

What's Up?

February 1-28, 2025

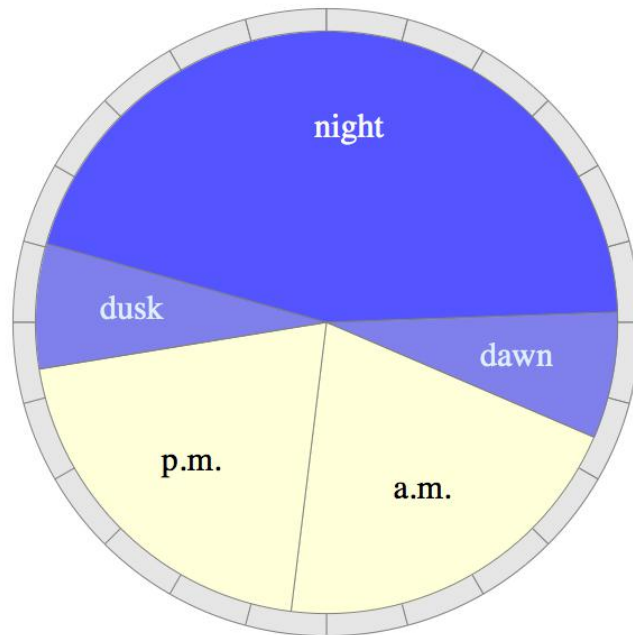
Made with the RASC Observer's Handbook, 2025 Night
Sky Almanac, Sky Safari®, and Stellarium®

The Sun This Month

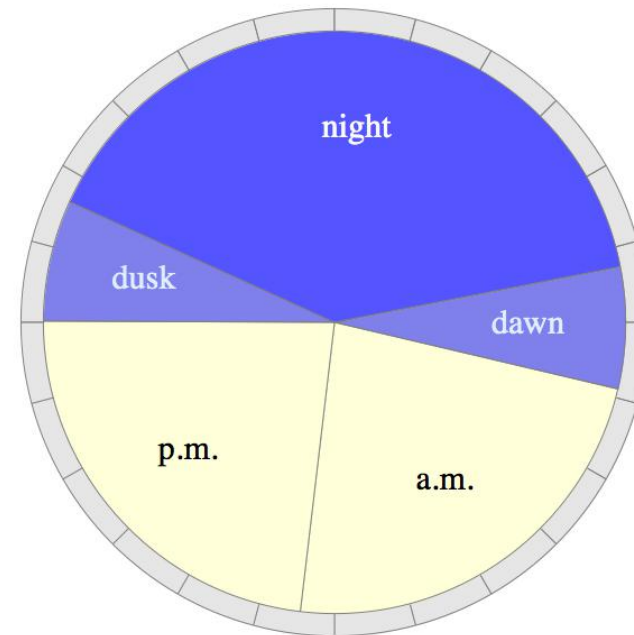
[Solar Activity](#)

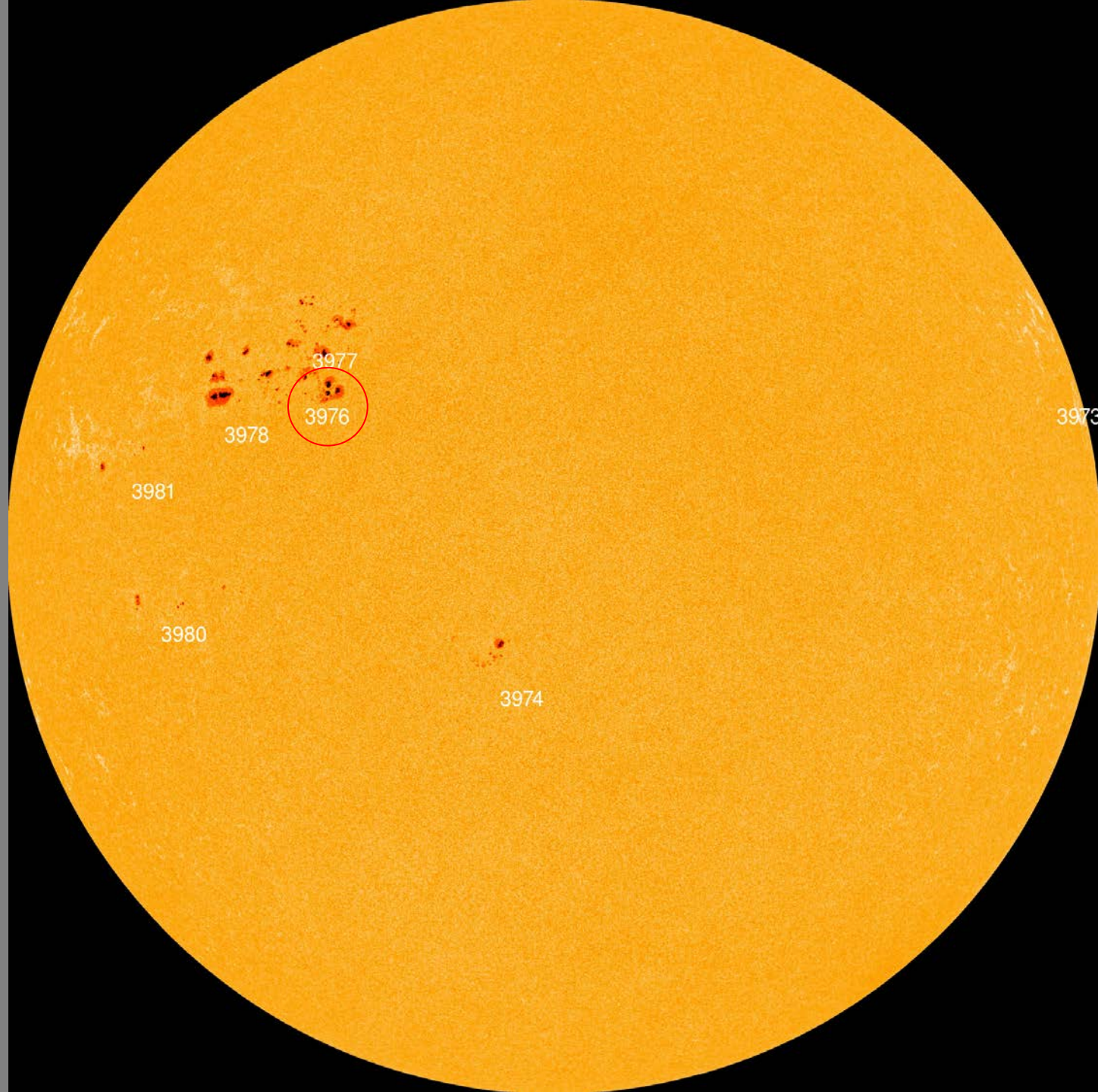
Date	Sunset	Dusk End	Darkness	Dawn Start	Sunrise	“Noon”	Sunlight	Max Altitude
Feb 1	5:23 pm	7:03 pm	10 ³ / ₄ h	5:52 am	7:32 am	12:27 pm	9 ³ / ₄ h	28.5°
Feb 28	6:01 pm	7:38 pm	9 ¹ / ₂ h	5:16 am	6:53 am	12:26 pm	11 ¹ / ₄ h	37.7°

Halifax Feb 01



Halifax Feb 28





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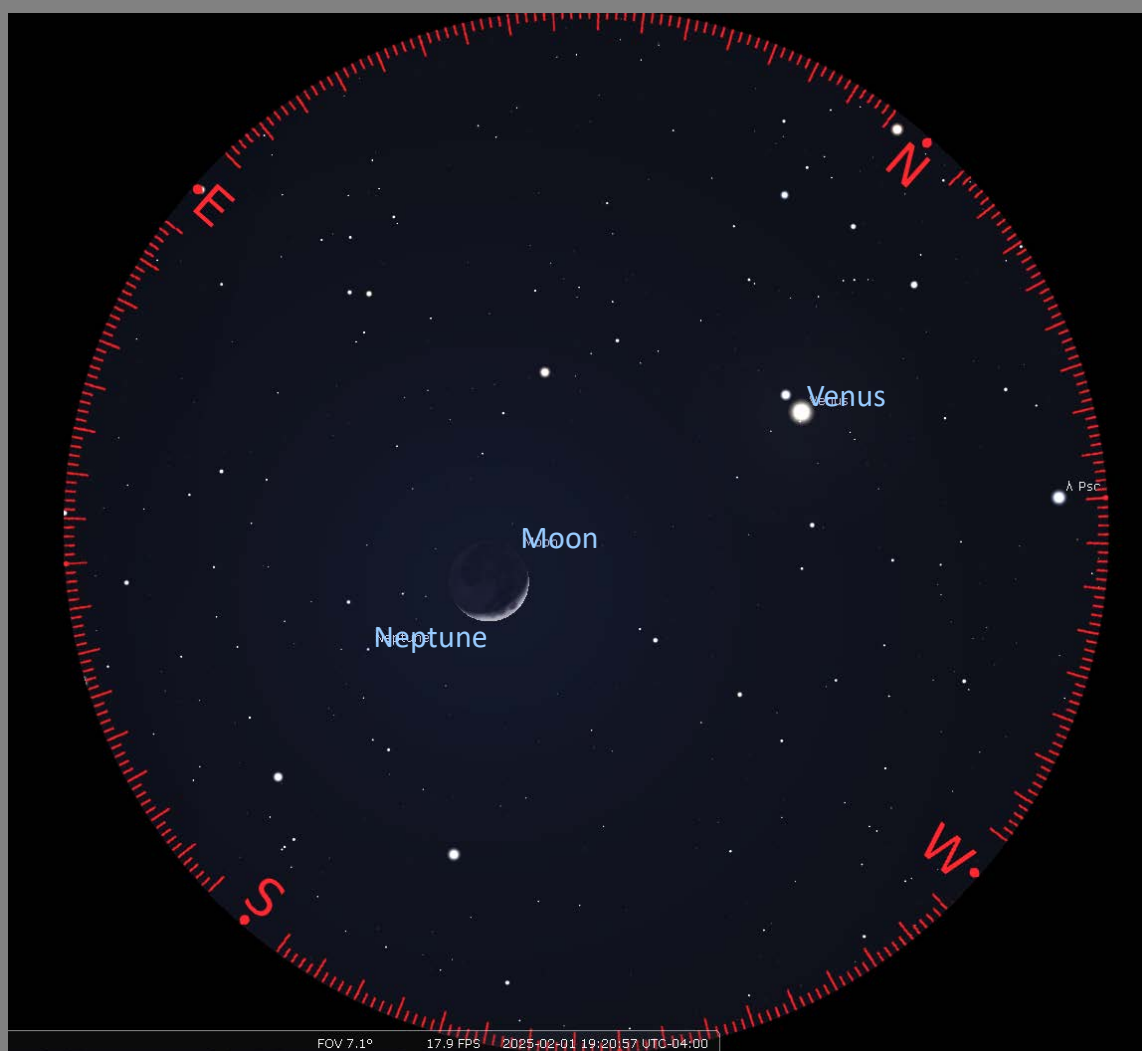
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The Moon This Month

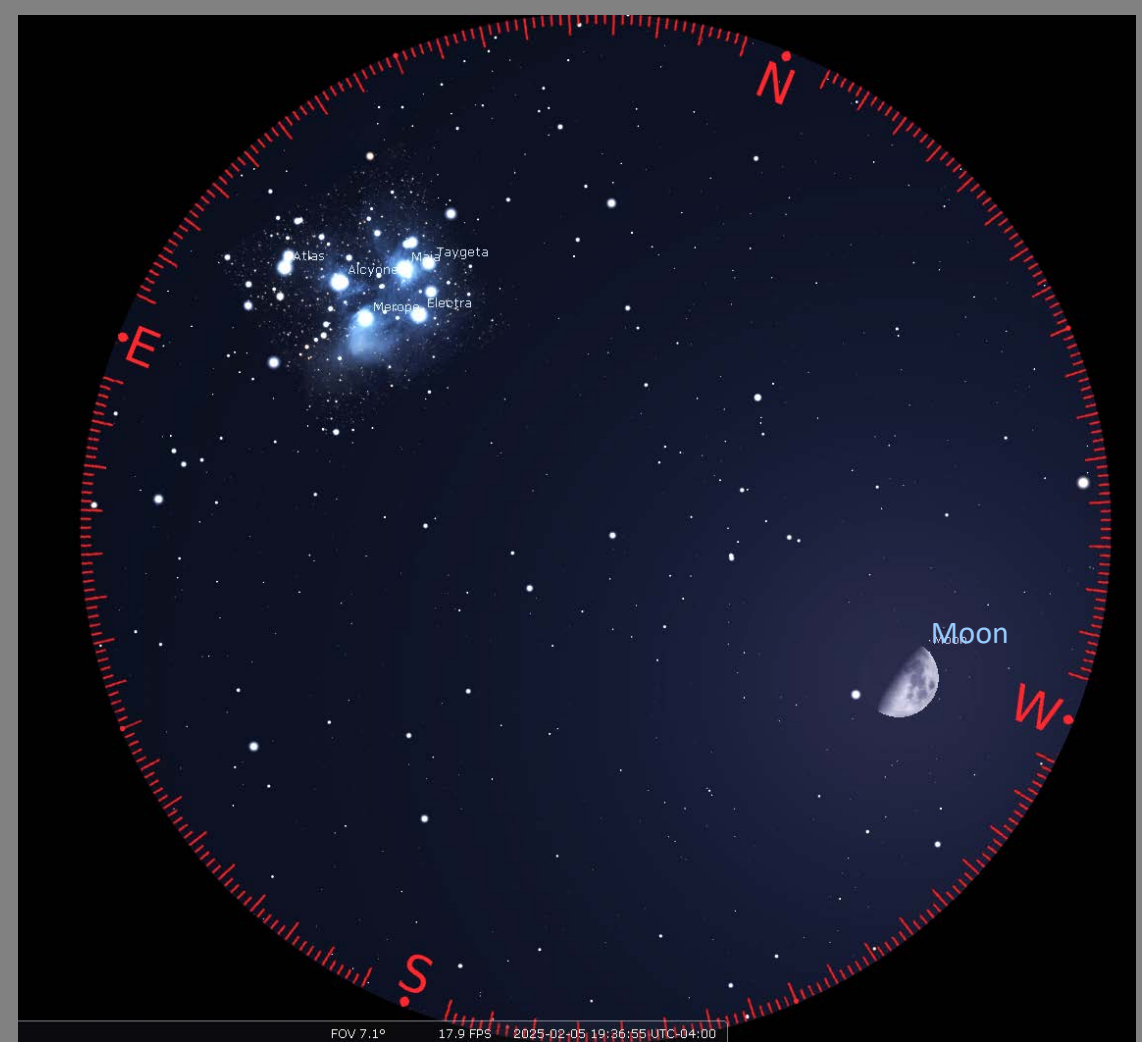
Date	Phase	English	Mi'kmaq
Feb 1	Moon near Venus & Neptune		
Feb 1	Moon at perigee (367,500 km)		
Feb 3	<i>First Quarter</i>	Snow-Blinding	<u>Apuknajit</u>
Feb 5	Moon near the Pleiades		
Feb 6	Moon near Jupiter		
Feb 9	Moon near Mars		
Feb 10	Moon near the Beehive Cluster		
Feb 12	<i>Full Moon</i>		
Feb 20	<i>Last Quarter</i>		
Feb 23	Mare Orientale visible*		
Feb 17	Moon at apogee (404,900 km)		
Feb 27	<i>New Moon</i>	Maple Sugar	<u>Siwkewiku's</u>
Feb 28	Moon near Mercury & Saturn		

* 6 a.m.



Feb 1

- Moon near Venus and Neptune
- around 6:30 p.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)



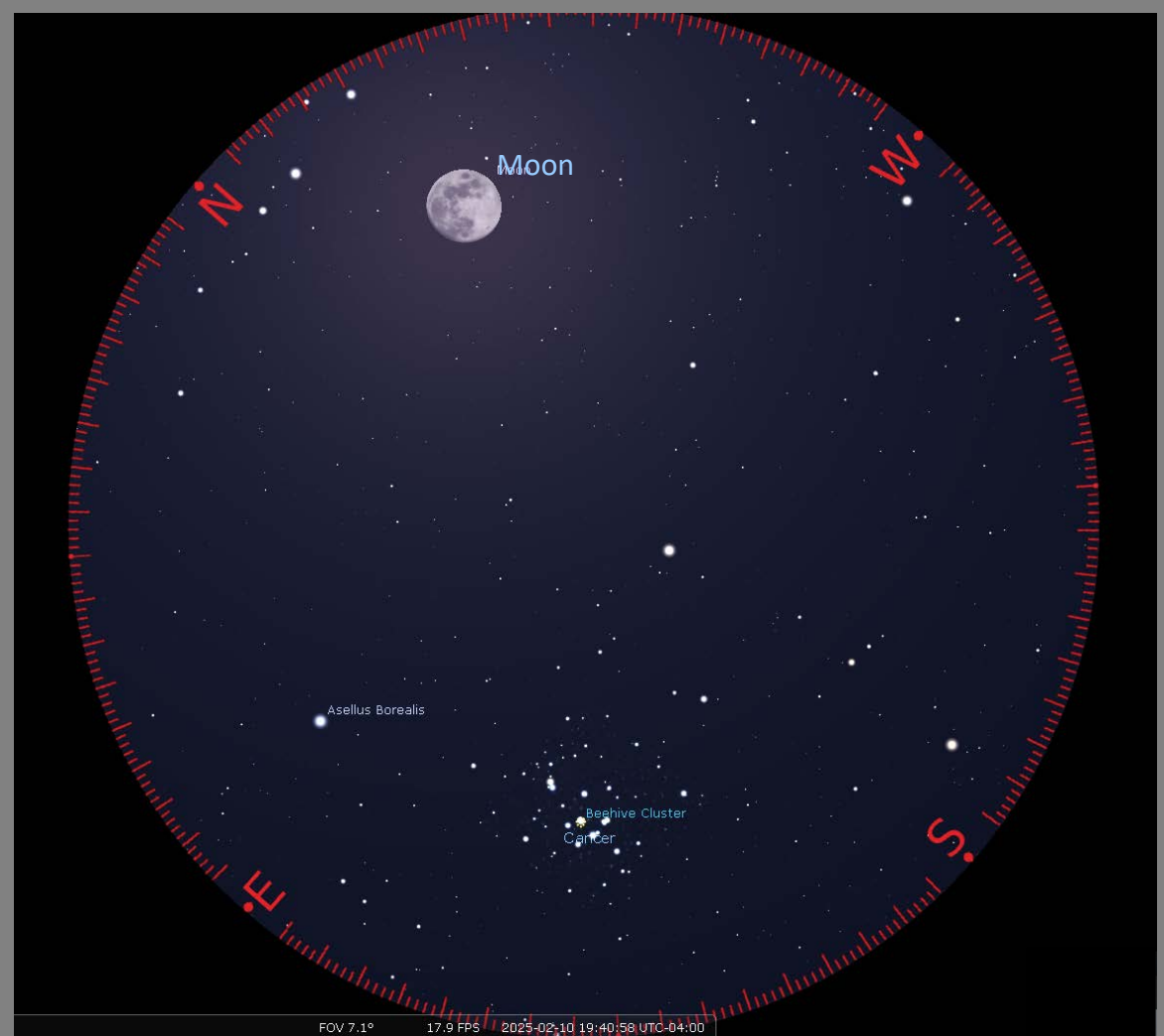
Feb 5

- Moon and the Pleiades
- around 6:30 p.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)



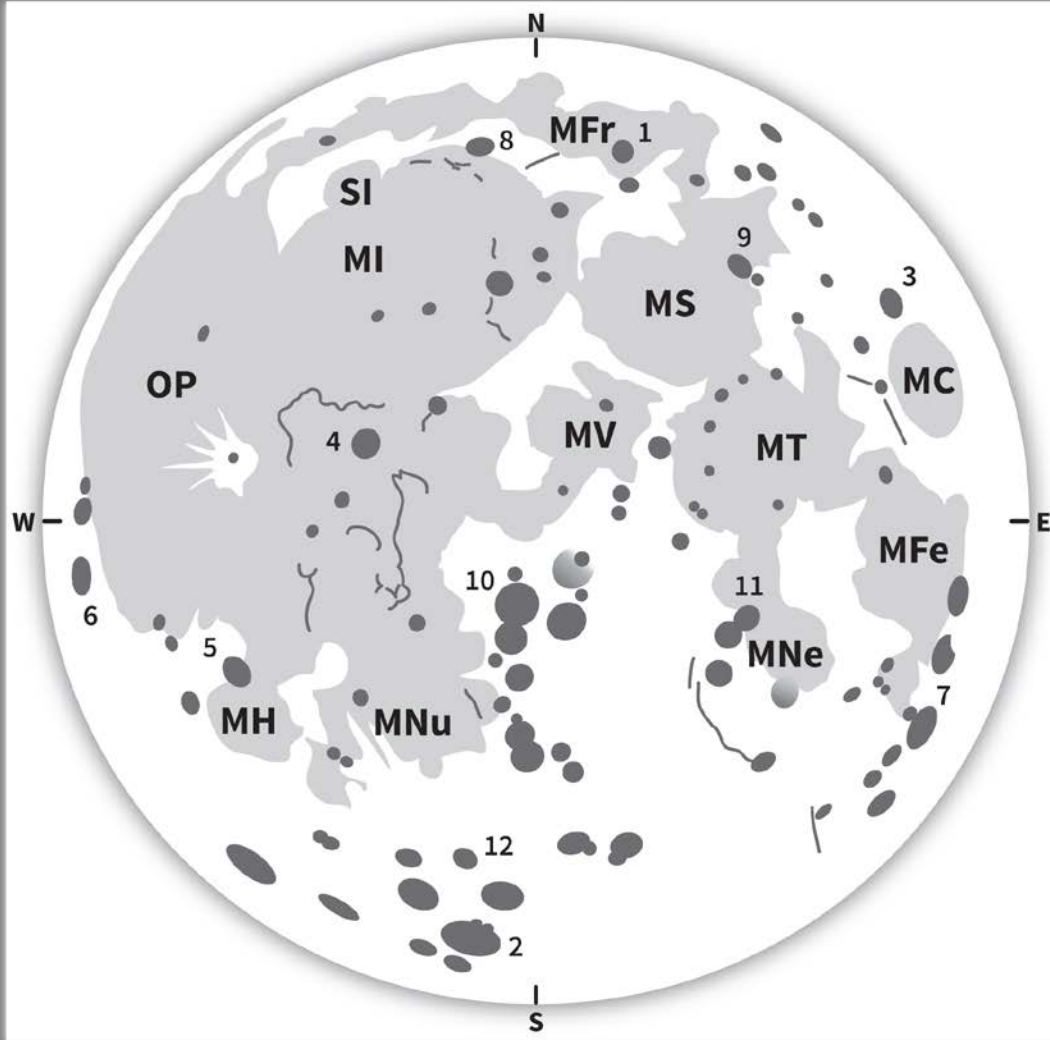
Feb 8

- Moon and Mars
- around 7:30 p.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)



Feb 16

- Moon and the Beehive Cluster
- around 7:30 p.m.
- 7x50 binoculars (7.1° FOV)



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

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

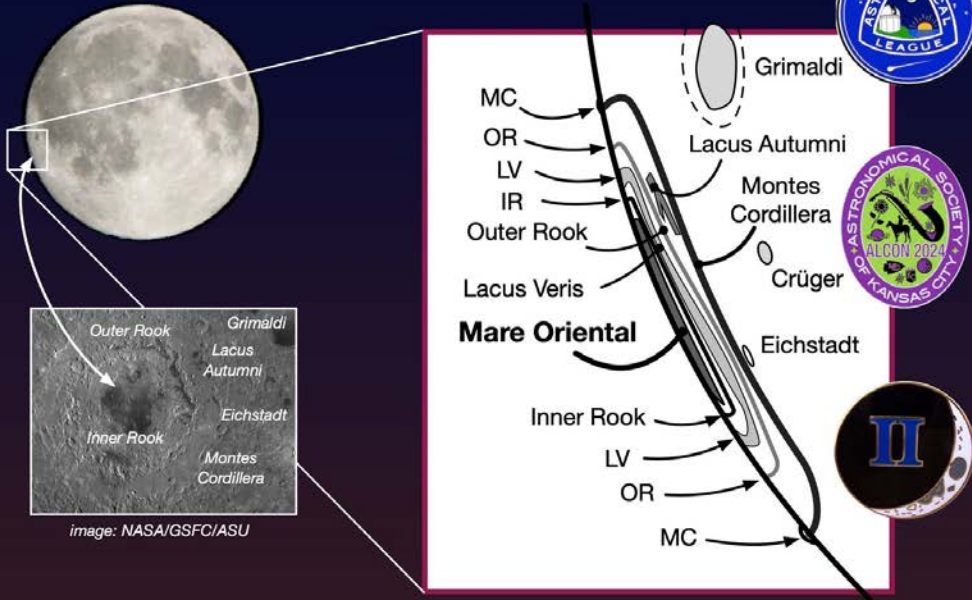
The Moon in Explore the Universe

Feb 1-5

observe 3 of each in binos

Exploring the moon!

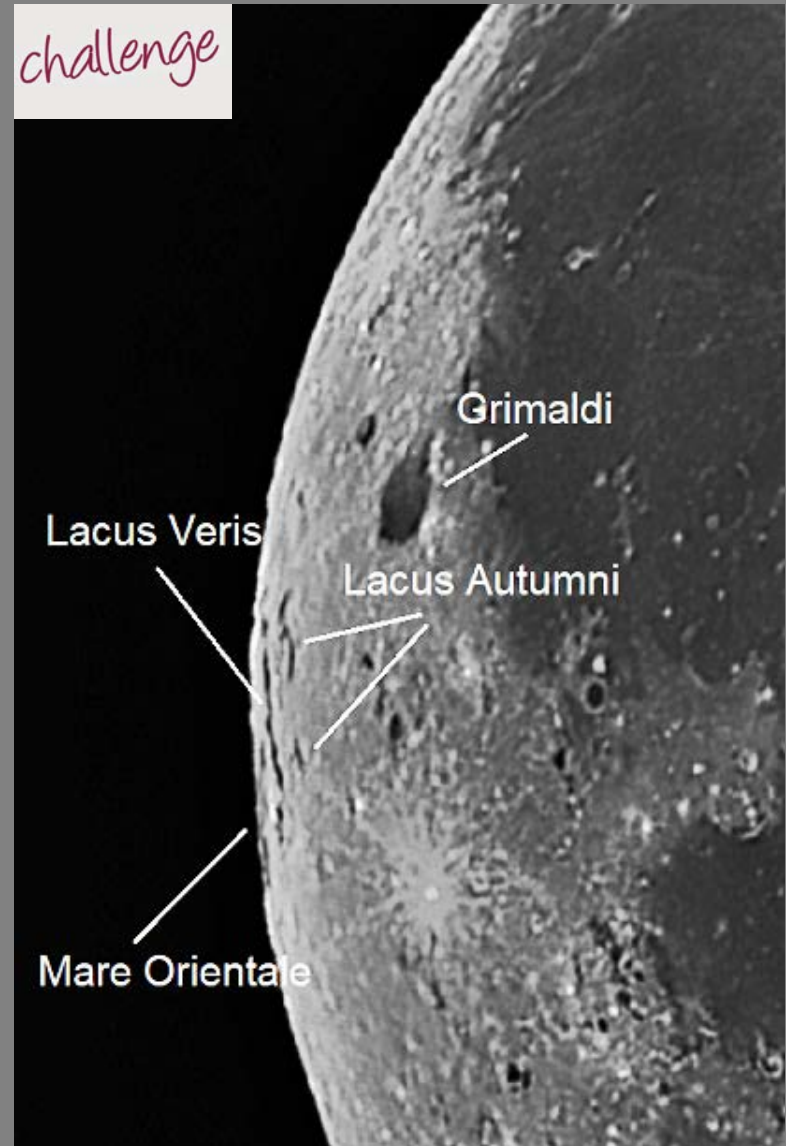
Mare Orientale



A good viewing of the very intriguing Mare Orientale requires that the moon be at or near maximum western libration. This happens on three, four, or five days in some, but not all months. Of course, it should not hide in the lunar night, which immediately eliminates fifteen days each month. The three mornings leading up to new moon are also poor times because the waning thin crescent lies too close to the horizon to give a sharp enough image for clear, meaningful view.

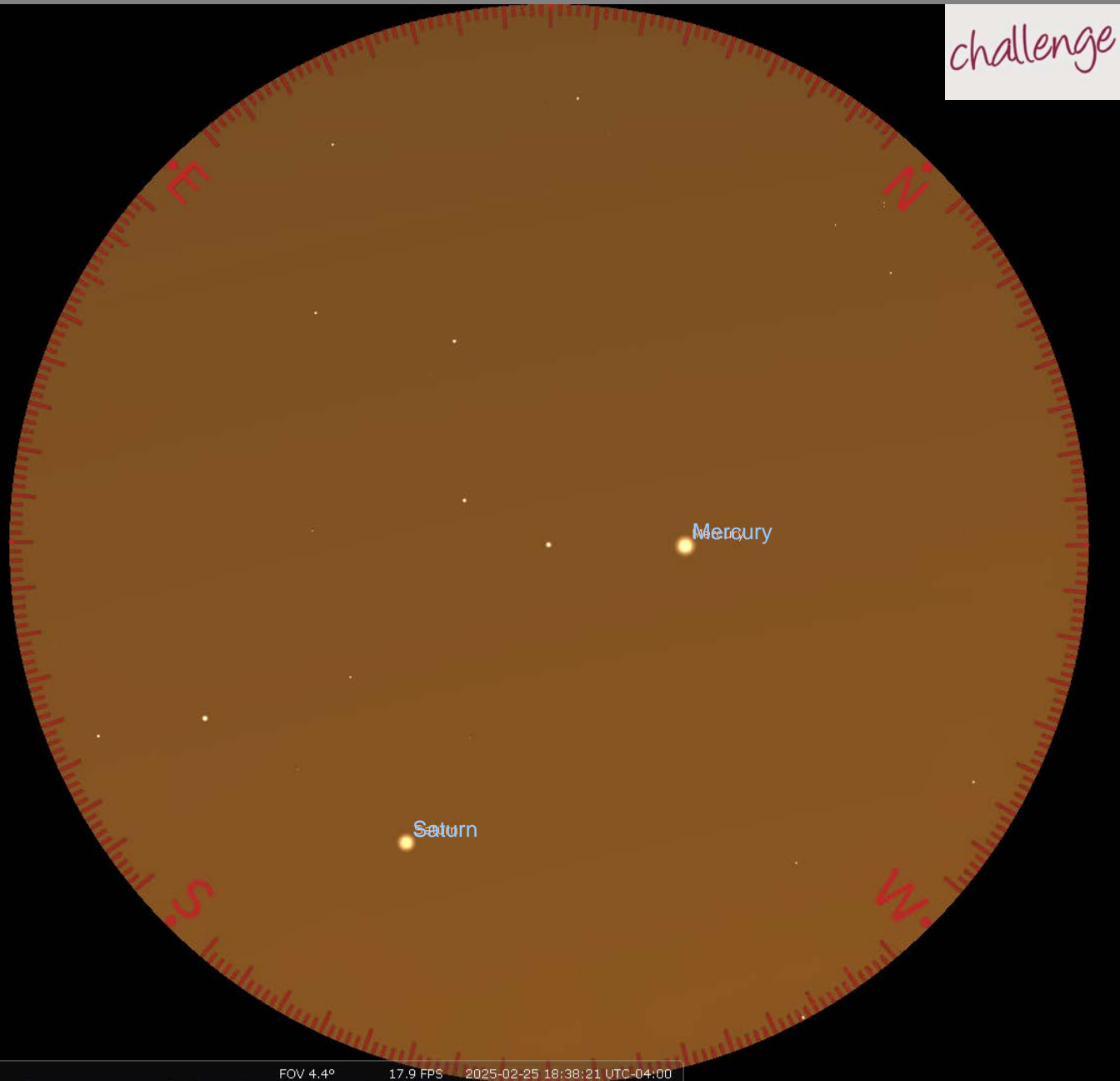
As a result, opportunities for studying Mare Orientale are infrequent, occurring around twenty days each year. Generally, four or five months running present three, four, or five good opportunities followed by a string of nine or ten months that have no suitable occasions for viewing it. And then there is the weather!

Identifying Orientale's fascinating features demands steady seeing and moderate to high magnification.



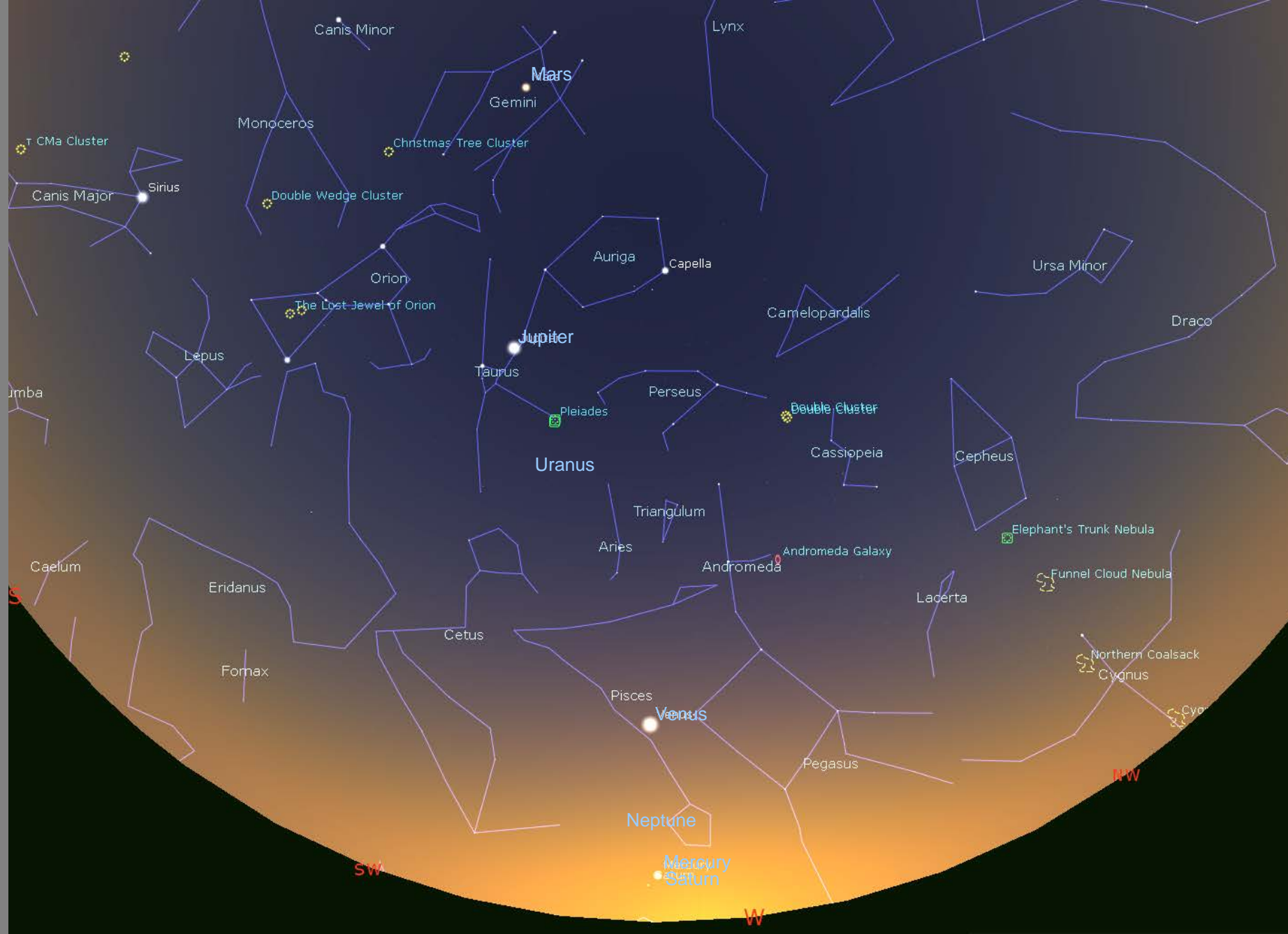
Feb 23

challenge



Feb 25

- Mercury and Saturn conjunction
- around 6:30 p.m.
- 15x70 binoculars (4.4° FOV)



Feb 25 @6:30 Mars, Jupiter, Venus, Mercury and Saturn will be visible



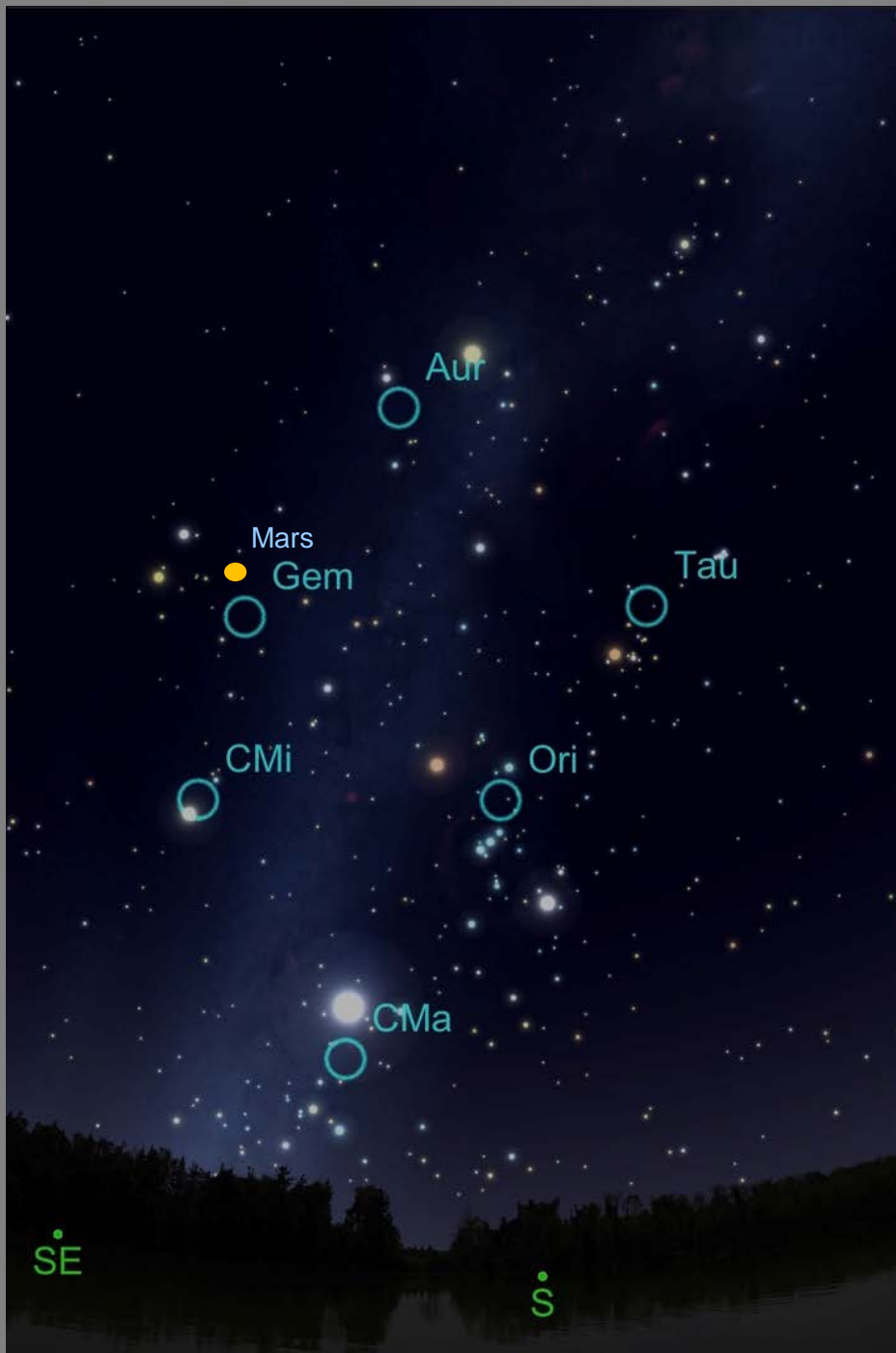
Feb 28 just after sunset, Mars, Jupiter, Venus and Mercury will be visible

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



Explore the Universe:

Winter Constellations

Auriga

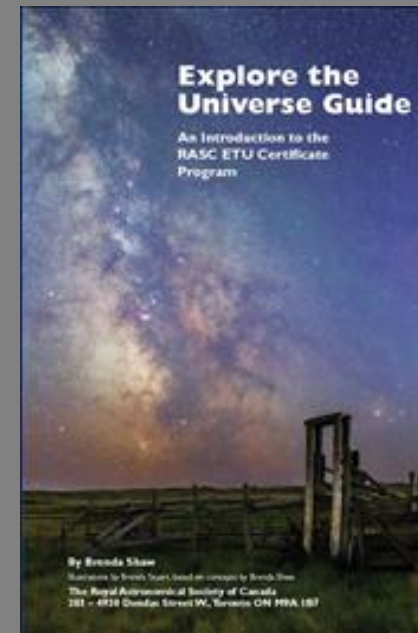
Gemini

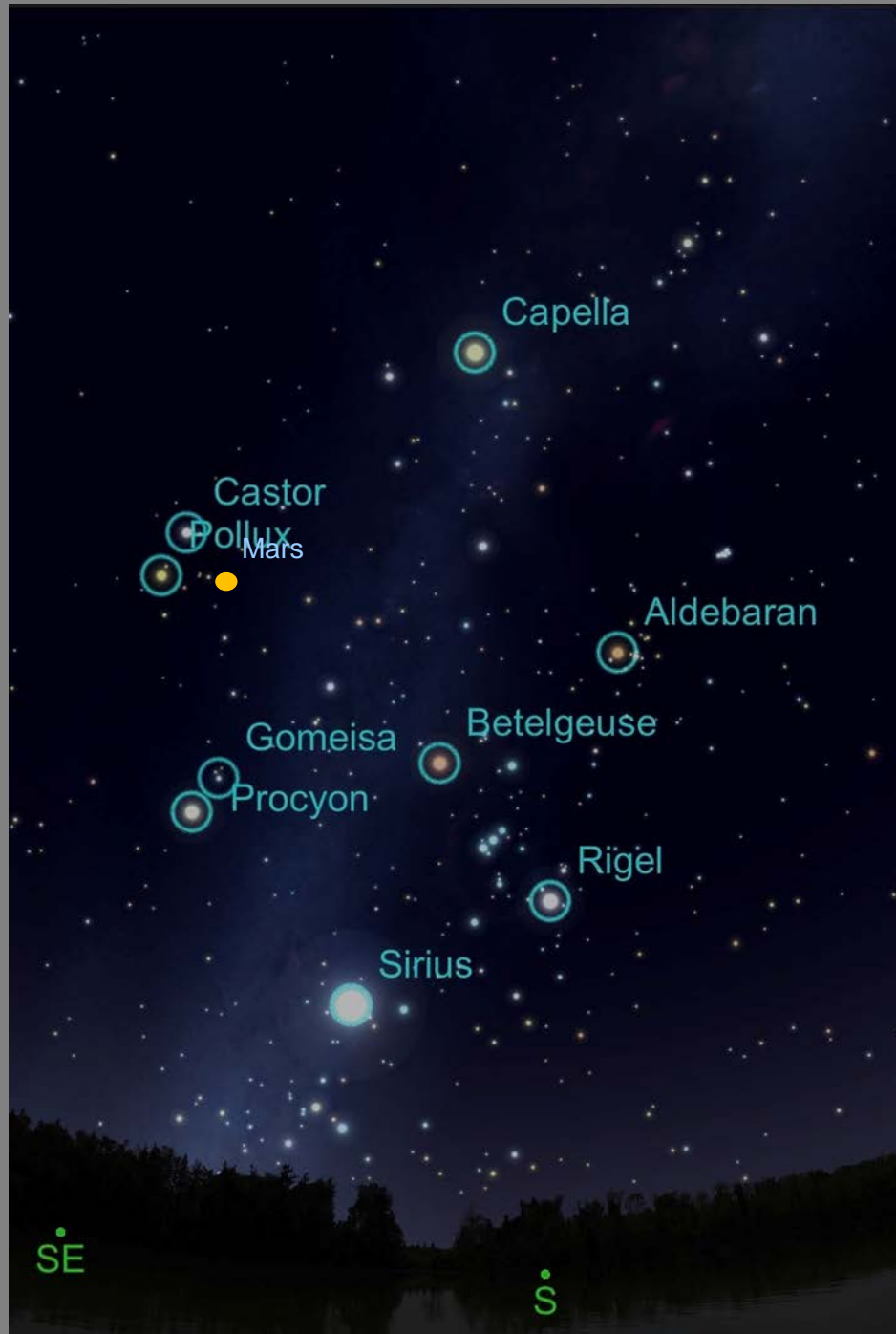
Taurus

Orion

Canis Major

Canis Minor





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)

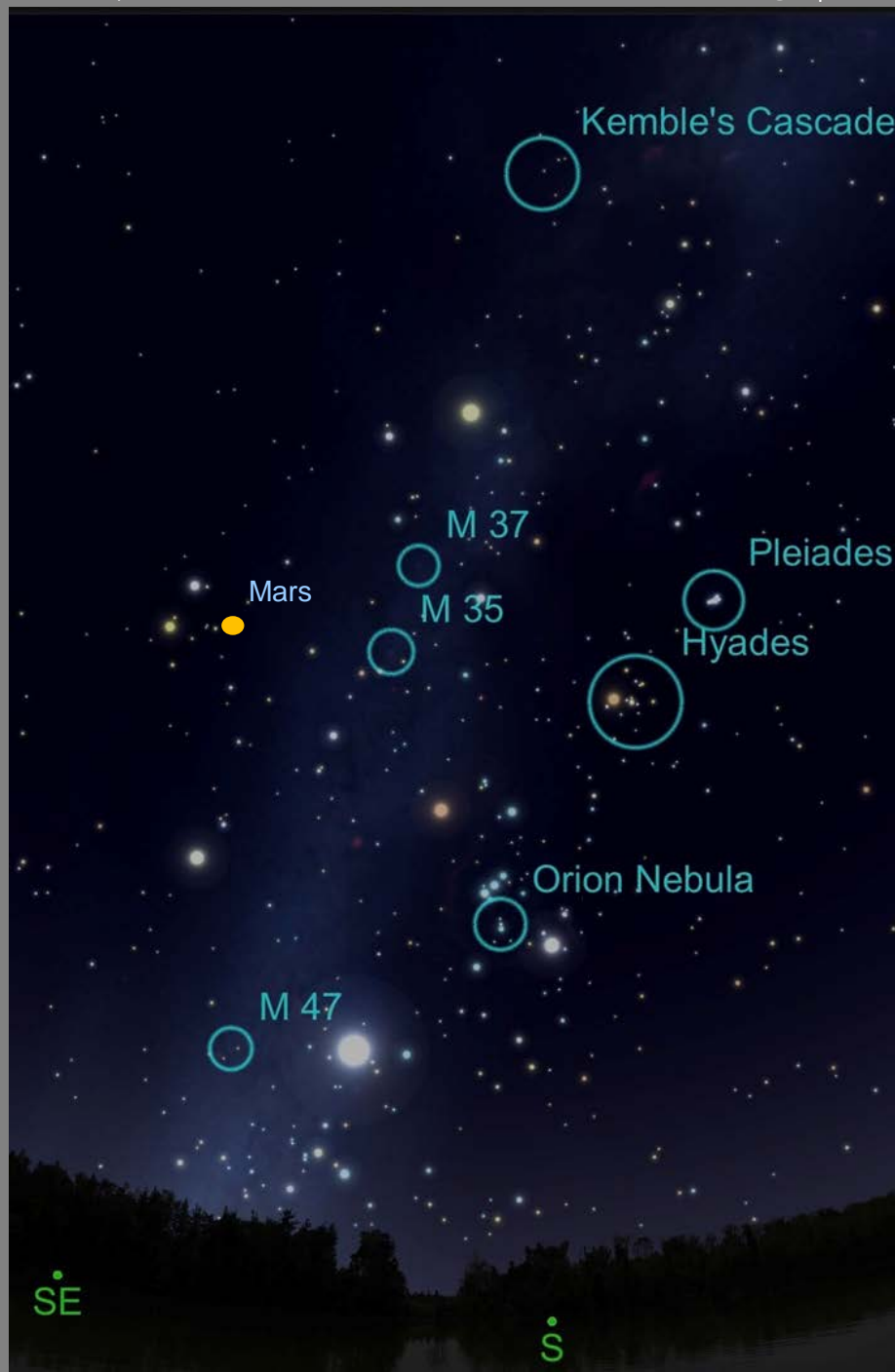
#45 Castor

Gomeisa

N = Navigation

all good for Syn Scan alignment

Explore the Universe: Winter Deep-Sky Objects



Pleiades (Messier 45)



Messier 35 (+ NGC 2158)



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?



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