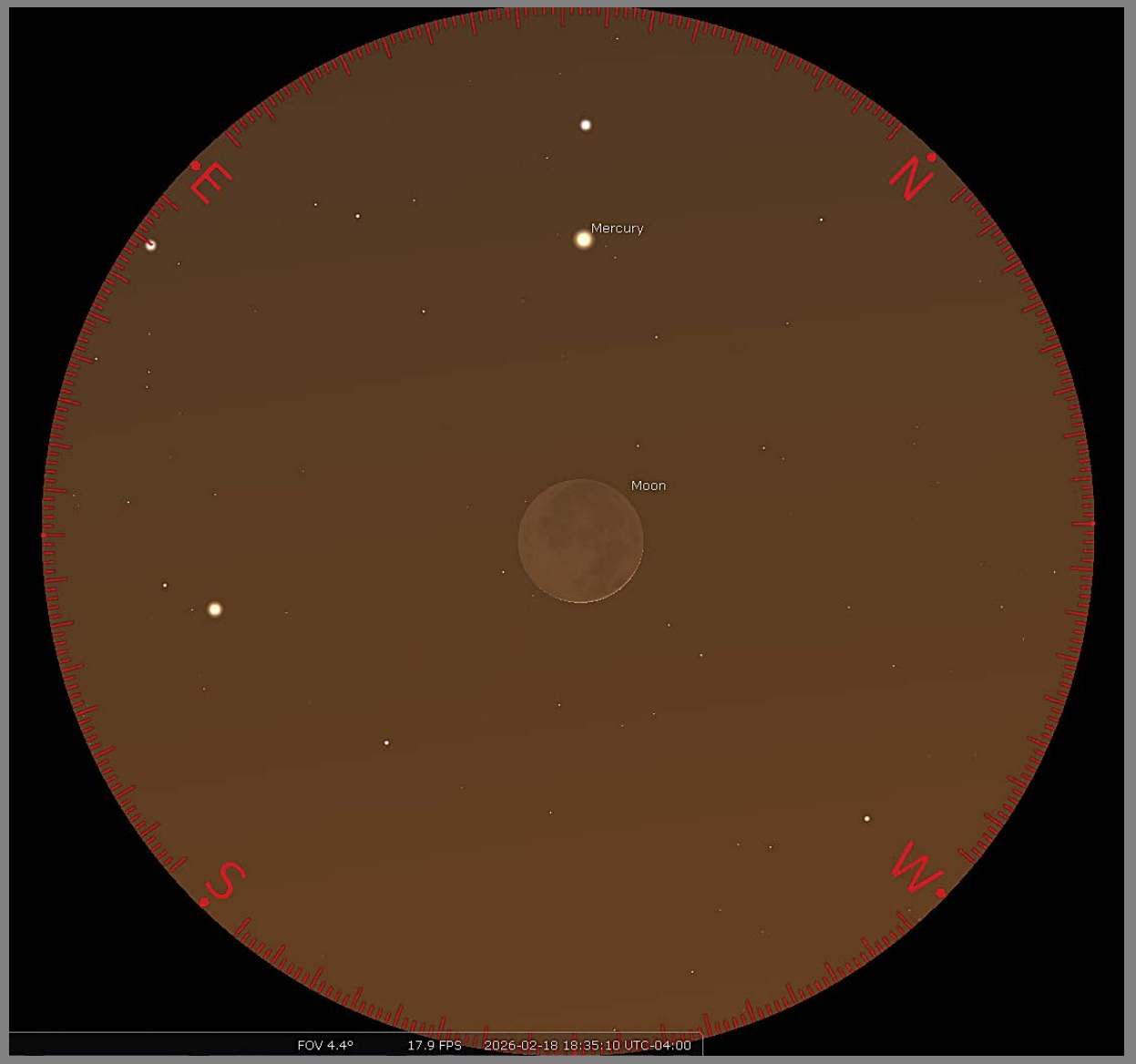
Feb 2

- Moon near Regulus @ 9 p.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)

Feb 7

- Moon near Spica @ 5 a.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)

challenge



Feb 11

- Moon near Antares and M4 @ 5 a.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)

Feb 18

- Moon near Mercury @ 6:30 p.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)

Feb 19

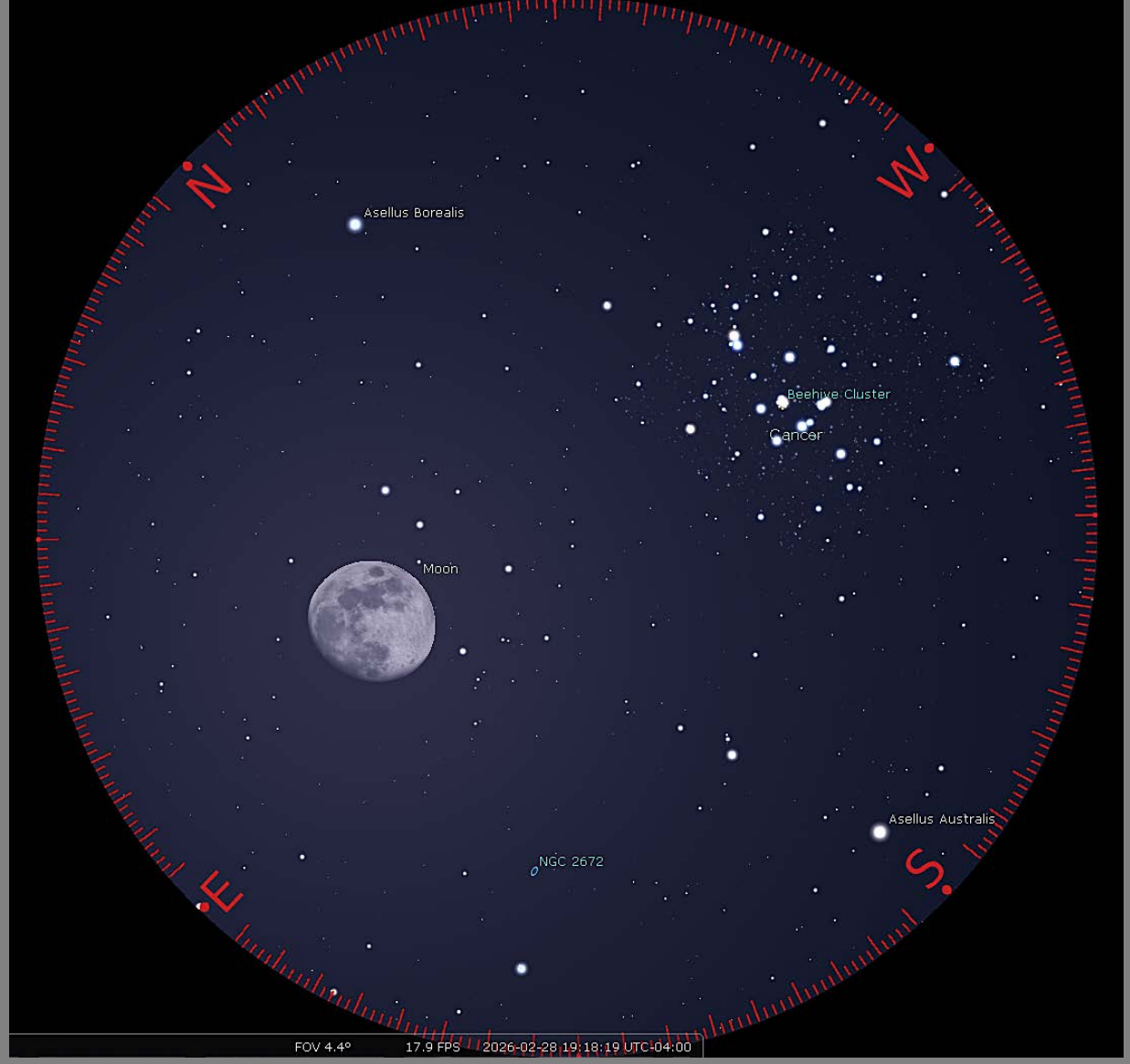
- Moon near Saturn and Neptune @ 7 p.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)

Feb 23

- Moon near M45 @ 7 p.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)

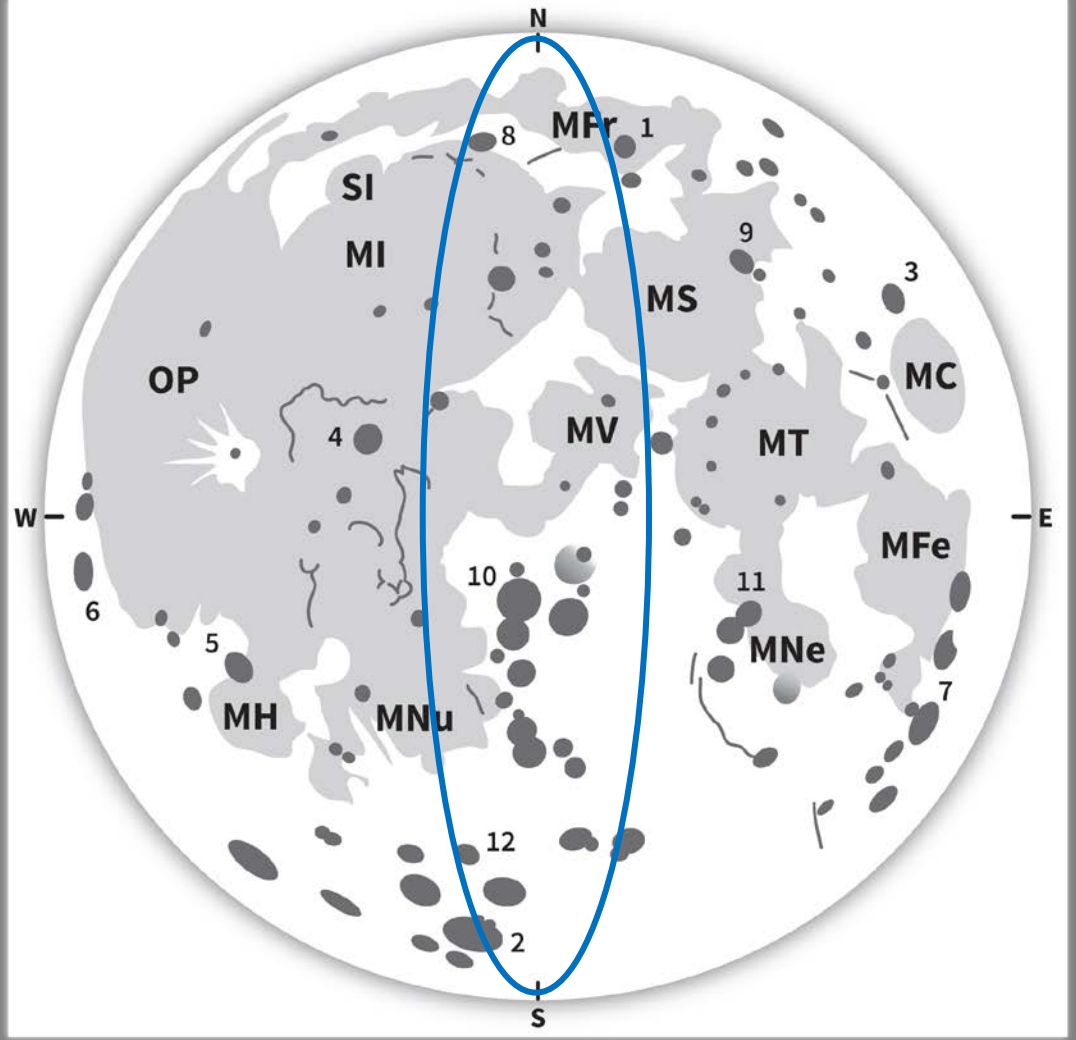
Feb 26

- Moon near Jupiter @ 7:30 p.m.
-7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)



Feb 28

- Moon near M44 @ 7:30 p.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)



CRATERS

1. Aristoteles
2. Clavius
3. Cleomedes
4. Copernicus
5. Gassendi
6. Grimaldi
7. Petavius
8. Plato
9. Posidonius
10. Ptolomaeus
11. Theophilus
12. Tycho

MARE

MC: Mare Crisium

MFe: Mare Fecunditatis

MFr: Mare Frigoris

MH: Mare Humorum

SI: Sinus Iridum

MI: Mare Imbrium

MNe: Mare Nectaris

MNu: Mare Nubium

MS: Mare Serenitatis

MT: Mare Tranquillitatis

MV: Mare Vaporum

OP: Oceanus Procellarum

The Moon in
Explore the Universe
Feb 22-26

observe 3 of each in binos

The Planets in February

Mercury-appears very low in the west after sunset at the start of Feb
-conjunction with waxing crescent Moon on Feb 18
-best viewed Feb 14-22

Venus -visible very low in W after sunset (mag. -3.9) starting mid-Feb

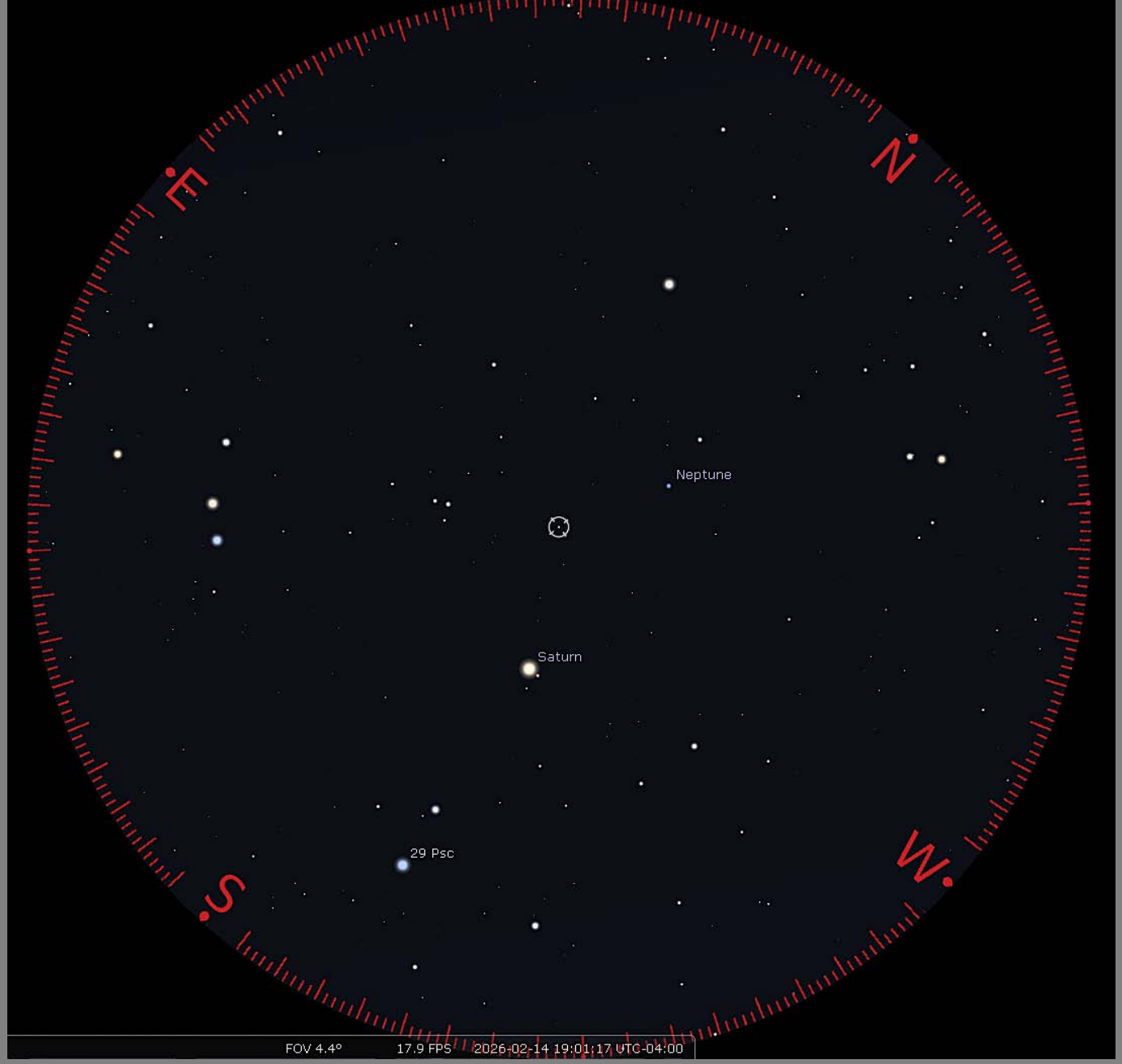
Mars - too close to the Sun to be visible

Jupiter -visible high in the E (mag. -2.6) after sunset
-near the waxing gibbous Moon on Feb 26

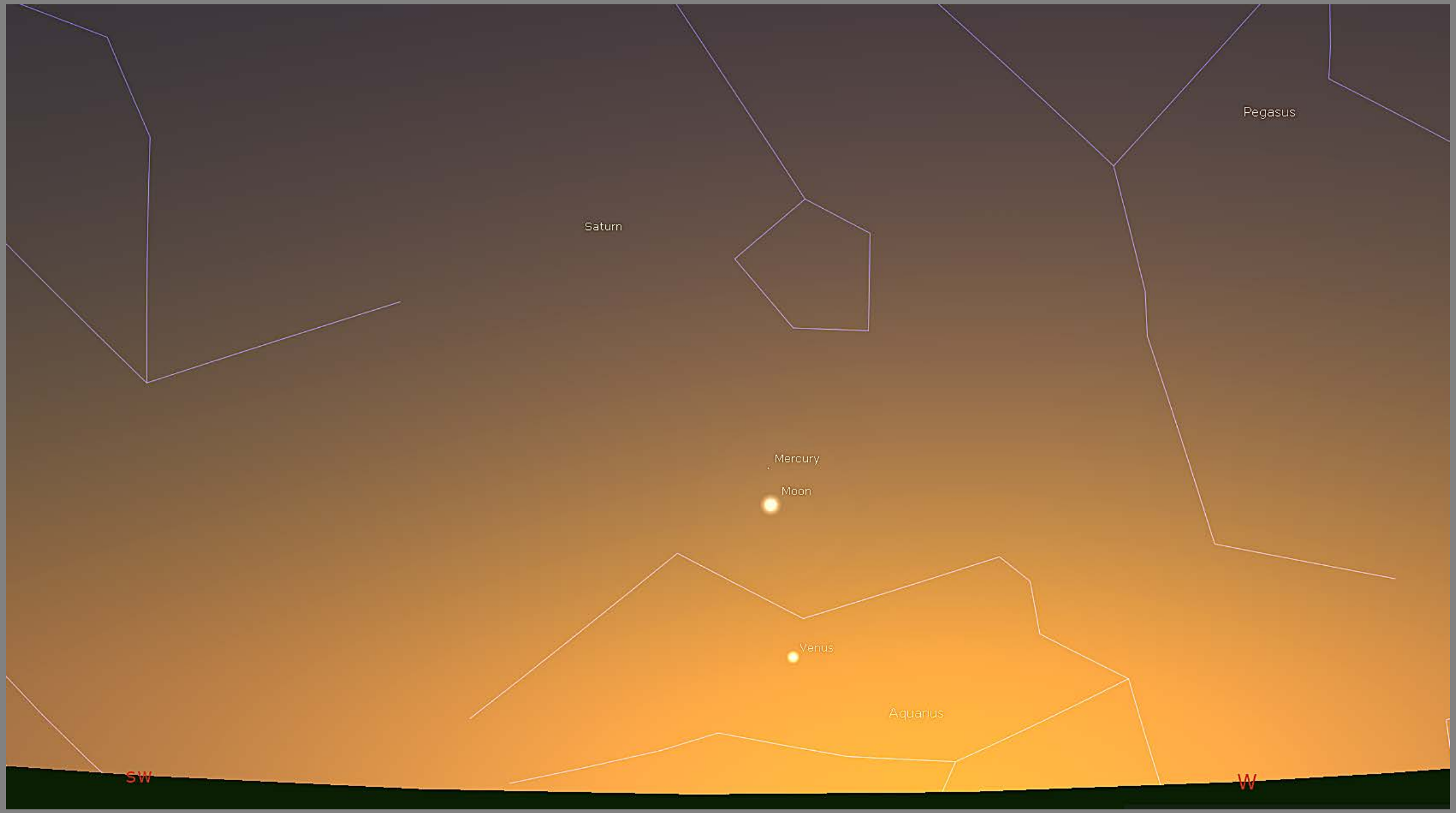
Saturn -visible in the SW (mag. 1.1) after sunset but disappears in twilight glare by end of Feb
-near the waxing crescent Moon on Feb 19
-near Neptune all month

Uranus -visible in Taurus after sunset (mag. 5.7), setting soon after midnight

Neptune-visible in western Pisces (mag. 7.9) after sunset, sinking lower in the W every day
-near Saturn all month

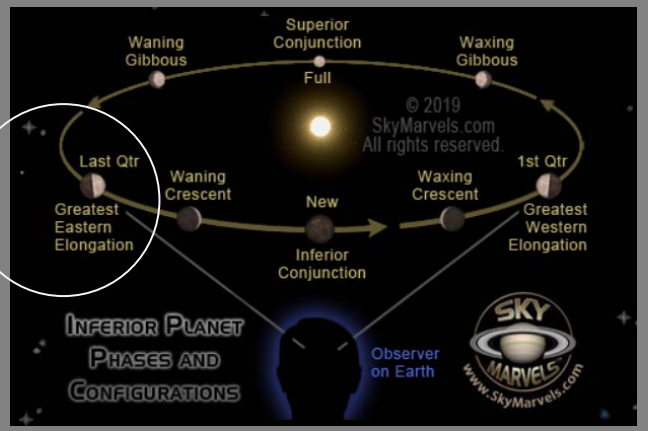


Saturn and Neptune will be visible in same F.O.V (earlier in Feb is best)

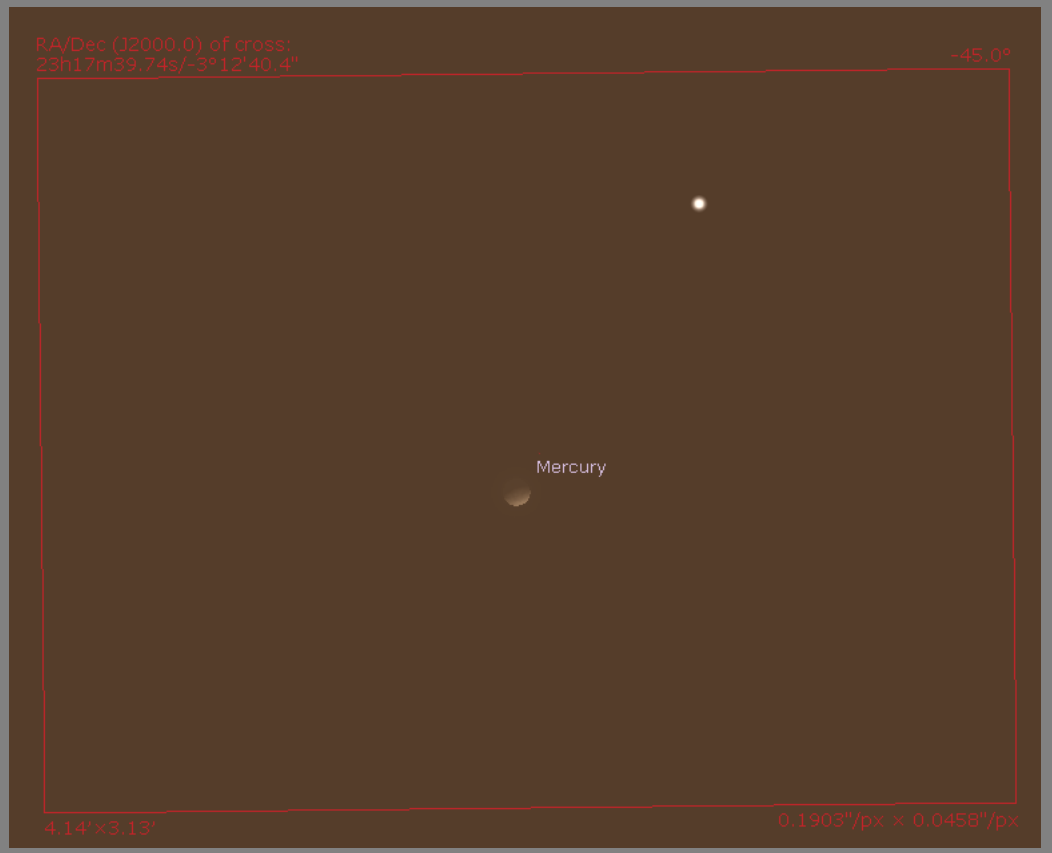


Feb 18 @ 6:00 pm Venus, the young Moon, Mercury and Saturn will be visible

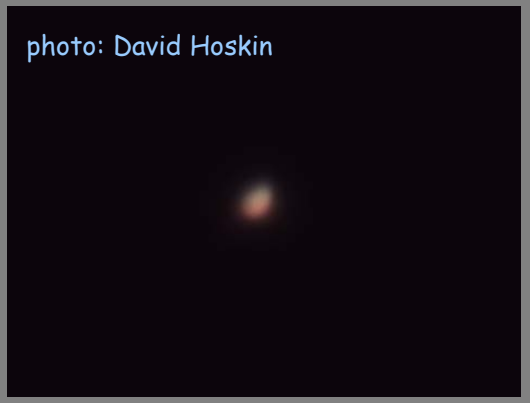
View and/or image Mercury around Feb 19



Celestron C8 f/10 with 5mm EP



Celestron C8 f/10 with 2x Barlow, ASI224MC camera



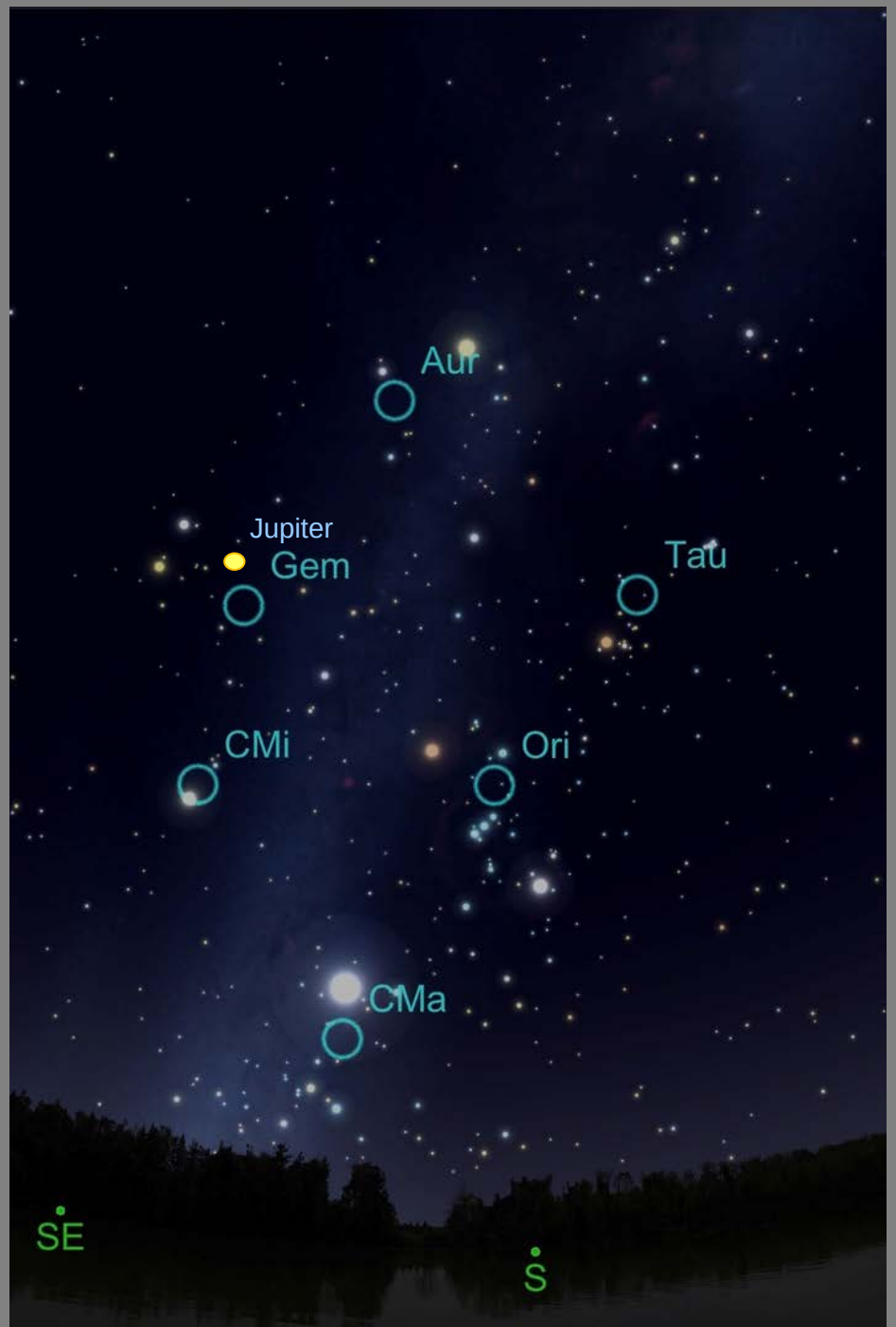
Celestron 102mm f/9.8 refractor, 2x Barlow, ASI224MC camera
24 April 2020

Zodiacal Light

-pyramid of light in the western sky just after the end of twilight (February, March) or in the eastern sky just before the start of morning twilight (September, October)
-best seen when the ecliptic is at a high angle relative to the horizon
-requires a dark observing site with no moonlight
-dust concentrated in the plane of the ecliptic and towards the Sun reflects sunlight

13 March 2021 @ 8:45 pm near Nine Mile River

Halifax, NS 14 Feb 2026 @ 7 pm



Explore the Universe:

Winter Constellations

Auriga

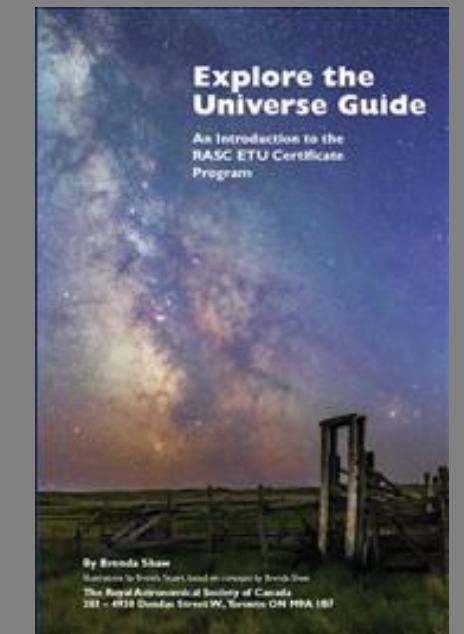
Gemini

Taurus

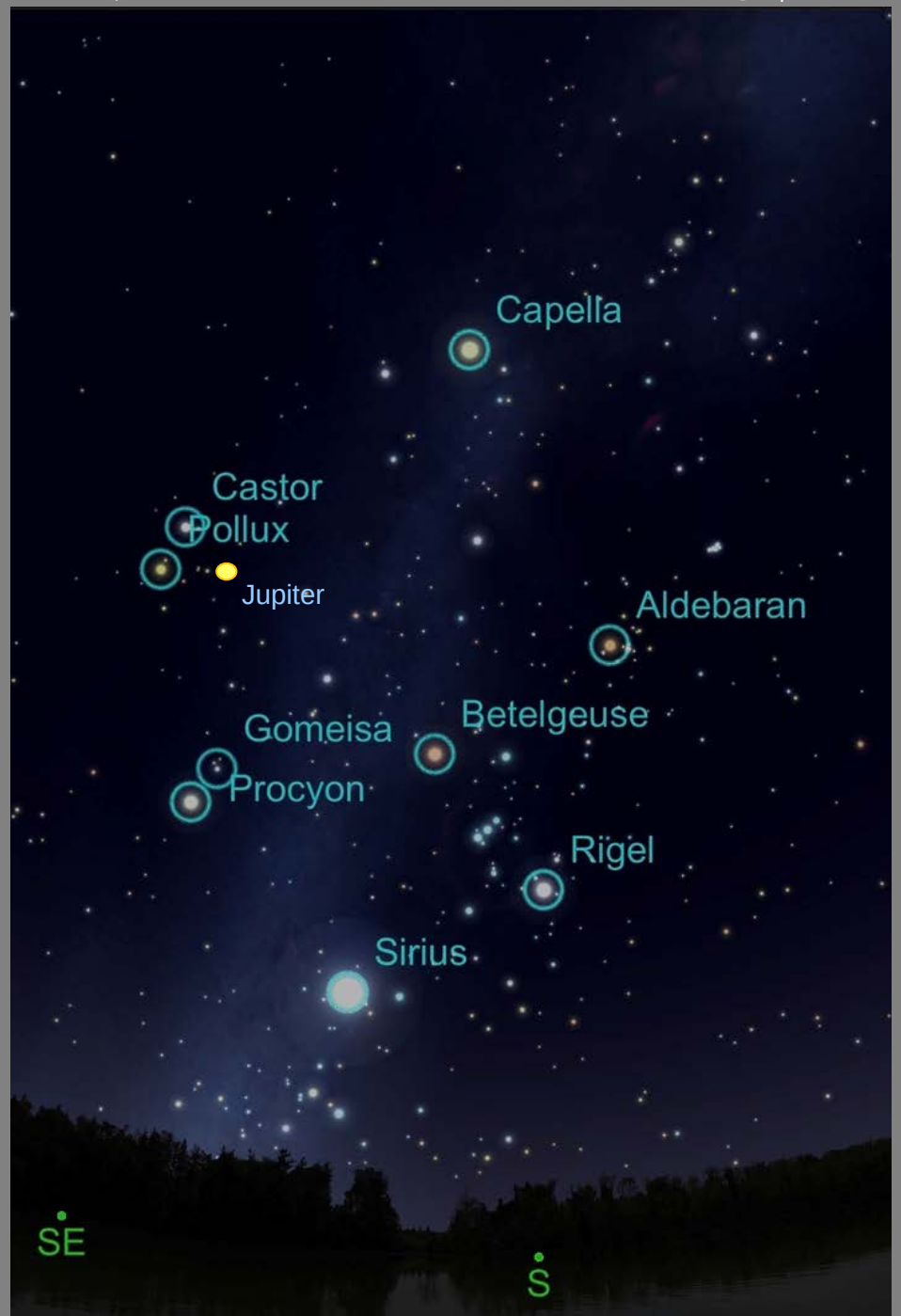
Orion

Canis Major

Canis Minor



Halifax, NS 14 Feb 2026 @ 7 pm



Explore the Universe:

Winter Stars

Ranking:

#1 Sirius (N)

#6 Capella (N)

#7 Rigel (N)

#8 Procyon (N)

#10 Betelgeuse (N)

#13 Aldebaran (N)

#16 Pollux (N)

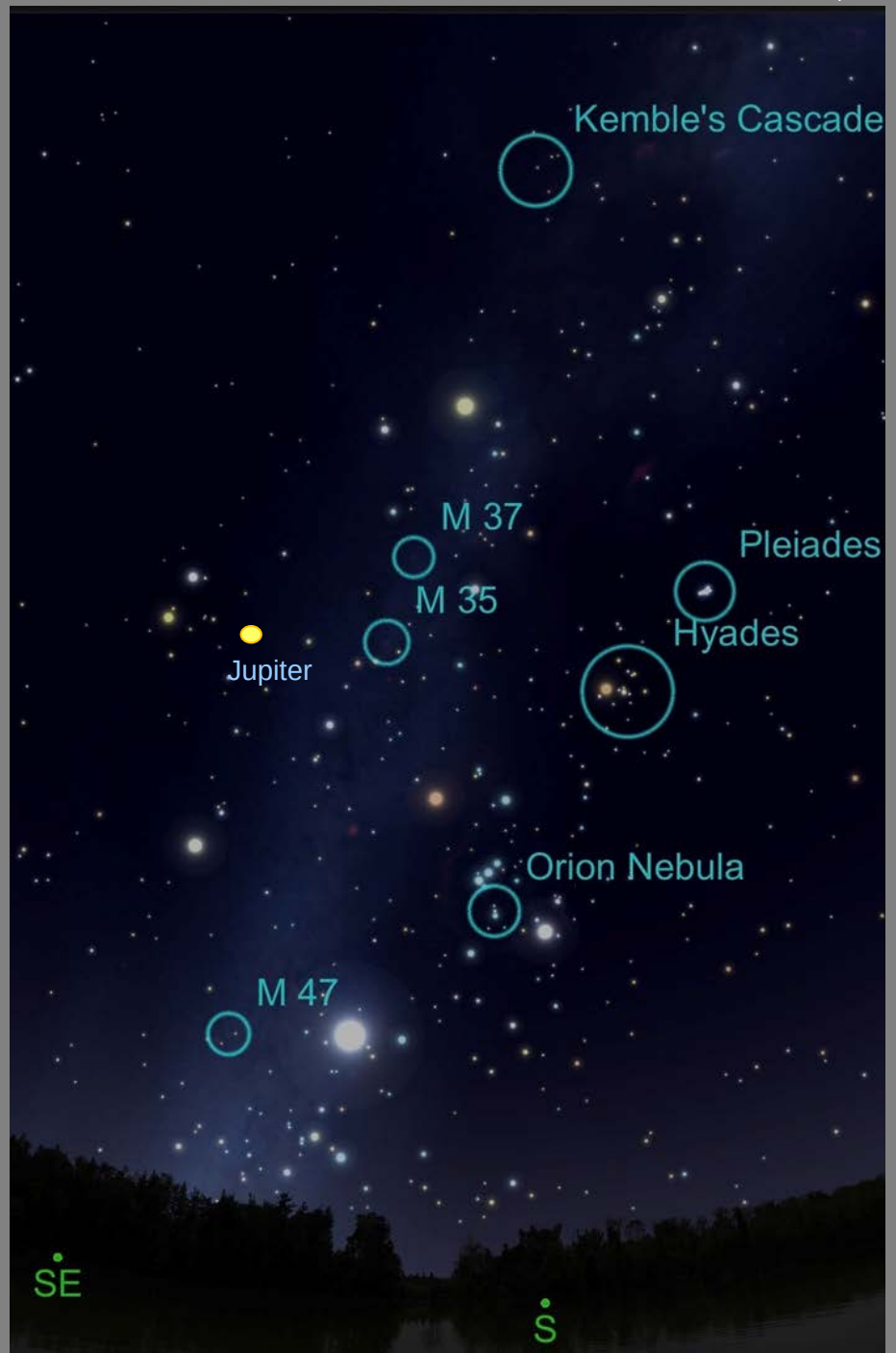
#45 Castor

Gomeisa

N = Navigation

all good for Syn Scan alignment

Halifax, NS 14 Feb 2026 @ 7 pm



Explore the Universe:

Winter Deep-Sky Objects

Halifax, NS 28 February 2026 @10 pm

Explore the Universe: Double Stars

17 Com (5.2, 6.6, 146")

Multiple star system

Look in the Coma Star Cluster

17 Com A (blue)

17 Com B (blue-white)

Questions?

photo: David Hoskin

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