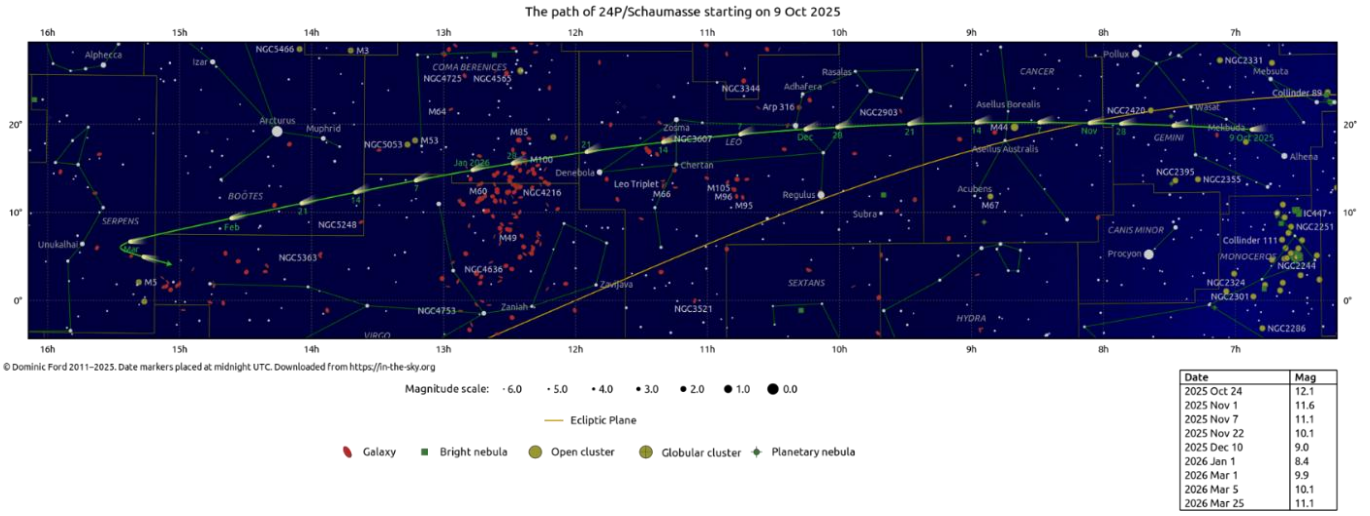
Chagrin Valley Astronomical Society

Sky Report February 2026 – by Laz Ilyes

Note: In NE Ohio, we are currently on EST (UTC -5)

Comets and Meteor Showers

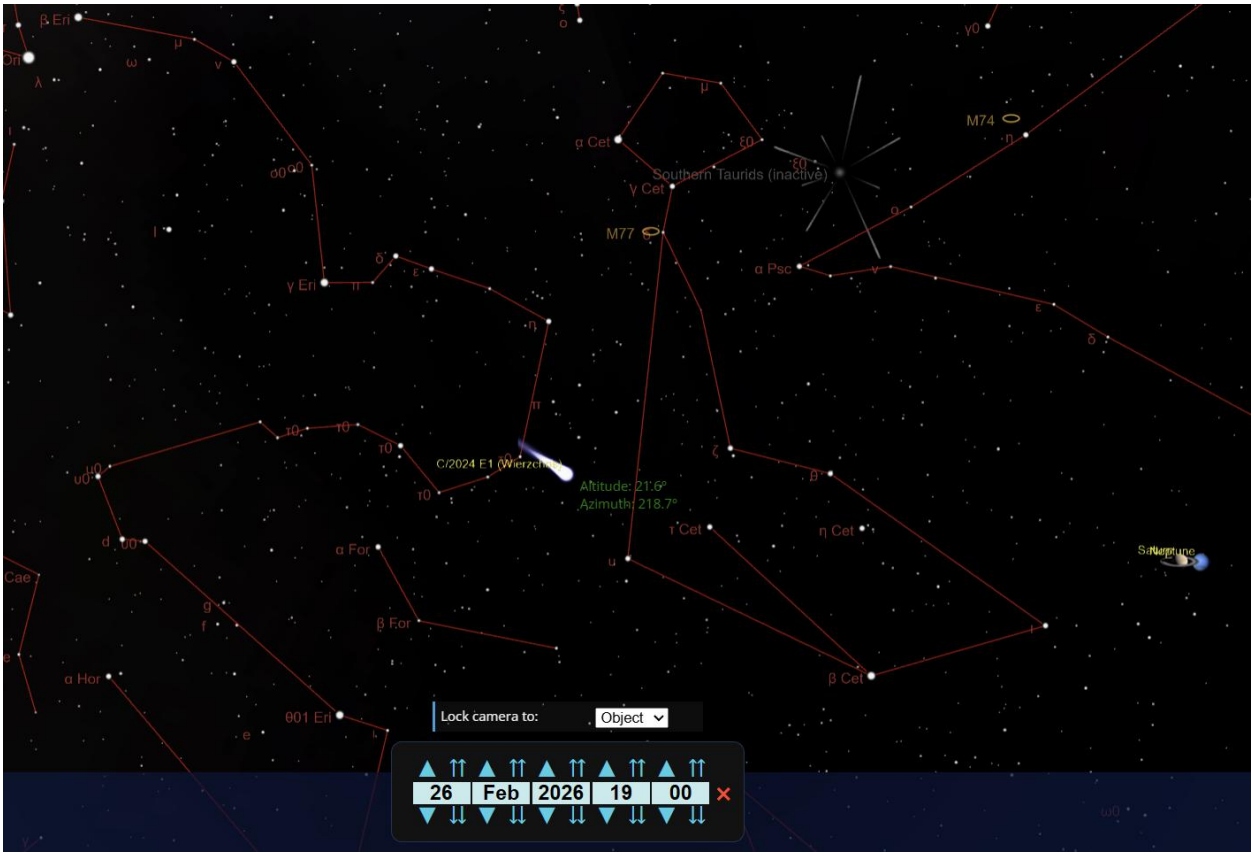
Comet 24P/Schaumasse passed perihelion on **January 8** and will spend most of **February 2026** in the constellation **Boötes** and moving away from **Earth**. At the beginning of the month, the comet can be imaged at approximate **magnitude +10**, but it will dim in brightness to around **mag +12** by late **February**. For up-to-date ephemeris, please refer to the following link: https://www.cobs.si/comet/56/



Date	Mag
2025 Oct 24	12.1
2025 Nov 1	11.6
2025 Nov 7	11.1
2025 Nov 22	10.1
2025 Dec 10	9.0
2026 Jan 1	8.4
2026 Mar 1	9.9
2026 Mar 5	10.1
2026 Mar 25	11.1

Comet 3I/ATLAS (C/2025 N1) is rapidly leaving the solar system after its closest approach to **Earth** in late December 2025 and will continue cooling. For accurate ephemeris, refer to the link: https://www.cobs.si/comet/2643/

In **February 2026**, observers in the Northern Hemisphere can look for **C/2024 E1** (**Wierzchoś**), a **magnitude 8-9 comet** in **Cetus**, best after mid-month as it rises higher. **C/2024 E1 (Wierzchoś)** is a hyperbolic comet discovered in **March 2024** by **Kacper Wierzchoś**, reaching its closest point to the Sun (perihelion) on **January 20, 2026**, becoming visible in binoculars or small telescopes as it brightened. Generally remaining too faint for the naked eye for most observers, it has a unique hyperbolic orbit likely ejecting it from the Solar System. An illustration below shows the position of the comet in the early evening near the end of the month. Based on current observations, the **comet** is expected to have an apparent **magnitude** around **+8** at that time. Observers of this comet will require binoculars or a good telescope. For an up-to-date ephemeris of this **comet**, please refer to the following link: https://www.cobs.si/comet/2513/



Calculated Position of **C/2024 E1 (Wierzchoś)** in [TheSkyLive.com]

Also, potentially, **88P/Howell** (**Howell's Comet**) will brighten as we pass into spring but will stay low in the north. **88P/Howell** is a **periodic comet** with a **5.5-year** orbital period. It was discovered on **August 29, 1981**, by **Ellen Howell**. It will be dimmer than **magnitude +14** in **late February** watch for the **comet** to become observable in coming months.

Do not expect to see any **meteor showers** in the month of **February**. Unfortunately, the next **major meteor shower** in **2026** is the **Lyrid shower** which will not peak until **April 22, 2026**.

Moon 

February 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Full Snow Moon 5:10pm 14 days	2 Waning gibbous 99.2% 15 days	3 Waning gibbous 96.1% 16 days	4 Waning gibbous 90.9% 17 days	5 Waning gibbous 84.0% 18 days	6 Waning gibbous 76.0% 19 days	7 Waning gibbous 67.1% 20 days
8 Waning gibbous 57.8% 21 days	9 Last Quarter 7:44am 22 days	10 Waning crescent 39.0% 23 days	11 Waning crescent 30.1% 24 days	12 Waning crescent 21.8% 25 days	13 Waning crescent 14.3% 26 days	14 Waning crescent 8.2% 27 days
15 Waning crescent 3.5% 28 days	16 Waning crescent 0.7% 29 days	17 New Moon 7:03am 0 days	18 Waxing crescent 1.7% 1 day	19 Waxing crescent 5.6% 2 days	20 Waxing crescent 11.9% 3 days	21 Waxing crescent 20.1% 4 days
22 Waxing crescent 29.9% 5 days	23 Waxing crescent 40.8% 6 days	24 First Quarter 7:28am 7 days	25 Waxing gibbous 63.5% 8 days	26 Waxing gibbous 74.0% 9 days	27 Waxing gibbous 83.3% 10 days	28 Waxing gibbous 90.9% 11 days

Moon Visualization:

Almanac.com/Astronomy

Daily Moon Guide | Observe – Moon: NASA Science

Moon Atlas

Occultations and Conjunctions:

There will be a **lunar occultation** of the bright star **Regulus** on **Monday, February 2, 2026**! This event will be visible in **NE Ohio** (weather permitting) beginning with the disappearance of **Regulus (Alpha Leonis)** behind the **Moon** at **20:47 EST** in the **eastern sky** at an altitude of **20 degrees**. Its **reappearance** will be visible **at 21:47 EST** at an altitude of **31 degrees**.

There will be no **lunar occultations** of any planets this month.

On **Sunday, February 1st**, the **Moon** and **M44** (the **Beehive Cluster**) will make a close approach, passing about **1½°** of each other. The **Moon** will be 14 days old. In **NE Ohio**, the pair will be visible in the evening sky in the constellation **Cancer**, becoming observable around **18:45 EST**, **17° above our eastern horizon**, as dusk fades to darkness. They will then reach their highest point in the sky at **00:21 EST**, **68° above the southern horizon**. They will continue to be observable until around **06:03 EST**, when they will be at **16° above the western horizon at dawn**.

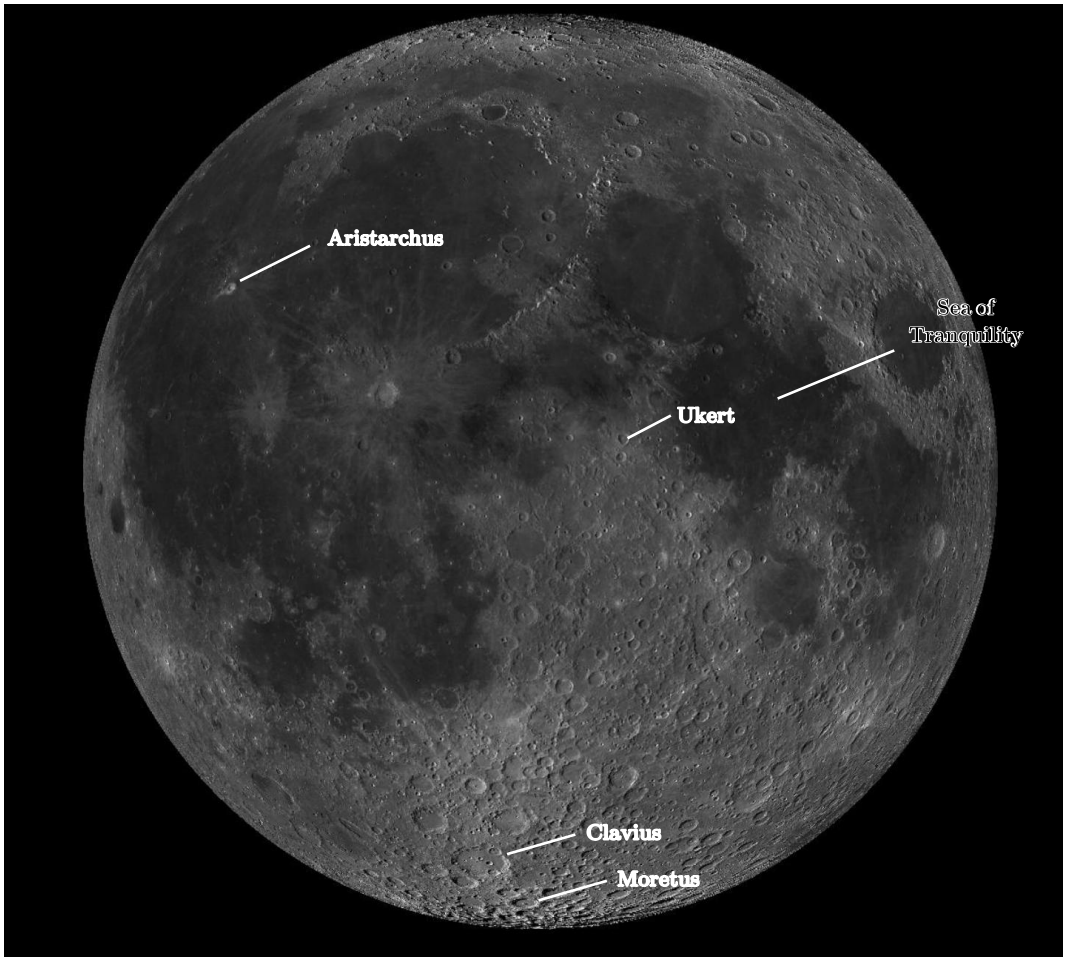
On the evening of **Wednesday, February 18th**, the **Moon** and **Mercury** will make a close approach, passing within a mere **7.1 arcminutes of each other**. From some parts of the world, the **Moon** will pass in front of **Mercury**, creating a lunar occultation but **not in the Midwest United States**. The **Moon** will be 1 days old. From **NE Ohio**, the pair will become visible at around **18:25 EST, at only 12° above the western horizon**, as **dusk fades to darkness**. They will then sink toward the horizon, **setting 1 hour and 32 minutes after sunset**.

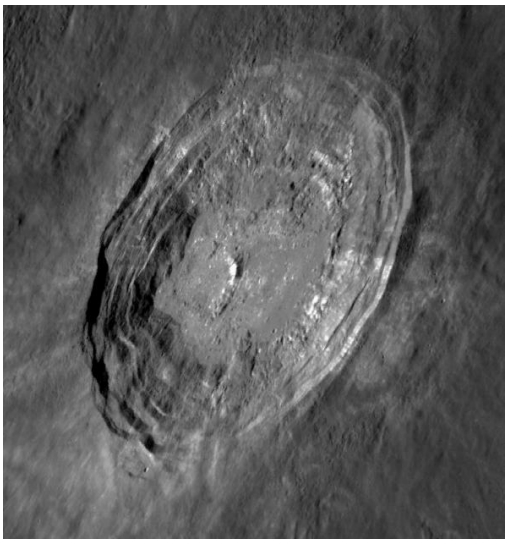
On the evening of **Monday, February 23rd**, the **Moon** and **M45** (the **Pleiades Star Cluster**) will make a close approach, passing within **1°10'** of each other. The **Moon** will be 7 days old. From **NE Ohio**, the pair will become visible in the constellation **Taurus** at around **18:51 EST** about **69° above your south-western horizon**, as dusk fades to darkness. The pair will then sink toward the horizon, setting at around 01:35 on **February 24th**.

On the evening of Thursday, February 26th – Friday, February 27th, the **Moon** and **Jupiter** will make a close approach, passing within **3°54' of each other**. The **Moon** will be 10 days old. In **NE Ohio**, the pair will be visible in Thursday's evening sky, becoming coming into view around **18:31 EST**, about **53° above the eastern horizon**, as dusk transitions to darkness. They will reach their highest point in the sky at 9pm EST, about **71° above the southern horizon**. The pair will continue to be seen until around **03:39 EST**, when they dip to **about 7° above your north-western horizon at dawn**.

Lunar Features:

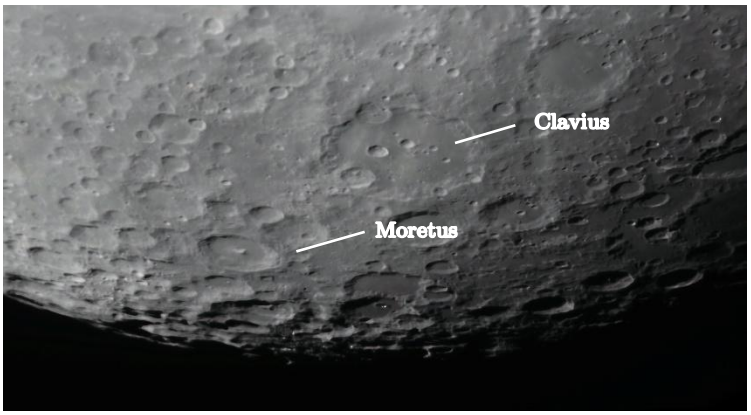
The **Moon** is often disparaged by amateur astronomers for its brilliance, as it overpowers our observations of both deep sky objects as well as meteor showers. It is frequently taken for granted because it is relatively so much closer to us than other objects we view. But the **Moon** is actually a very interesting target. How many lunar craters can you readily identify? When were they formed? When were they first named? Do they contain frozen water? Which ones did our Apollo astronauts investigate? Which ones will our Artemis crew explore? What tricks do the shadows play? Let us consider some particular lunar features that we can easily observe. You can look these up by name and explore the surrounding terrain using the **Moon** atlas compiled from the images taken by **NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera** (**LROC**) at the link: Moon Atlas





This month, we look at **Aristarchus**, a lunar impact crater that lies in the northwest part of the **Moon's** near side. It is considered the brightest of the large formations on the lunar surface, with an albedo nearly double that of most lunar features. The crater is bright enough to be visible to the naked eye, and displays unusually bright features when viewed through a large telescope. It is also readily identified when most of the lunar surface is illuminated by earthshine.

This crater is deeper than the Grand Canyon! **Aristarchus** crater is 40 kilometers in diameter and it is 2700 meters deep, with a central peak that rises 300 meters above the crater floor. It's a relatively young crater, around **450 million years old**, hence its intense brightness compared to “older features,” according to **NASA**.

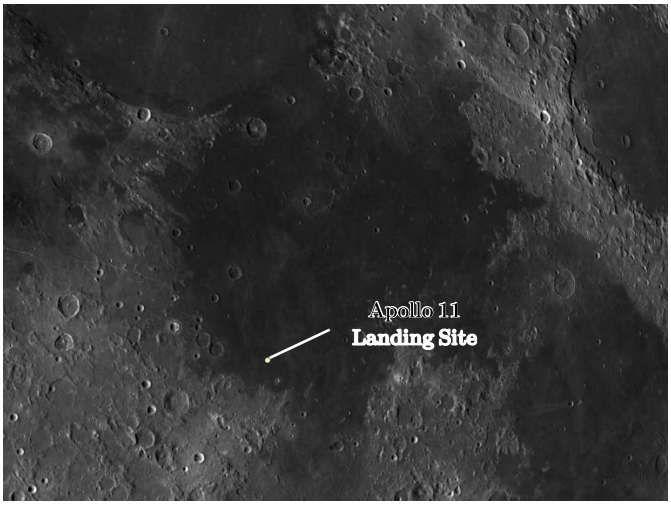


There are some lunar features that have been newsworthy in the recent past. **Moretus** is a lunar impact crater located in the heavily cratered highland region near the **Moon's south pole**. News about **water** in lunar craters, particularly **Moretus**, highlights important findings from **NASA's SOFIA** telescope that revealed water molecules in lunar soil. **Moretus** contains molecular water (**H_2O**) and hydroxyl (**OH**). The higher concentrations are found in cooler, more shadowed areas like inner crater walls, indicating a link to solar wind as being a source, rather than being just permanently trapped ice.

NASA also announced the discovery of water on the sunlit surface of the crater **Clavius**, one of the largest lunar craters visible from **Earth**. Indications of **H_2O**, now known to be present, challenges man's understanding of the lunar surface and presents intriguing possibilities about an important resource relevant for deep space exploration.

Now surprisingly, the concentration of water in these craters is estimated to be relatively small. Data shows water in concentrations of 100 to 412 parts per million, which **NASA** describes as roughly equivalent to a **12-ounce bottle of water trapped in each cubic meter of soil**. If harvested, it would be a vital resource to future human colonies on the **Moon** as well as to travelers continuing on to deep space destinations, for example, **Mars**. Future **Artemis** missions will primarily target the **Moon's South Polar Region**, primarily because of the presence of this water-ice.

The **Moretus** crater formed after a significant asteroid impact, likely during the **Eratosthenian Epoch** (around **3 billion years ago** or older), and appears fresh due to its location within the even-older highlands features. The **Clavius** lunar crater originated from a **massive asteroid impact** around **4 billion years ago during the Moon's ancient Nectarian period**, making it one of the oldest and largest impact structures on the near side. It is characterized by its immense size (**231 km** diameter) and the subsequent smaller craters like **Porter**, **Rutherfurd**, and the famous arc formed by **Clavius D, C, N, and J** that were created later by smaller impacts within the **Clavius** basin.



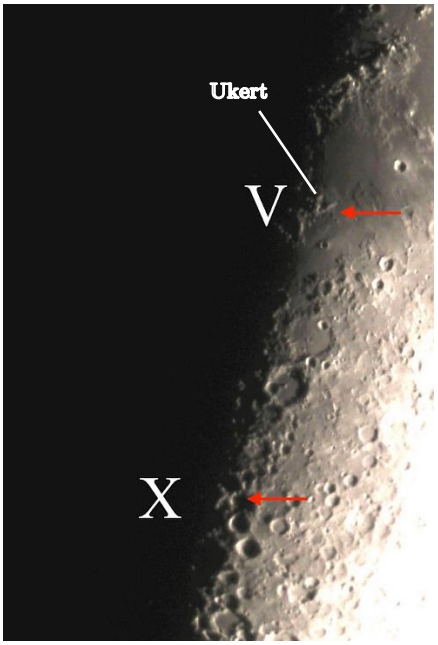
Another interesting lunar feature is the **Sea of Tranquility**, also known by its Latin name **Mare Tranquillitatis**. It is a large, dark basaltic plain on the **Moon**. This feature is famous as the landing site for **NASA's Apollo 11 mission**, where humans first walked on the lunar surface on **July 20, 1969**.

Of course, it's not a real sea but a vast, ancient lava-filled basin, named by early astronomers who mistook these dark areas for bodies of water. It is noted for its relatively smooth, flat terrain and ideal conditions for lunar landings.

The **Sea of Tranquility** formed from ancient lava flows filling a huge impact basin, with the original basin itself dating back over 3.9 billion years and the volcanic flooding occurring primarily between 3.1 and 3.9 billion years ago, making it one of the **Moon's** oldest large lava plains.

Last month, we looked at the **Lunar 'X'**, also known sometimes as the **Werner X**. This month, we introduce the **Lunar 'V'.** Like the **Lunar 'X'**, the **Lunar 'V'** becomes visible during the **First Quarter** phase of the **Moon**.

The **Lunar 'V'** is a fleeting optical illusion that appears as sunlight grazes the rims of the crater **Ukert** (as well as nearby smaller craters), creating sharp shadows that form a 'V' against the darker background of the lunar surface.



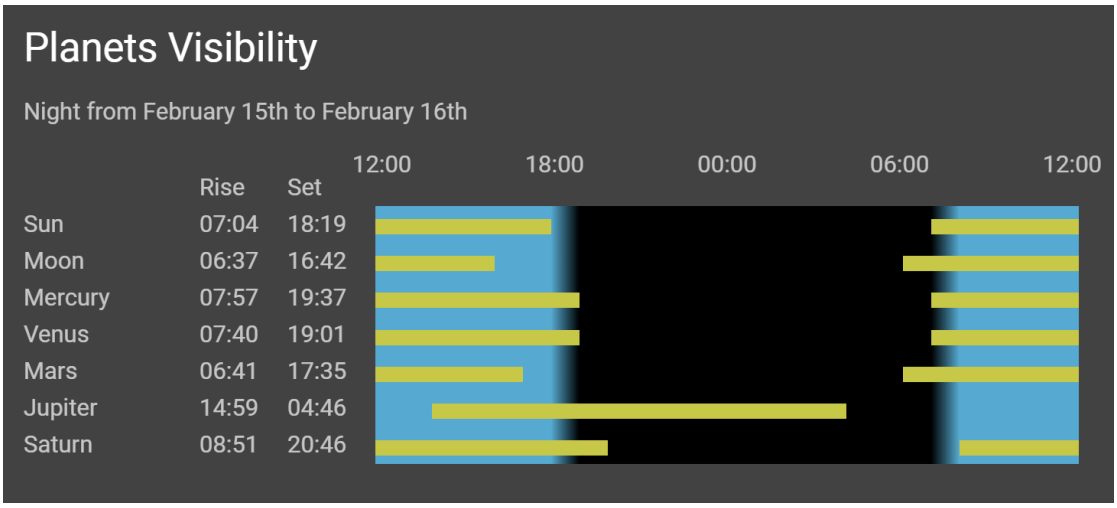
Lunar 'X', and the **Lunar 'V'** as Seen During the **First Quarter Moon**

You'll have a chance to see this phenomenon regularly throughout the year, weather permitting. See if you can take a picture of this feature during the **First Quarter** phase. (see the "Winter Challenge" in this issue of the Sky Report). The image above is a sample what you might see.

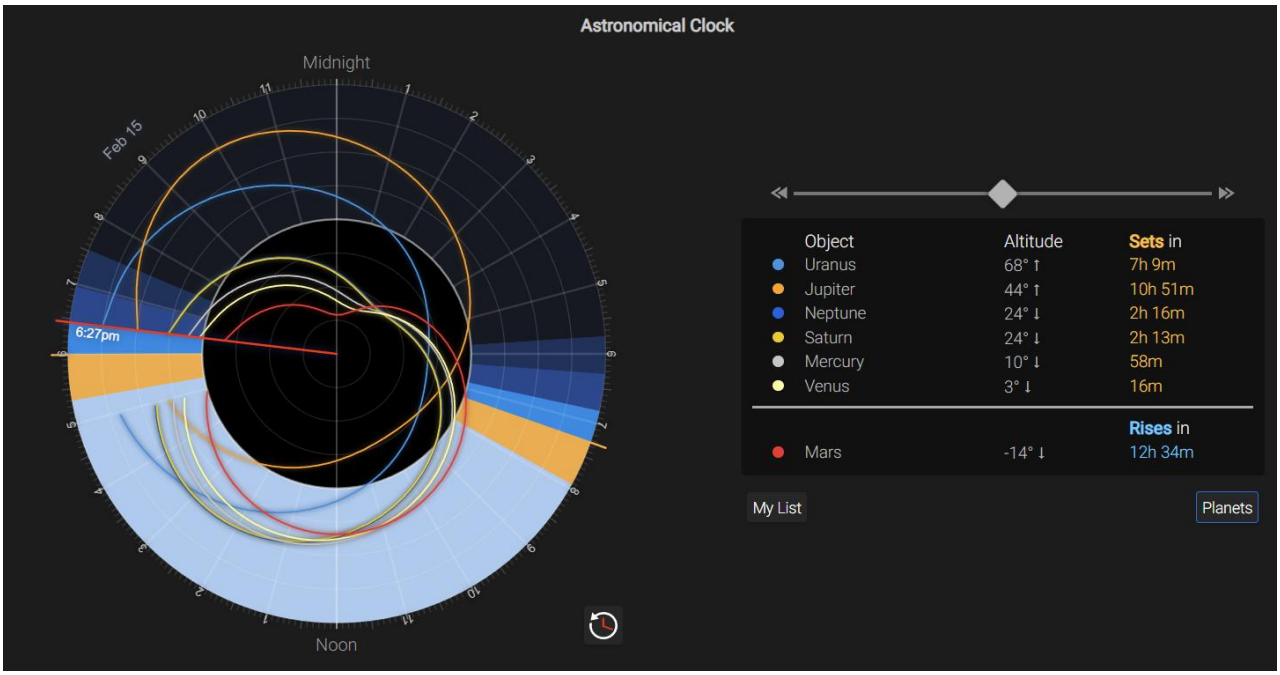
The next time the moon dominates our night sky, see how many of these lunar features you can observe!

Planets

For this month, here is chart summarizing the visibility of those planets visible to unaided observers on the night of February 15, 2026. https://stellarium-web.org/

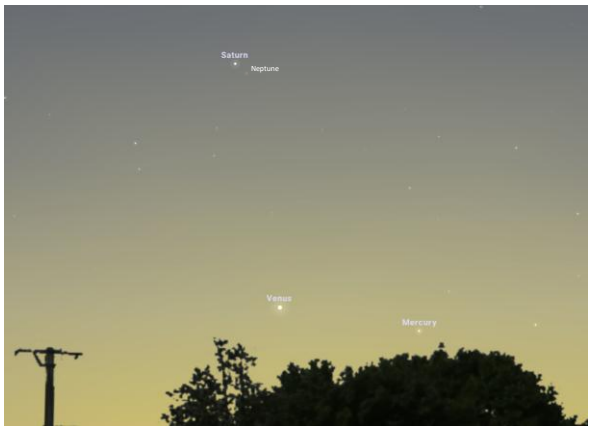


And here is a graphical representation from astrospheric.com summarizing the planets' relative altitudes at dusk on the night of February 15, 2026:



With the exception of **Jupiter**, **February** will not be a great month for viewing **planets**. They will mostly be low in the night sky and close to **Sun** either at sunrise or sunset.

Mercury is observed this month as a bright evening star, reaching its greatest eastern elongation on **February 19**, when it is farthest from the glare of the **Sun**. It will appear low in the **Western sky** shortly after sunset at a **magnitude of -0.6**. It will be part of a planetary alignment with Venus and Saturn near the end of the month. The alignment will not be as dramatic as news articles may suggest, but the alignment does offer a chance to see three (or four, if you count **Neptune**,) planets provided you have an excellent, clear view of the **Western sky** at dusk. The following image simulated in Stellarium shows what the (cloudless) **Western sky** will look immediately following sunset on **February 28, 2026**. To give it scale, the separation between **Saturn** and **Venus** is about **8°**.



Simulated Western Sky at Sunset, 02/28/2026

Venus appears as a brilliant "evening star", low in the western sky shortly after sunset, with its visibility improving throughout the month. As mentioned above, its **~5° proximity to Mercury** near the end of the month will make the two planets visually observable together in the sky. For the most part, **Venus** will not be high enough to view easily in the **Northern Hemisphere**… best to wait until **March**.

Mars will be too close to the **Sun** for easy observation early this month, and will be too close to the Sun throughout the entire month to safely view with a telescope.

Jupiter will still present itself very well for observation in **February**, **2026**. It remains a brilliant object in the night sky, reaching the meridian around midnight. Following its **January 10 opposition**, the planet appears high and bright in the sky in the constellation **Gemini**, offering excellent views through telescopes and binoculars even on bright, moonlit nights.

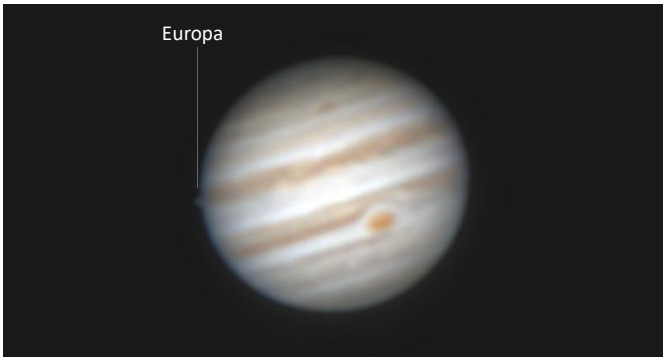


Image of Jupiter on a Night with Good “Seeing” – by Laz Ilyes (January 23, 2026)
(Notice the moon Europa, just about to pass behind the “Gas Giant” at ~10:15pm)

An interesting tool made available online by "**Sky and Telescope®**" magazine can be used to plot the location of the Galilean Satellites minute by minute. Here is a link to that tool: https://skyandtelescope.org/wp-content/plugins/observing-tools/jupiter_moons/jupiter.html

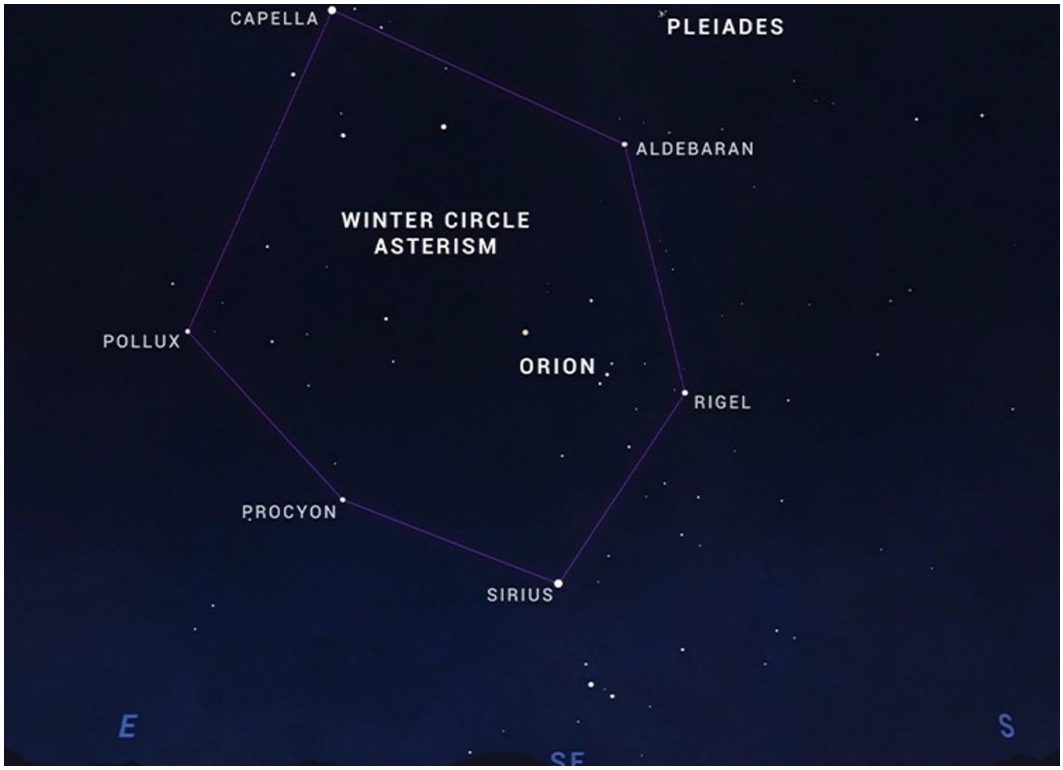
Saturn will be observable in the early evening sky, located in the constellation Pisces, but its visibility window will be rapidly closing as it moves toward the glare of sunset. On **February 16, 2026**, **Saturn** and **Neptune** will be in a tight conjunction, separated by only **54 arc-minutes**. However, these two planets have been travelling our night sky relatively close together for the past year. Nevertheless, it's fun to take advantage of the close pairing of these two planets since it can be interesting to view them together in a small telescope or binoculars.

Uranus, during the early evening, is high in the sky throughout the month, gradually setting earlier towards midnight as the month progresses. Located in the constellation **Taurus**, **roughly 5° south** of the **Pleiades Star Cluster**, which acts as a convenient guide.

Neptune will appear very faint and low in the **Western sky** just after sunset, requiring binoculars or a telescope to spot. It will be very near **Saturn**, particularly this month, separated by only **54 arc-minutes** on **February 16, 2026**. Try finding this planet in the same field of view as **Saturn** in a small telescope, but for safety, wait until the **Sun** is safely below the horizon.

Constellations

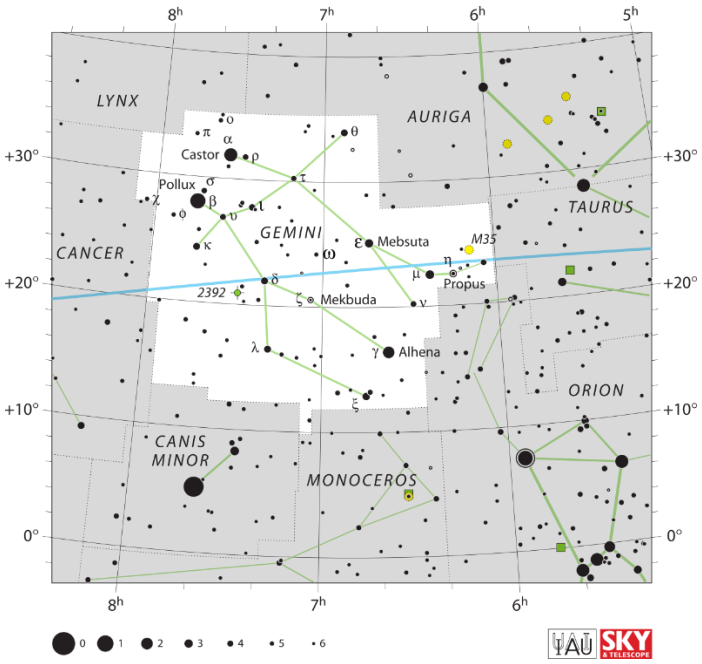
Not a constellation, but an ***asterism*** is the so-called "**Winter Circle**" or "**Winter Hexagon**". This asterism is made up of the six very bright stars **Rigel** (**Beta Orionis**), **Aldebaran** (**Alpha Tauri**), **Capella** (**Alpha Aurigae**), **Pollux** (**Beta Geminorum**), Procyon (**Alpha Canis Minoris**), and Sirius (**CMa**). If you are new to observing the winter sky in **North America**, the **Winter Circle** is a great place to get started! See if you can find this asterism on a clear night. The moon, and bright city lights should generally not cause any problems because every star in the **Winter Circle** is at least magnitude +1.



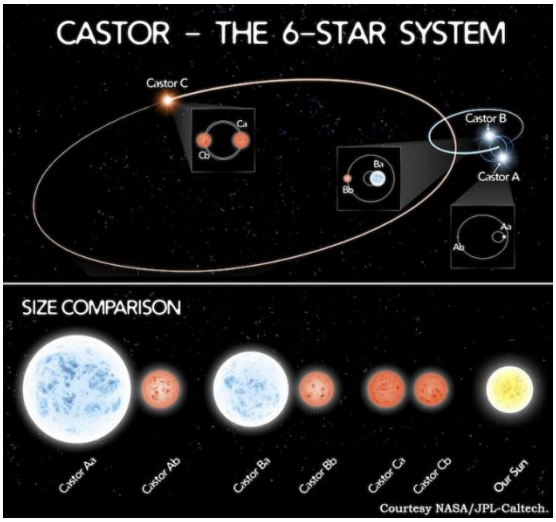
By identifying the **Winter Circle**, you'll be able to more-quickly find the six different constellations which intersect the corners: **Orion**, **Taurus**, **Auriga**, **Gemini**, **Canis Minor**, and **Canis Major**. Including the current **Sky Report**, all of these constellations have been recently covered in some detail. Take some time to familiarize yourself with this asterism on a good clear night.

Gemini (Gem)

Gemini, the "Twins," is a prominent northern hemisphere zodiac constellation best viewed in winter and early spring. It is characterized by the bright, adjacent stars **Castor** (**Alpha Geminorum**) and **Pollux** (**Beta Geminorum**). Located near the constellations **Orion** and **Taurus**, it is easily identified by these two, which mark the heads of the mythological Greek twin brothers.



Castor is a famous, easily-resolvable multiple-star system that appears as a single star to the naked eye but splits into two bright, white components (**Castor A** and **B**) through a small telescope or even high-powered binoculars. The pair has a current separation of roughly **5 arcseconds**, making it an ideal, classic target for amateur astronomers. While **Castor A** and **B** appear as a pair, the system is actually a sextuple system (six stars), consisting of three sets of ***spectroscopic binaries*** (pairs that are too close to be resolved visually). A third, much fainter component (**Castor C**) is located about **73 arcseconds** away. **Castor C** is a 9th magnitude red dwarf and requires a better telescope to resolve from **Castor A** and **B**. But spectroscopic observation is required to differentiate the binary components of **Castor A**, **B**, and **C**.



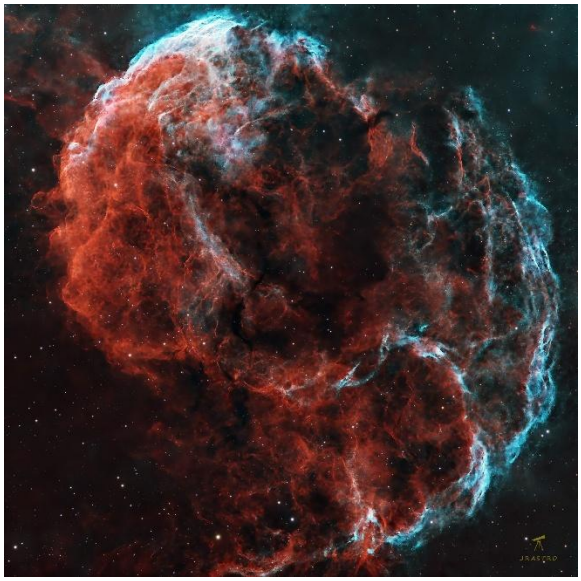
There is just one **Messier** object within the boundaries of the **Gemini** constellation. The open star cluster **M35** (aka **NGC 2168**) or the **Shoe-Buckle Cluster** is a relatively close open cluster about **2,800 light-years** away from Earth. This is a big and bright (**magnitude +5.1**) open cluster that's easy to find and may be

visible to the naked eye in a very dark sky. The small, tight nearby cluster **NGC 2158**, which is **26 arc-minutes away** is often photographed together with **M35**, as seen in the NASA image below.

Messier 35 (and **NGC 2158**) – by NASA

Another interesting deep sky object in **Gemini**, particularly to astrophotographers is **IC 433** (aka **Sh2-248**) or the **Jellyfish Nebula**. The **Jellyfish Nebula** is approximately **50 arc-minutes** in diameter and is located near **η Gem** (aka **Propus**). The nebula glows from emission gasses at about **magnitude +7** and its details are best revealed using long-exposure astrophotography.

This structure is a supernova remnant containing numerous ionized elements, particularly the ubiquitous Hα, OIII, and SII. Because of the presence of these three ionized elements, astrophotographers will commonly photograph this object through filters and assemble them together in false color using the so-called “Hubble palette.”



Jellyfish Nebula – by Jeff Ratino

A 9th-magnitude planetary nebula that can be found in **Gemini** is **Clown Face Nebula** (**NGC 2392** or **Caldwell 39**). It appears as a bright, face-like, nebula-surrounded star, also sometimes known by the somewhat-outdated name, the **Eskimo Nebula**. This gaseous cloud first began forming about 10,000 years ago, a sun-like star became unstable and began to expel its stellar material into space.

Image of the **Clown Face Nebula** – Laz Ilyes

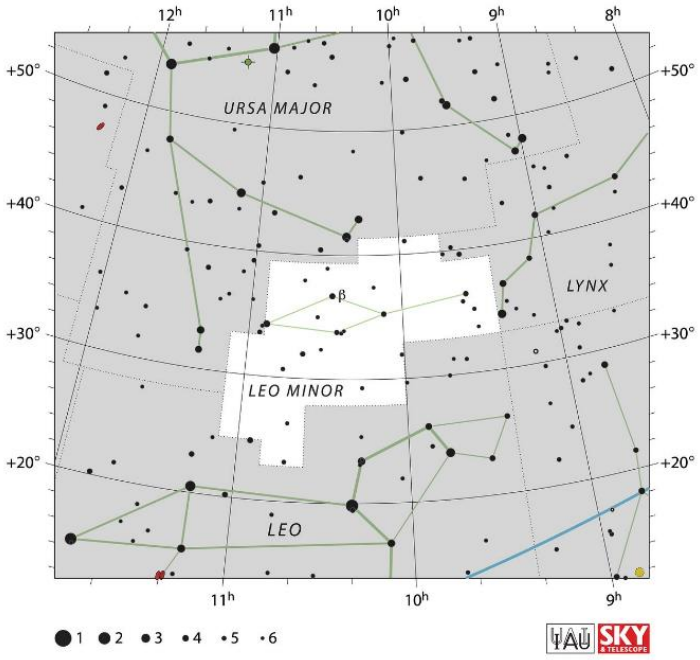
HST image of the **Clown Face Nebula** – NASA & ESA

The **Medusa Nebula** (aka **Abell 21** or **Sh2-274**) is another planetary nebula in the constellation of **Gemini**. It was originally discovered in **1955** by University of California, Los Angeles astronomer **George O. Abell**, who classified it as an old (evolved) planetary nebula. Located **approximately 1,500 light-years away** the **Medusa Nebula** is characterized by a low-surface brightness, with its central star being a hot white dwarf.

The **Medusa Nebula** –
by T. A. Rector/University of Alaska Anchorage and H. Schweiker/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA

Leo Minor (LMi)

The constellation **Leo Minor**, the "Lesser Lion," is a faint, small northern hemisphere constellation introduced by **Johannes Hevelius in 1687**. Situated between **Ursa Major** and **Leo**, it represents a cub accompanying the larger lion. It contains no bright stars, though it is known for the galaxy **NGC 3486**.



NGC 3486 is an intermediate barred spiral galaxy located about **27.4 million light years away**. Given its visual magnitude of +10.5, this galaxy is visible with the help of a telescope having an aperture of 6 inches (150mm) or more.

The galaxy **NGC 3486** – by Adam Block

Another spiral galaxy found in Leo Minor is **NGC 3344**, located about 20 million light-years from **Earth**. **NGC 3344** is oriented face-on, with an apparent magnitude of approximately +10, making it observable with small telescopes. It has an **apparent size of roughly 10 x 6 arcminutes**, spanning about 84,800 light-years in diameter.

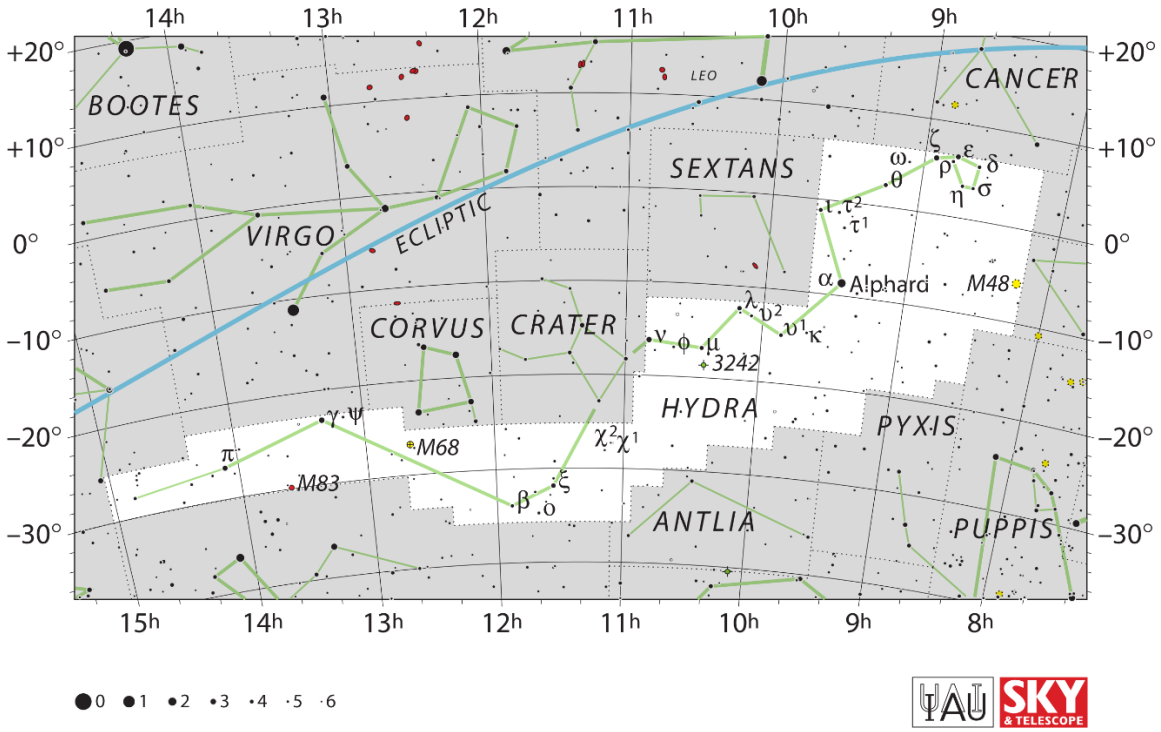
The galaxy features an outer ring swirling around an inner ring with a subtle bar structure in the center. A bar is an elongated distribution of stars and gas in the center of a spiral galaxy. The central regions of the galaxy are predominately populated by young stars, with the galactic fringes also featuring areas of active star formation. Central bars are found in around two thirds of spiral galaxies.

HST Image of **NGC 3344** – by NASA

Hydra (Hyd)

The constellation **Hydra** is the largest of the 88 modern constellations, measuring 1303 square degrees, and also the longest at over 100 degrees. **Hydra** is notoriously faint, with few bright stars, making it sometimes difficult to trace in its entirety without dark, clear skies. Given its size in the night sky, it is not surprising that it borders a total of 14 different constellations (including northern, southern, and zodiacal ones): **Antlia**, **Cancer**, **Canis Minor**, **Centaurus**, **Corvus**, **Crater**, **Leo**, **Libra**, **Lupus**, **Monoceros**, **Puppis**, **Pyxis**, **Sextans**, and **Virgo**.

Alphard (**α Hydrae**) at **magnitude +2** is the brightest star in the constellation, located in the "heart" of the snake, appearing as an orange giant.

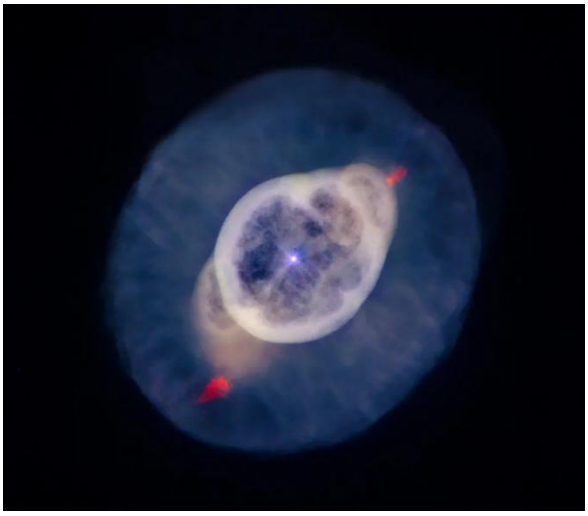


Hydra contains many interesting deep sky objects. These include **Messier 83**, **NGC 3242**, **Messier 68**, **Messier 48**, **NGC 3621**, and **NGC 5694**.

Messier 83 (**M83**, **NGC 5236**) is also known as the **Southern Pinwheel Galaxy**. This deep sky object is a bright, face-on barred spiral galaxy, often considered one of the most prominent galaxies in the sky. The **Southern Pinwheel Galaxy** is **approximately 15 million light-years away**. It has an apparent visual **magnitude of +7.5**, making it visible with binoculars, and it spans an angular size of roughly **13x10 arc-minutes**.

The **Southern Pinwheel Galaxy** – by Laz Ilyes

Another deep sky object found in Hydra is **NGC 3242**, also known as **Caldwell 59** and the **Ghost of Jupiter Nebula**. This nebula is a bright planetary nebula (**magnitude +7.7**) and appears as a blue-green disk, roughly the same size as the planet **Jupiter**. The **Ghost of Jupiter** planetary nebula is estimated to be **approximately 4,800 light-years away from Earth** and has an **apparent size of about 25 arcseconds for its bright inner region**. The **total apparent size** including its faint **outer halo** can be much larger**, up to around 20.8 arcminutes**.



The **Ghost of Jupiter Nebula** – by NASA/ESA

Messier 68 (**M68, NGC 4590**) is an **8th-magnitude** globular cluster in **Hydra** located about 33,000 light-years away. Discovered by **Charles Messier** in **1780**, **M68** is a dense collection of stars classified as a globular cluster. Mutual gravitational attraction amongst the hundreds of thousands or even millions of stars in such a cluster keeps stellar members packed tightly together for many billions of years.

HST Image of the Globular Cluster **Messier 68** – by NASA

Messier 48 (**M48, NGC 2548**) is a large, bright open cluster of **magnitude +5.8** is located near the head of the constellation **Hydra** visible to the naked eye under dark skies, containing roughly **80 stars**. This intermediate-aged open cluster of around **100-200 core stars** to as many as 1,000 members has an estimated distance of **roughly 2,500 light-years away**.

The historical record of **M48** is a convoluted tangle of errors and rediscoveries. **Charles Messier cataloged M48 on February 19, 1771**, but he cataloged it in the wrong position. Since astronomers couldn't find the open cluster, it became "lost" to history and was subsequently **rediscovered by Johann Elert Bode around 1782 and Caroline Herschel on March 8, 1783**. **Herschel** added it to her catalog of objects as No. 5, and her famous brother, **Sir William Herschel, included it in his catalog as H VI.22 on February 1, 1786**.

Image of the Open Cluster **Messier 48** – by Laz Ilyes

NGC 3621 is spiral galaxy in **Hydra** with a **magnitude of +9.56**. This galaxy is a "pure-disc" spiral galaxy located about **22 million light-years away**. **NASA** and **ESA** observations reveal it lacks a central bulge, featuring prominent dust lanes, young blue star clusters, and an active supermassive black hole. It is noted for its role in measuring the expansion of the universe via **Cepheid variable stars**.

“Pure Disc” Spiral Galaxy **NGC 3621** – by NASA

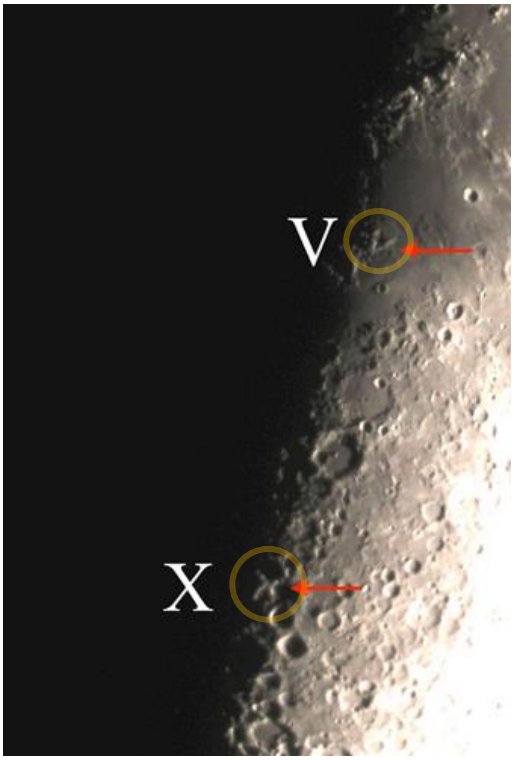
NGC 5694 is a distant globular cluster, **approximately 105,000 light-years from Earth**, with a **magnitude of +10.2**. Also known as **Caldwell 66**, the globular cluster was discovered by **William Herschel** in **1784** and is one of the oldest, most remote globular clusters in our galaxy. This globular cluster is a rather faint target for small telescopes, and has an apparent diameter of **3.6 arc-minutes**.

HST Image of Caldwell 66 – by NASA

Winter Observing Challenge

If you read through the section of last month's Sky Report about the **Moon,** you'll have seen a feature that was described as the **Lunar 'X.'** In this month's report, the additional **Lunar 'V'** was described.

The challenge for this winter will be to observe and/or image these unusual features on the Moon's surface. The **Lunar 'X'** and **'V'** become visible only for a few hours during the transitioning phase of the **First Quarter Moon**. Look for them along the terminator (the line between light and dark) in the southern lunar region. Reference a **Moon** Atlas to learn where to find the relevant craters.



'X' and 'V' Mark the Spot!

If you succeed if imaging the **Lunar 'X' or 'V'**, I'll be happy to feature it in an upcoming issue of the **Sky Report**. Either send it to me by email, or post it on our Facebook group page and I'll make sure that it gets into an upcoming issue.

Epilogue

My apologies for last month's sky report not being made available on our website. I'm not sure what happened but I did not notice this oversight until the end **January**. The report has content that is still useful to our membership so I will temporarily make it available for those interested at this link on Google Drive.

Interested in Making More Observations?

Take a look at the list of programs and awards that are available through your membership in the league! Here is a link to an alphabetical list of available programs. Talk to other members about your interests. It's always fun to observe together! Ask an officer in our club if you need help getting started.

T CrB

At the time of writing this, **T CrB** has still not gone nova. Continue watching for news of the event if it should occur. We will try to notify you by email should there be any updates.

Special thanks to **Jeff Ratino** for his image of the **Jellyfish Nebula** featured in this month's issue of the **Sky Report**. Thanks to **Conny Meier** and **Eric Wright** for getting the report out to all of you.

Clear Skies and Excellent Observing!

Laz