What's Up?

June 1–30, 2026

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

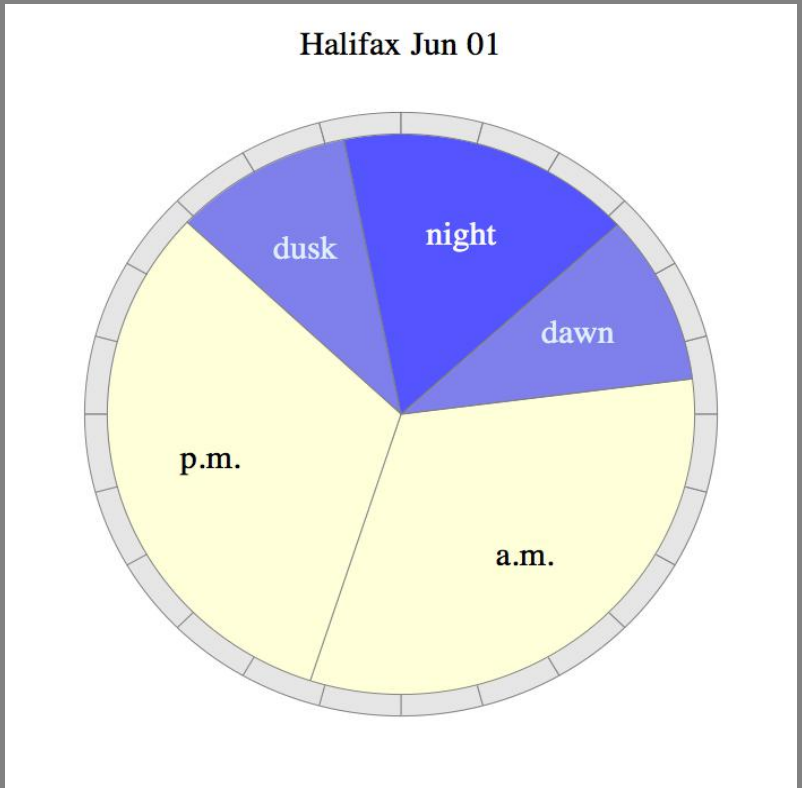
photo: David Hoskin

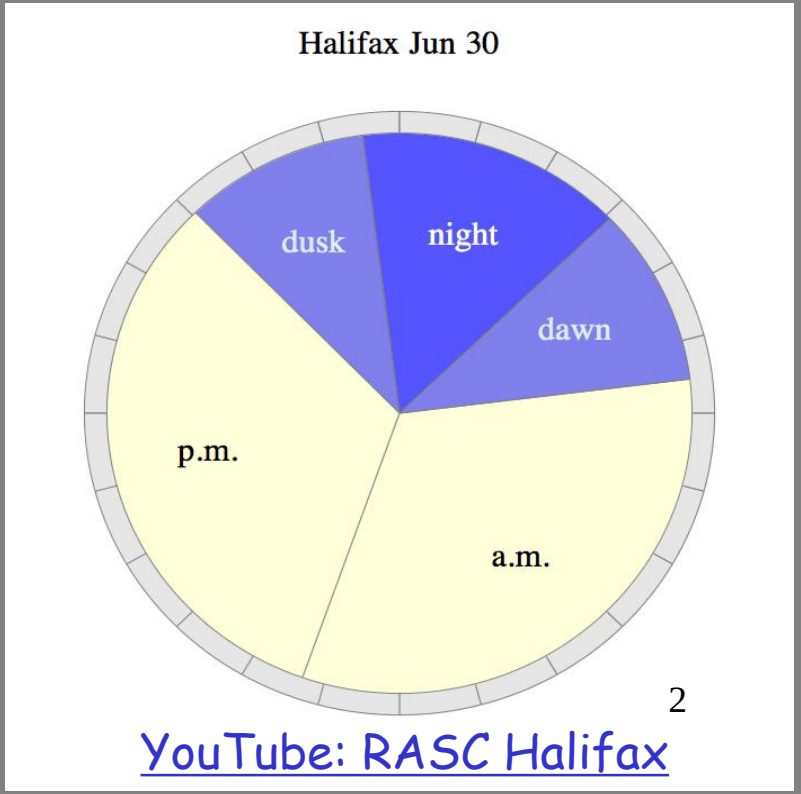
The Sun This Month

Today's Solar Activity

Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	"Noon"	Sunlight	Max Altitude
June 1	8:52 p.m.	11:14 p.m.	3.9 h	3:10 a.m.	5:32 a.m.	1:12 p.m.	15.4 h	67.5º
June 30	9:03 p.m.	11:31 p.m.	3.6 h	3:03 a.m.	5:32 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	15.5 h	68.5º

Summer Solstice: June 21 at 5:24 a.m. (AST)





YouTube: RASC Halifax

Noctilucent Clouds

Sunlight below the horizon reflects off tiny ice crystals at 76-85 km

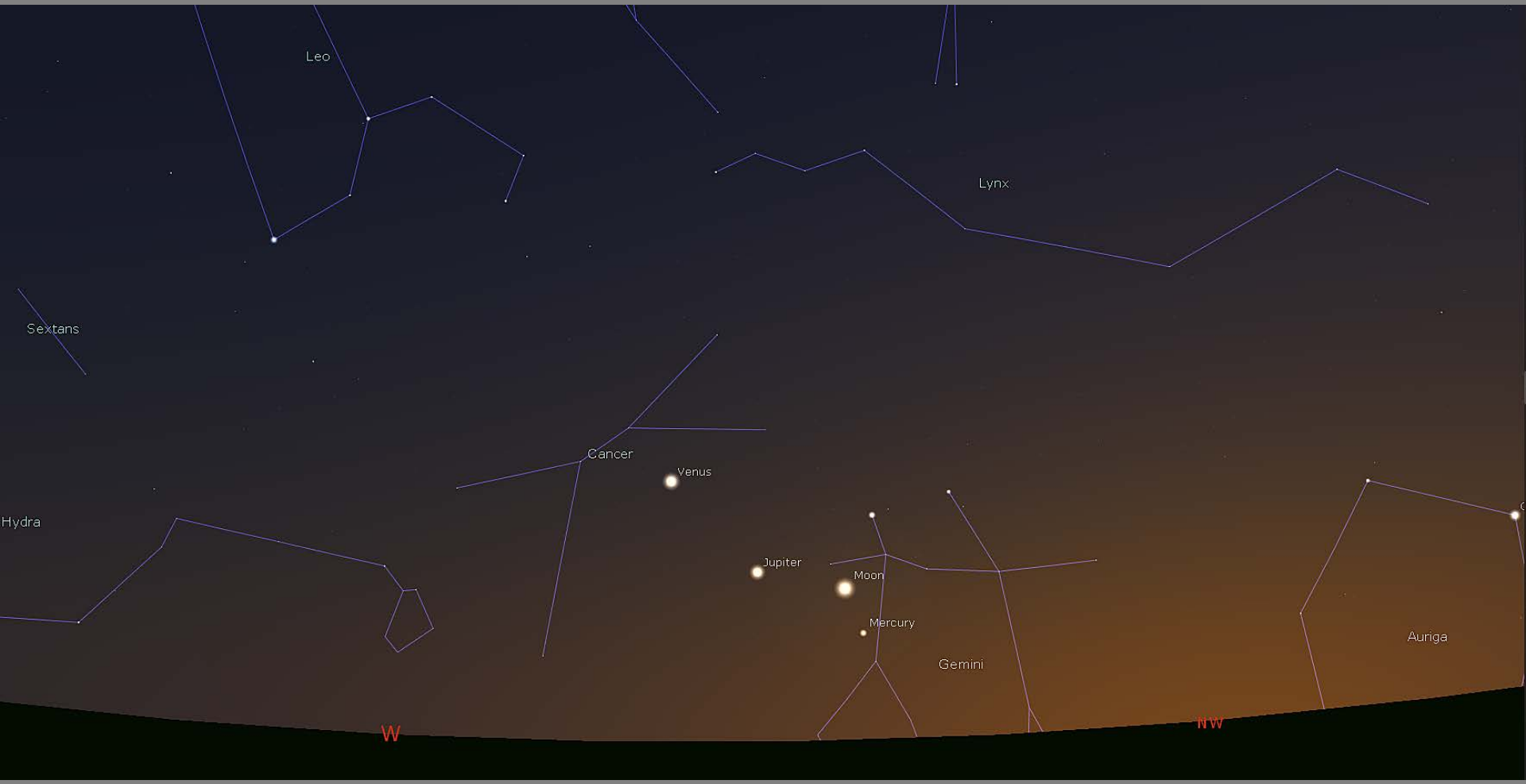
Visible in summer months during astronomical twilight (50-70° latitude)

JUNE 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1  WANING GIBBOUS	2  WANING GIBBOUS	3  WANING GIBBOUS	4  WANING GIBBOUS	5  WANING GIBBOUS	6  WANING GIBBOUS	7  WANING GIBBOUS
8  THIRD QUARTER	9  WANING CRESCENT	10  WANING CRESCENT	11  WANING CRESCENT	12  WANING CRESCENT	13  WANING CRESCENT	14  WANING CRESCENT
15  NEW MOON	16  WAXING CRESCENT	17  WAXING CRESCENT	18  WAXING CRESCENT	19  WAXING CRESCENT	20  WAXING CRESCENT	21  FIRST QUARTER
22  WAXING GIBBOUS	23  WAXING GIBBOUS	24  WAXING GIBBOUS	25  WAXING GIBBOUS	26  WAXING GIBBOUS	27  WAXING GIBBOUS	28  WAXING GIBBOUS
29  WAXING GIBBOUS	30  FULL MOON					

The Moon This Month

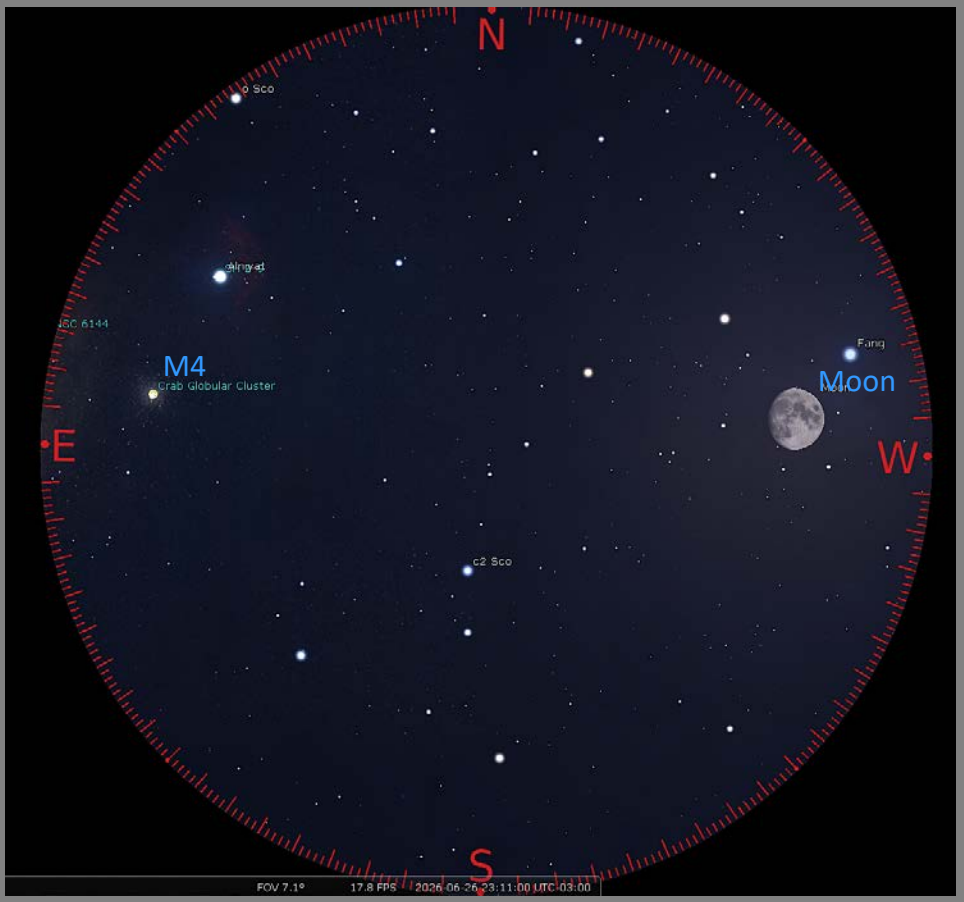
Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
June 1	Moon at apogee (406,400 km)		
June 8	*Last Quarter Moon*	Frogs Croaking	Sqoljuiku's
June 10	Moon near Saturn		
June 13	Moon near M45		
June 14	Moon at perigee (357,200 km)		
June 15	*New Moon*	Trees Fully Leafed	Nipniku's
June 16	Moon near Jupiter and Mercury		
June 17	Moon near Venus, occludes M44		
June 21	*First Quarter Moon*		
June 26	Moon near M4		
June 27	Moon near Antares		
June 28	Moon at apogee (406,300 km)		
June 29-30	*Full Moon*		



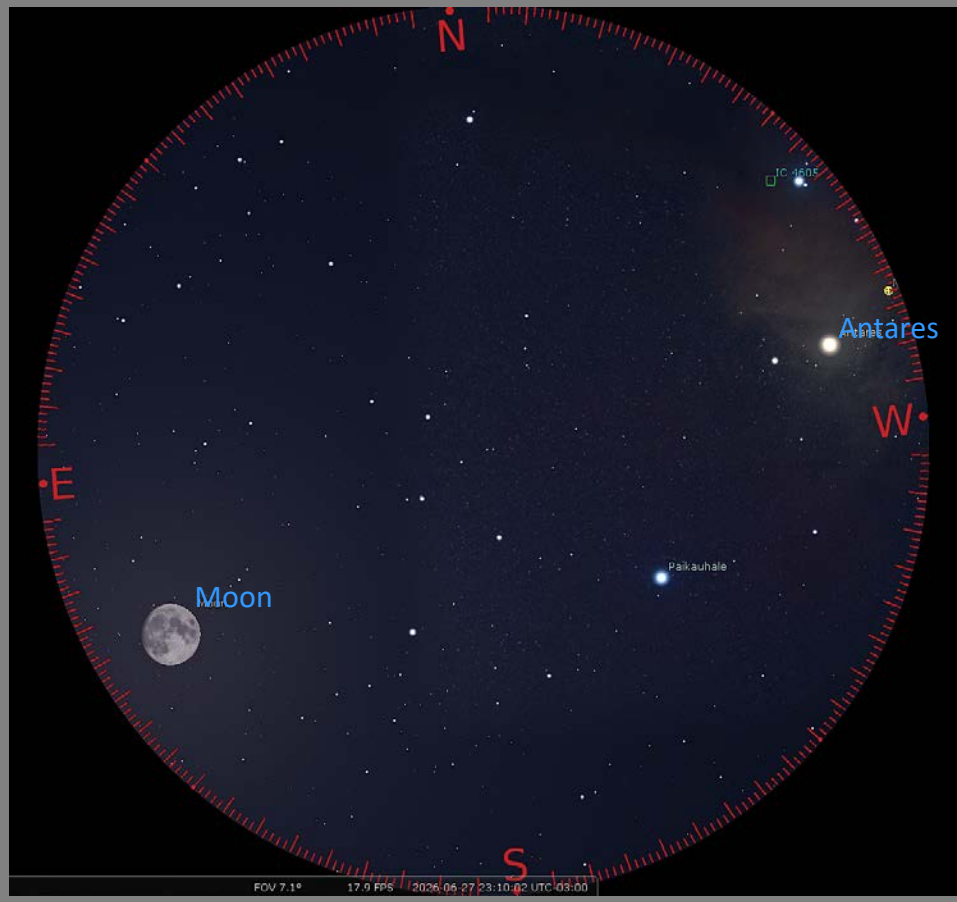
June 16 @ 10:00 p.m.

Venus, Jupiter, Thin Crescent Moon and Mercury - Photo Opportunity

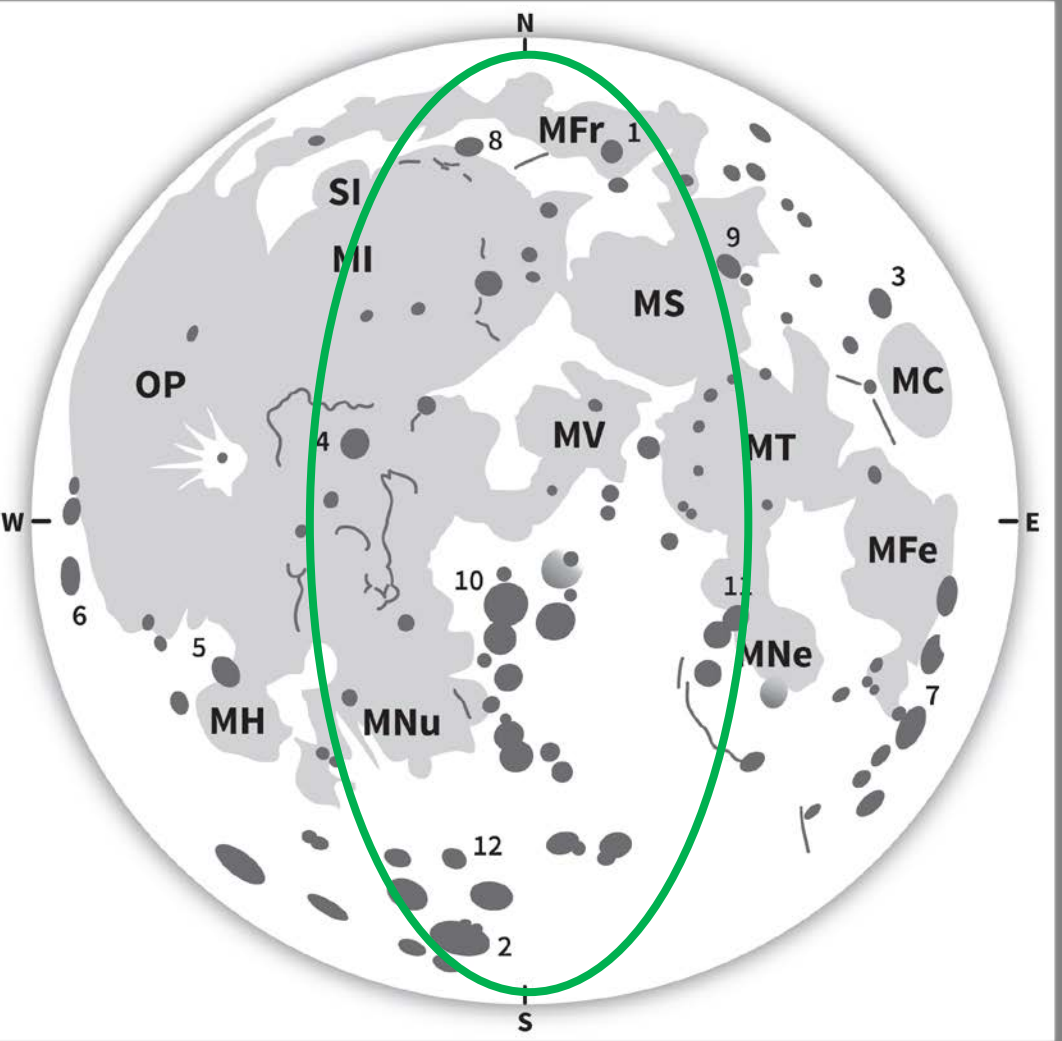
June 17 @ 10:00 p.m.
M44, Moon, Venus
15x70 binoculars F.O.V 4.4º



June 26 @ 11:00 p.m.
Moon and M4
7x50 binoculars
F.O.V 7.1°



June 27 @ 11:00 p.m.
Moon and Antares
7x50 binoculars
F.O.V 7.1°



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

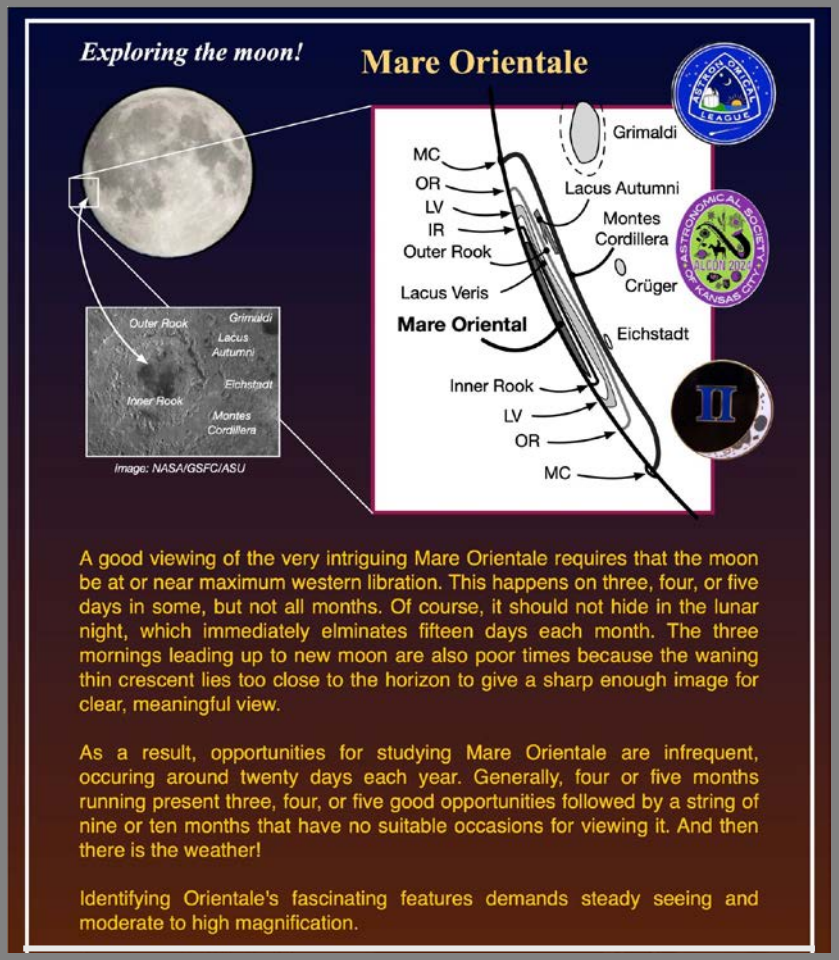
Best between June 19-23

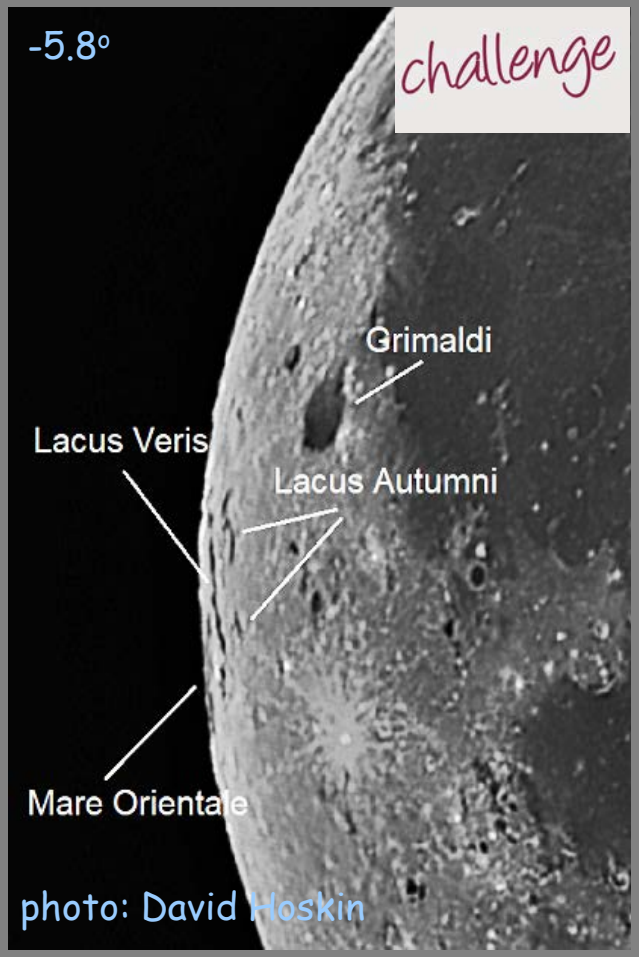
The Moon in

Explore the Universe

observe 3 of each in binos

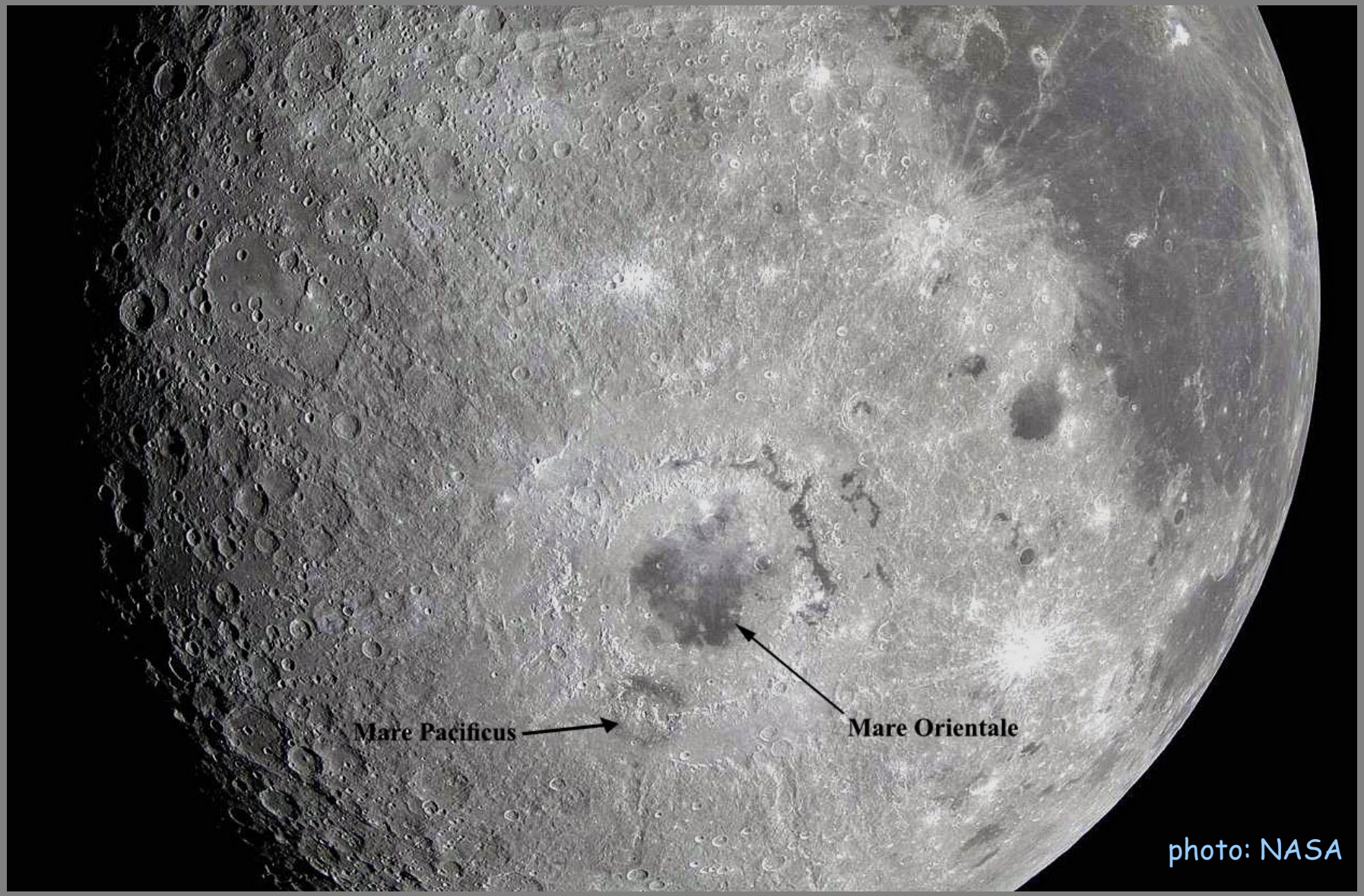
Mare Orientale





-look at 5:00 a.m. ADT on June 9 for favorable western libration (-7.8°) exposing Mare Orientale

Mare Orientale



-imaged during the Artemis 2 mission

The Planets in June

Mercury-low in the NW after sunset, brightest in early June (mag. -0.3)
-greatest eastern elongation on June 15

Venus -prominent in W after sunset (mag. -3.9)
-conjunction with Jupiter on June 9
-near M44 and the waxing crescent Moon on June 17

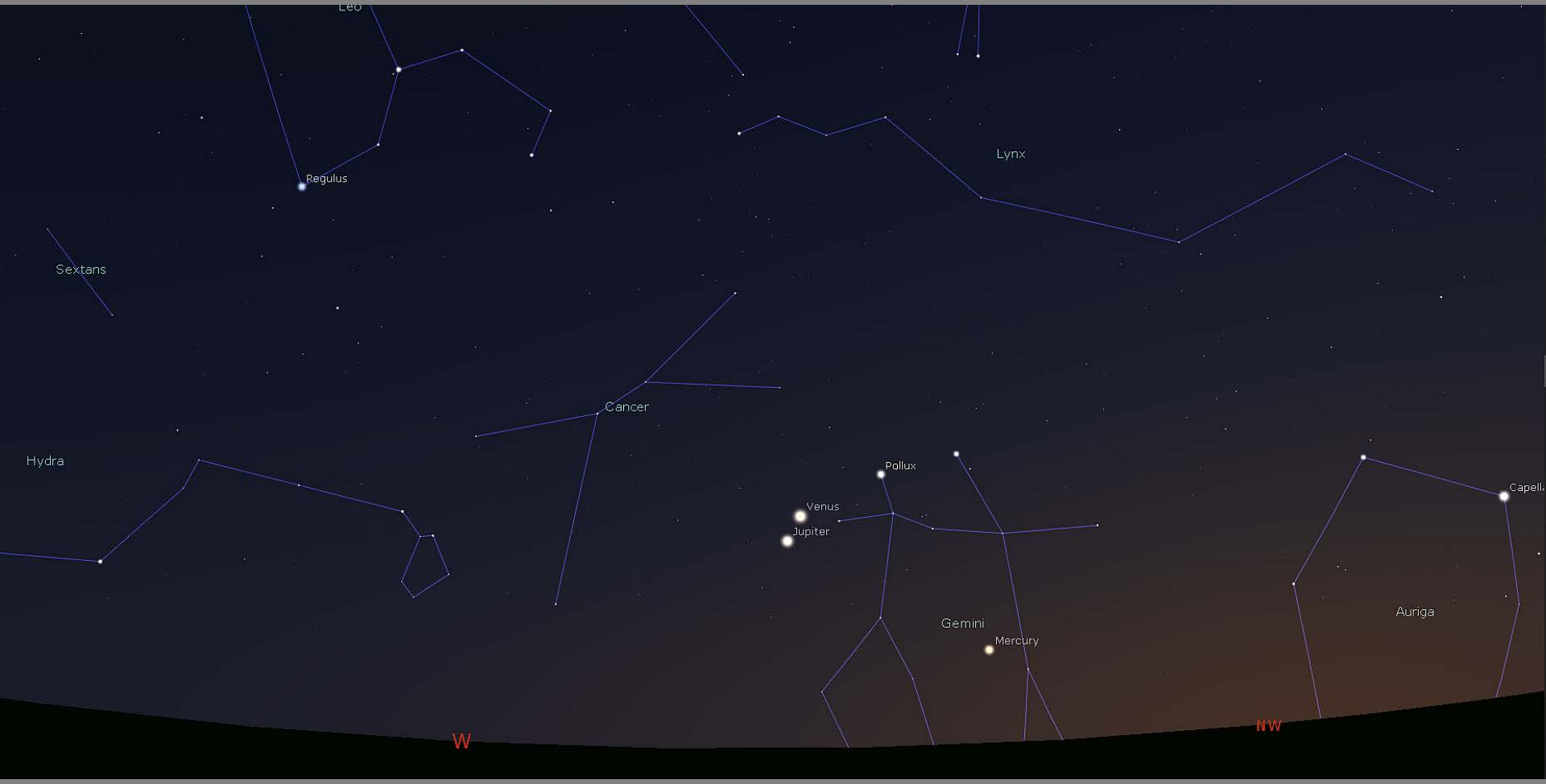
Mars - visible very low in the E in the pre-dawn sky (mag. 1.3)

Jupiter -visible low in the W (mag. -1.9) after sunset
-conjunction with Venus on June 9
-near the waxing crescent Moon on June 16
-sinks lower in the W as the month progresses

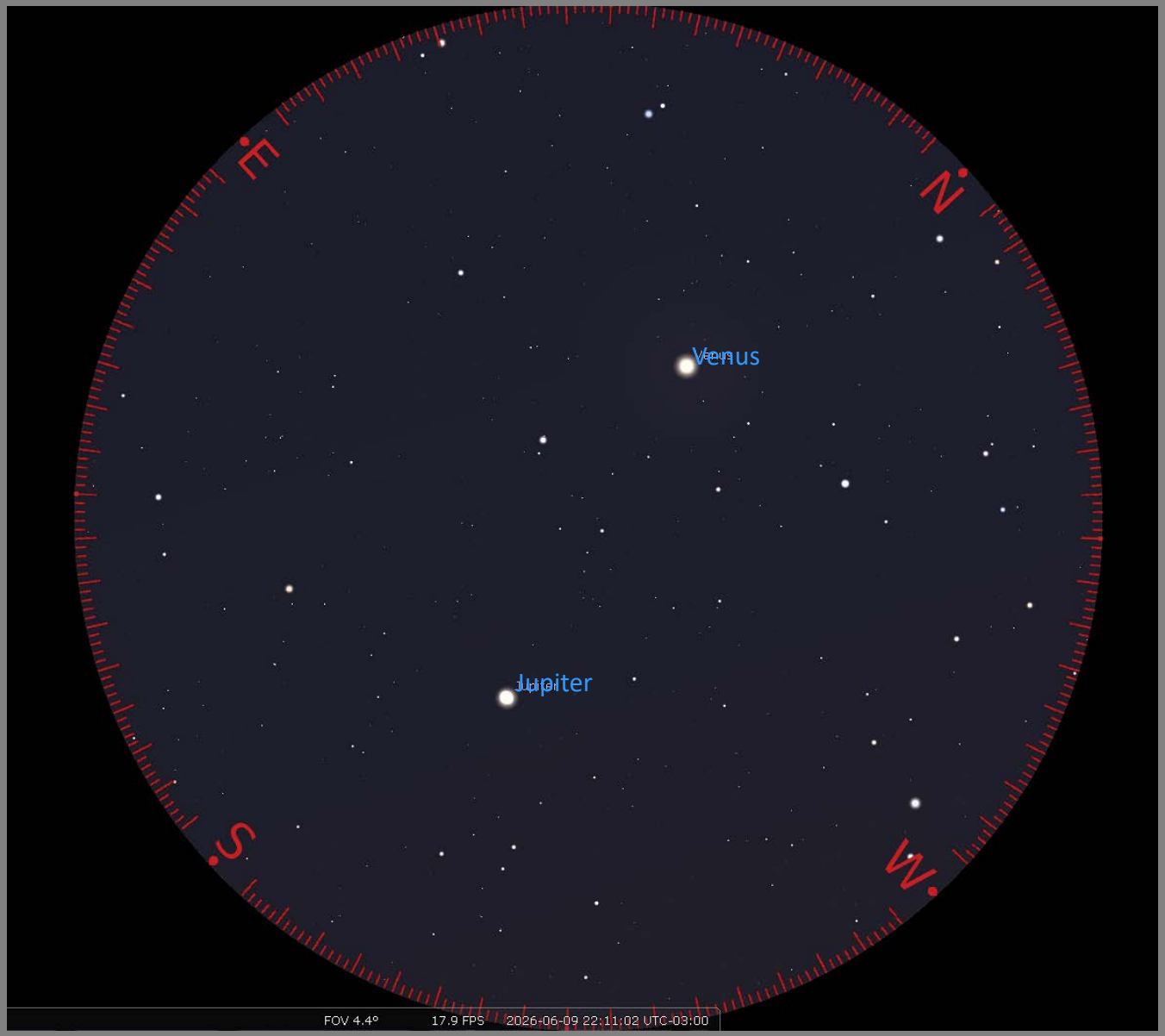
Saturn -rises in the E after midnight (mag. 0.8)
-near the waning crescent Moon on June 10

Uranus -emerges from solar glare by mid-June (mag. 5.8)

Neptune-rises in the E before sunrise (mag. 7.9)
-begins to approach Mars as the month progresses



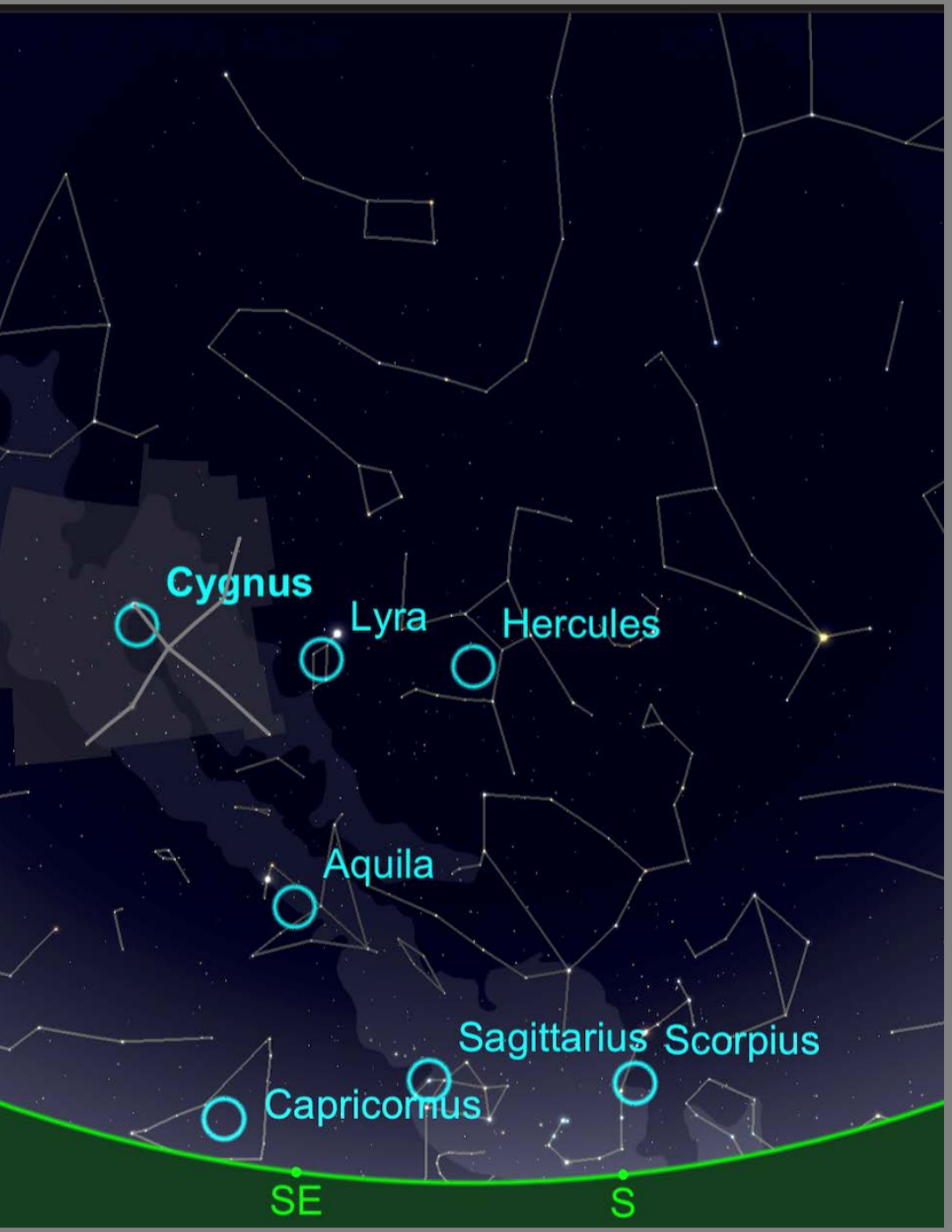
June 9 @ 10:00 p.m.
Jupiter-Venus conjunction



June 9 @ 10:00 p.m.
Jupiter-Venus conjunction
15x70 binoculars F.O.V 4.4°

June 30 @ 4:30 a.m.
15x70 binoculars F.O.V 4.4°

Halifax, NS 23 June 2026 @ 11:30 pm



Explore the Universe:

Summer Constellations

Twilight ends late:

~11:30 p.m.

Halifax, NS 23 June 2026 @ 11:30 pm

Explore the Universe:

Summer Stars

Ranking:

#5 Vega (N)

#12 Altair (N)

#15 Antares (N)

#20 Deneb (N)

- Rasalgethi (A)

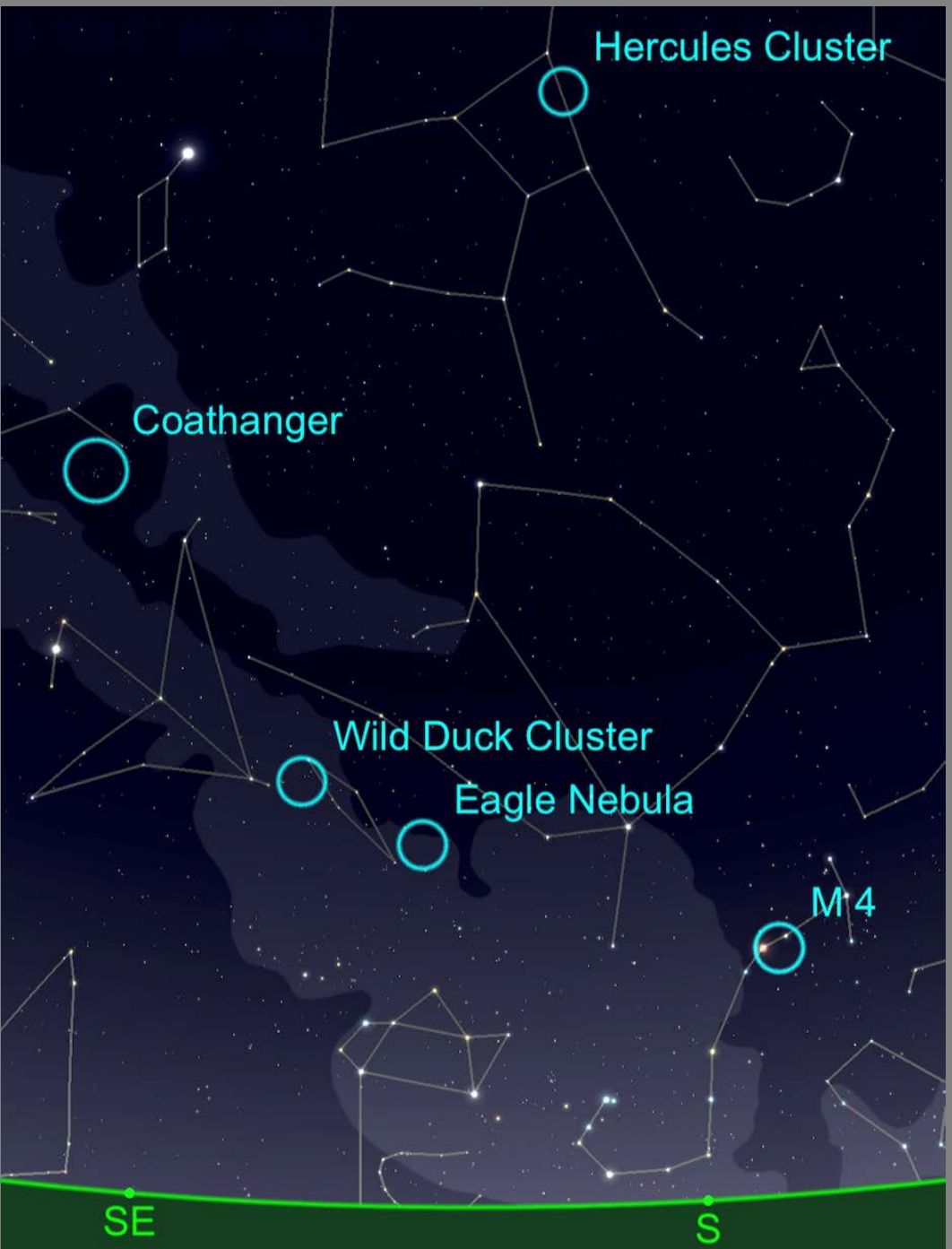
- Algedi

- Dabih

-Nunki (N)

- Albireo

Halifax, NS 23 June 2026 @ 11:30 pm



Explore the Universe: Summer Deep-Sky

The Coathanger Asterism (Brocchi's Cluster/Collinder 399)

1/3 the way from Altair to Vega

(view in binoculars in dark sky)

Halifax, NS 23 June 2026 @ 11:30 pm

Explore the Universe:

Summer Double Stars

Omicron 1 Cygni

Colorful triple (optical) star

o1 Cyg (red giant) 881 LY distant

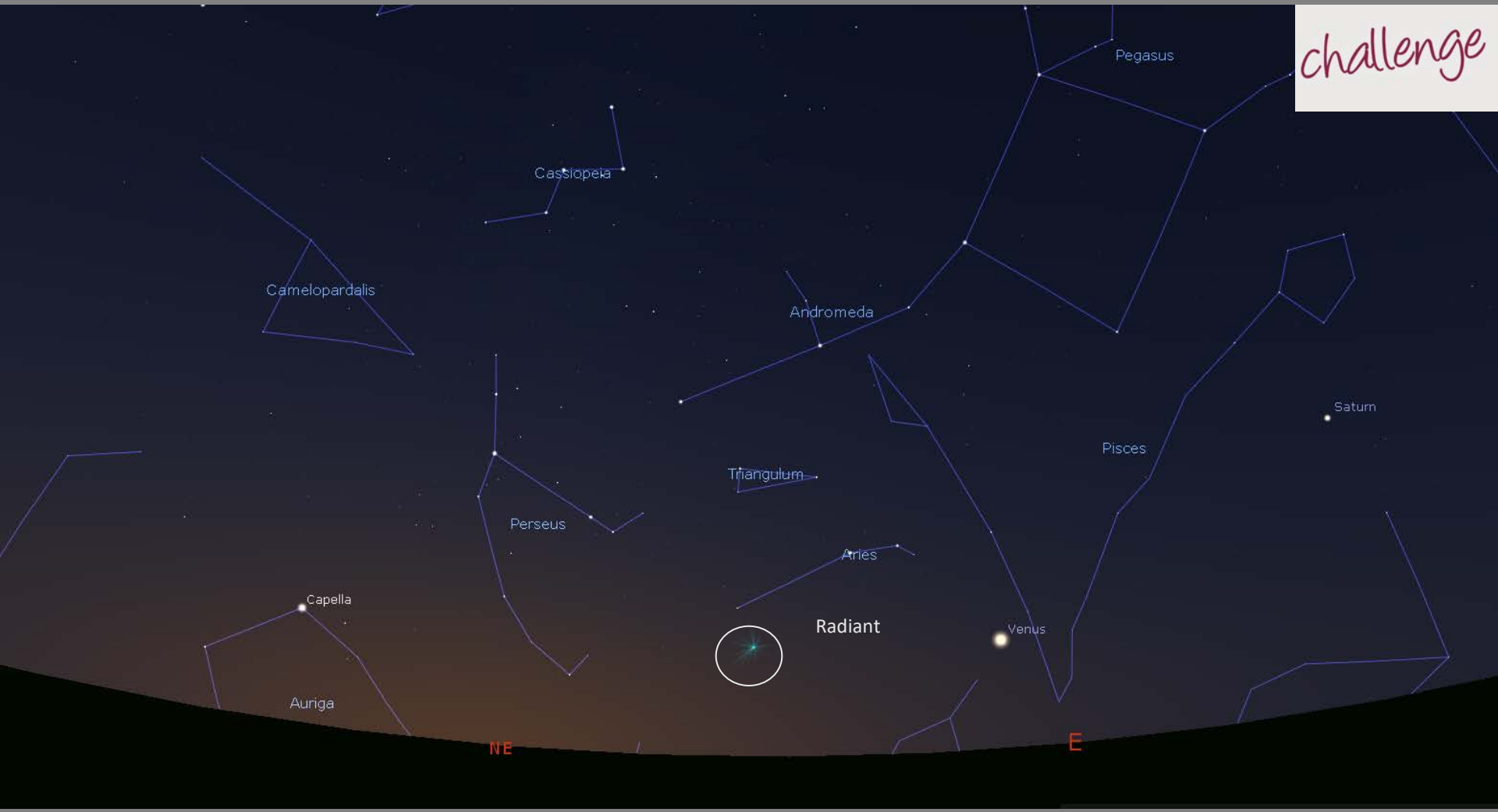
30 Cyg (white) 615 LY distant

HD 192579 (blue) 1359 LY distant

The Arietids Meteor Shower (May 22- July 3)

-radiant is in Aries; predicted peak is during daytome the morning of June 10
-expect 60-200 meteors per hour
-best time to view is an hour before dawn

challenge



How to hear meteors on your FM radio

Explore the Universe: Artificial Satellites

- the Explore the Universe observing program requires observation of at least 3 Earth-orbiting artificial satellites
- the International Space Station is an easy target for the unaided eye, appearing as a brilliant point of light moving quickly across the night sky
- dates and times for sighting opportunities can be obtained from heavens-above.com

photos: David Hoskin

Questions?

photo: David Hoskin