

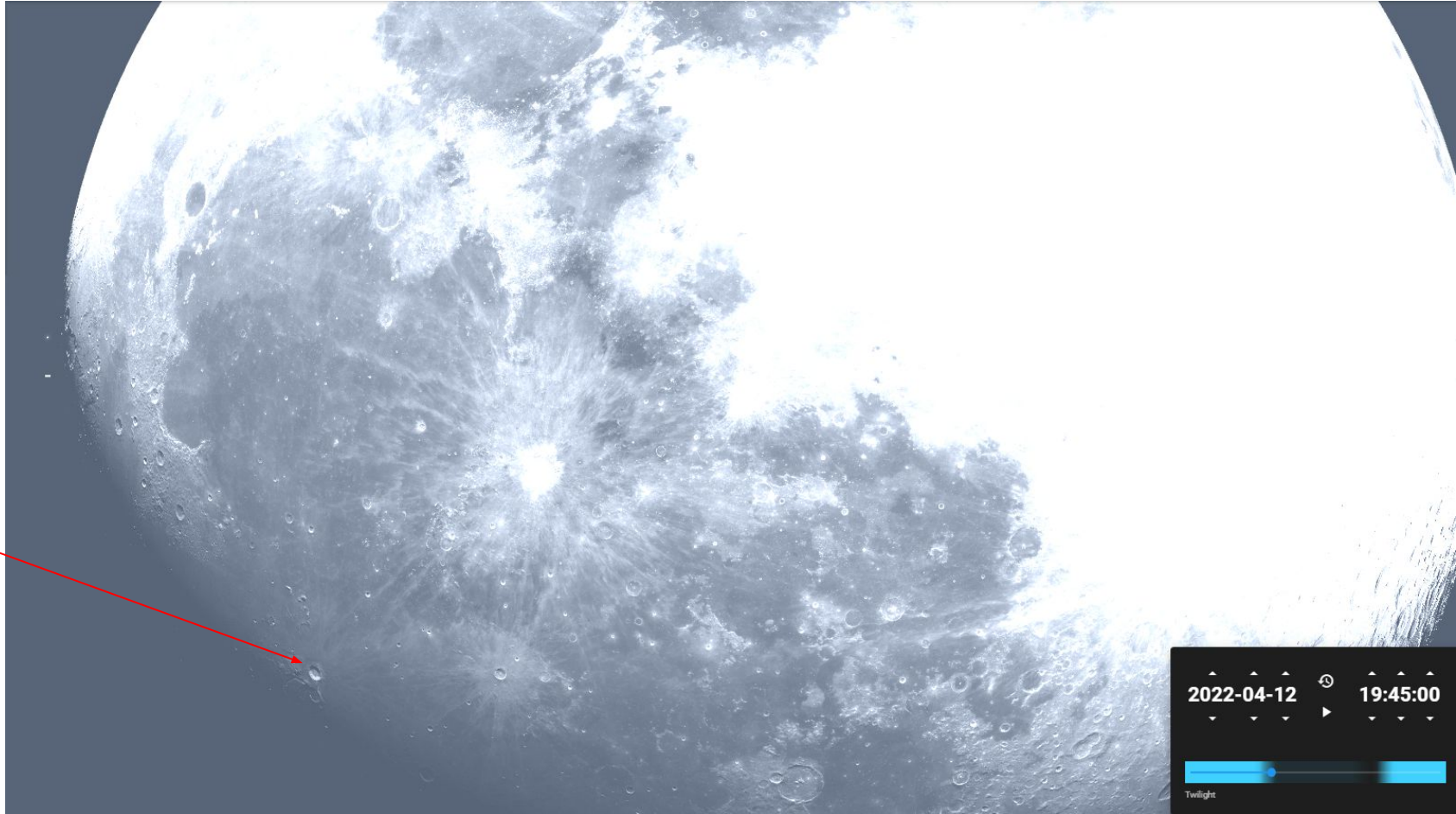
April Antics - 2022

- Moon Shots - sunlight on Aristarchus Crater, Apr 12-13
- Dawn planets all month: Venus, Mars, Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune
 - Mars & Saturn conjunction Apr 5
 - Venus & Neptune conjunction Apr 27
 - Venus & Jupiter conjunction Apr 30
- Evening planets: Mercury, Uranus (Apr 17, 30)
- Meteor watch: Lyrid meteor shower (Apr 14-30, peak April 22)
- Asteroid watch: Ceres tracking near Taurus all month
- Constellations: best views of Antlia, Crater, Hydra, Leo, Leo Minor, Sextans, Ursa Major this month

Moon Shots - Aristarchus Crater, Apr 12-13

visible Apr 12-26

Aristarchus



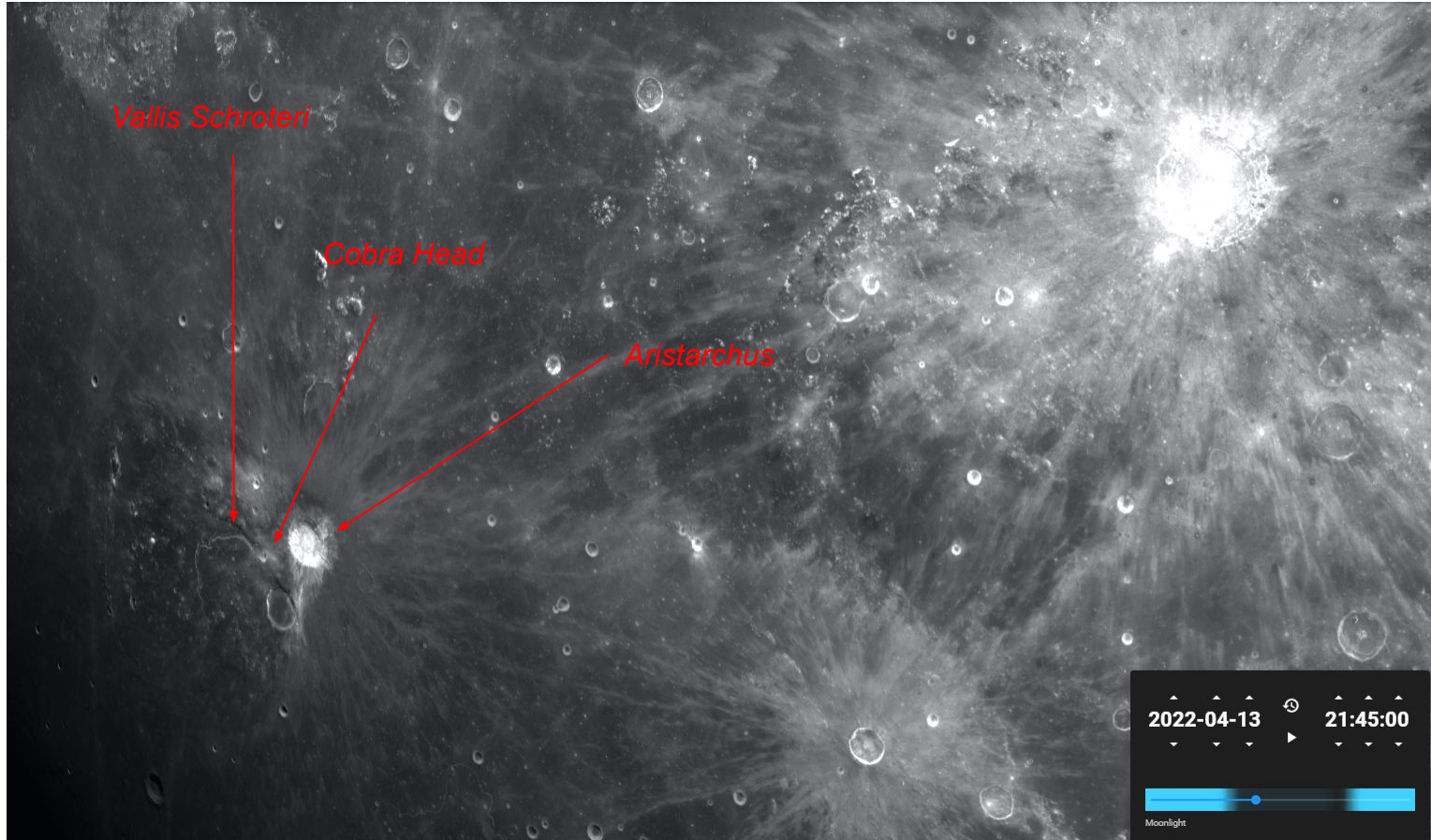
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Twilight

Moon Shots - Aristarchus Crater, Apr 12-13



25 mile diameter
brightest crater
very young, ~450 mya
considered for Apollo 18

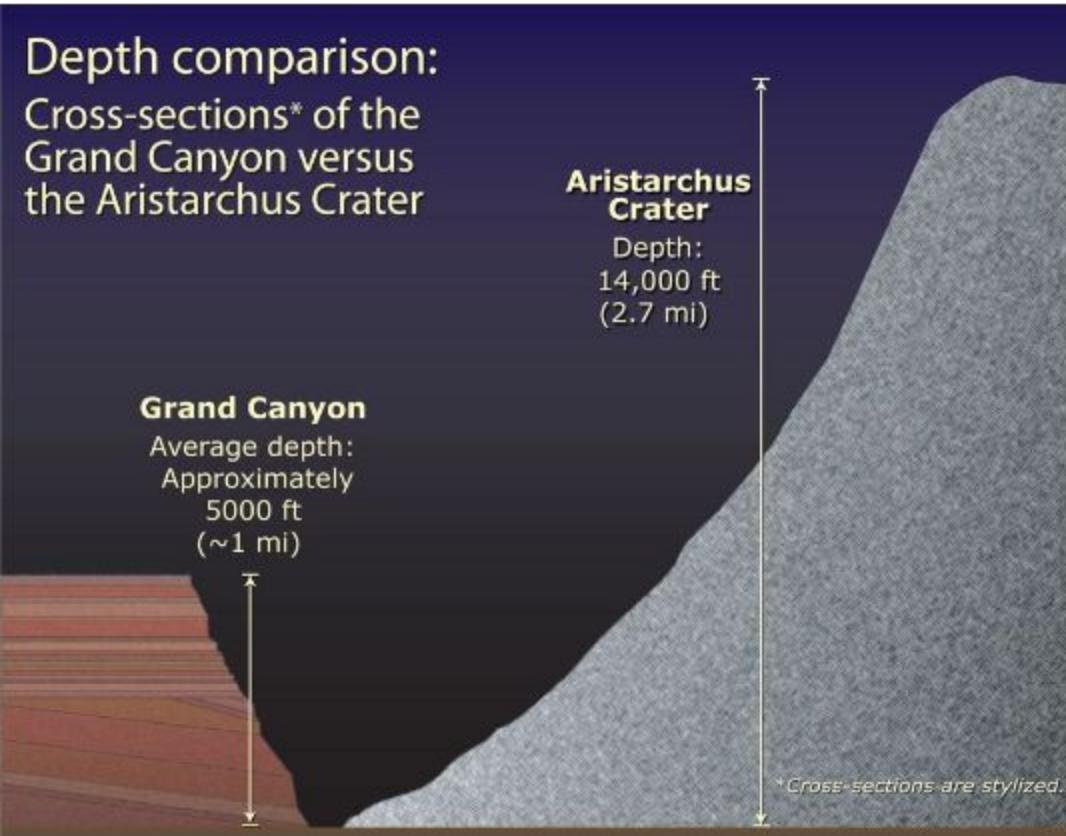


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Moonlight

Moon Shots - Aristarchus Crater, Apr 12-13

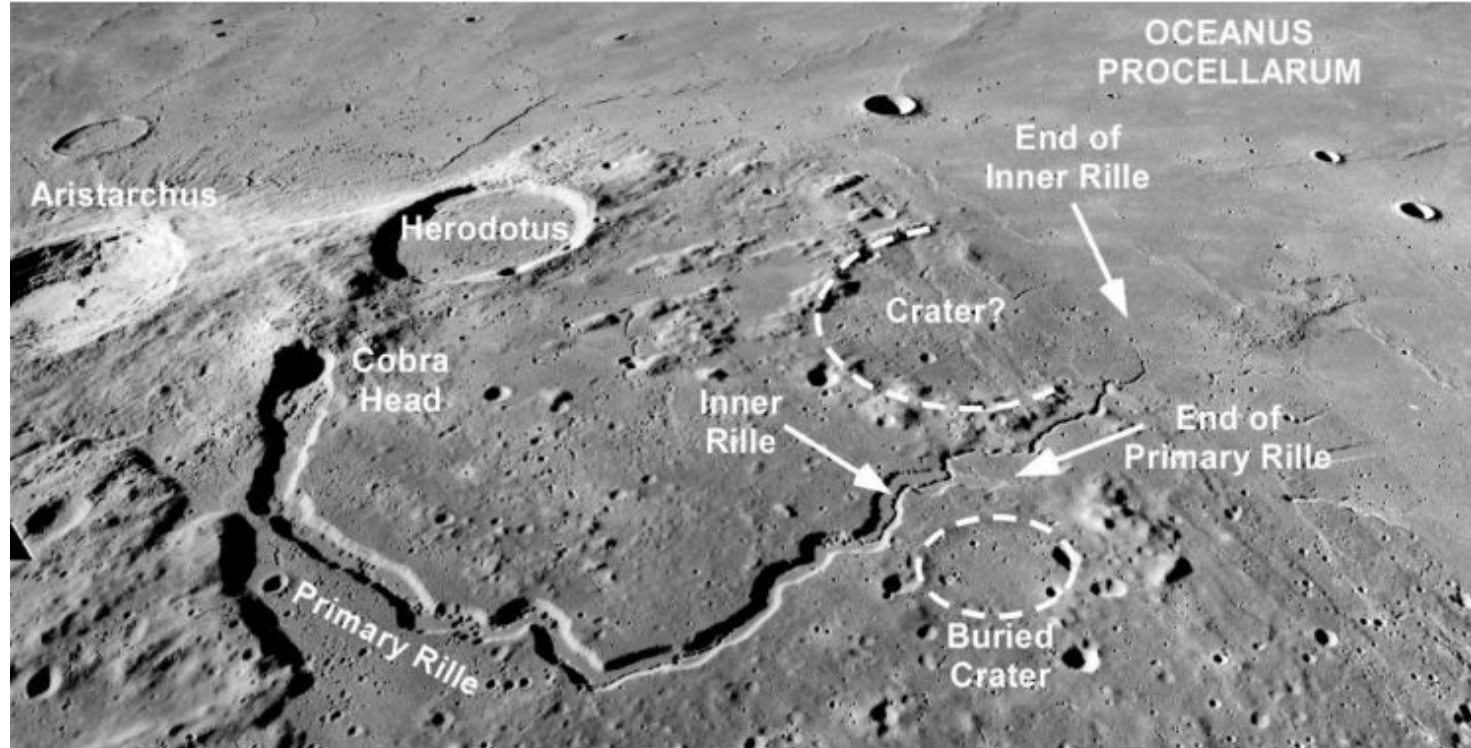


Aristarchus (center) and Herodotus
(right) from Apollo 15. NASA photo.

Moon Shots - Vallis Schroteri (Schroter's Valley)

Largest valley on Moon - volcanic lava channel(s)

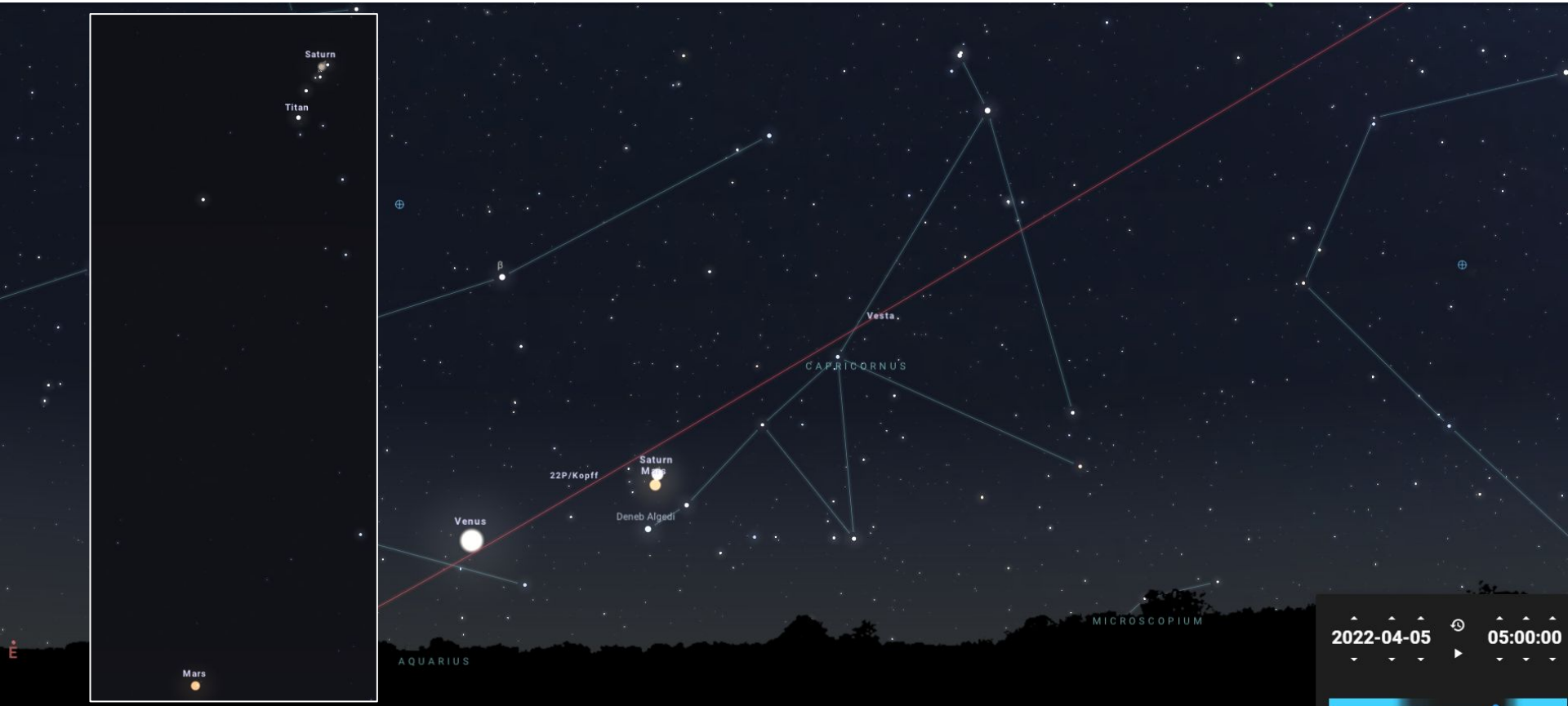
Comparable to Grand Canyon - 160 km long, up to 11 km wide, almost 0.5 km deep



Oblique view of Vallis Schröteri rille. Source: [LROC blog](#)

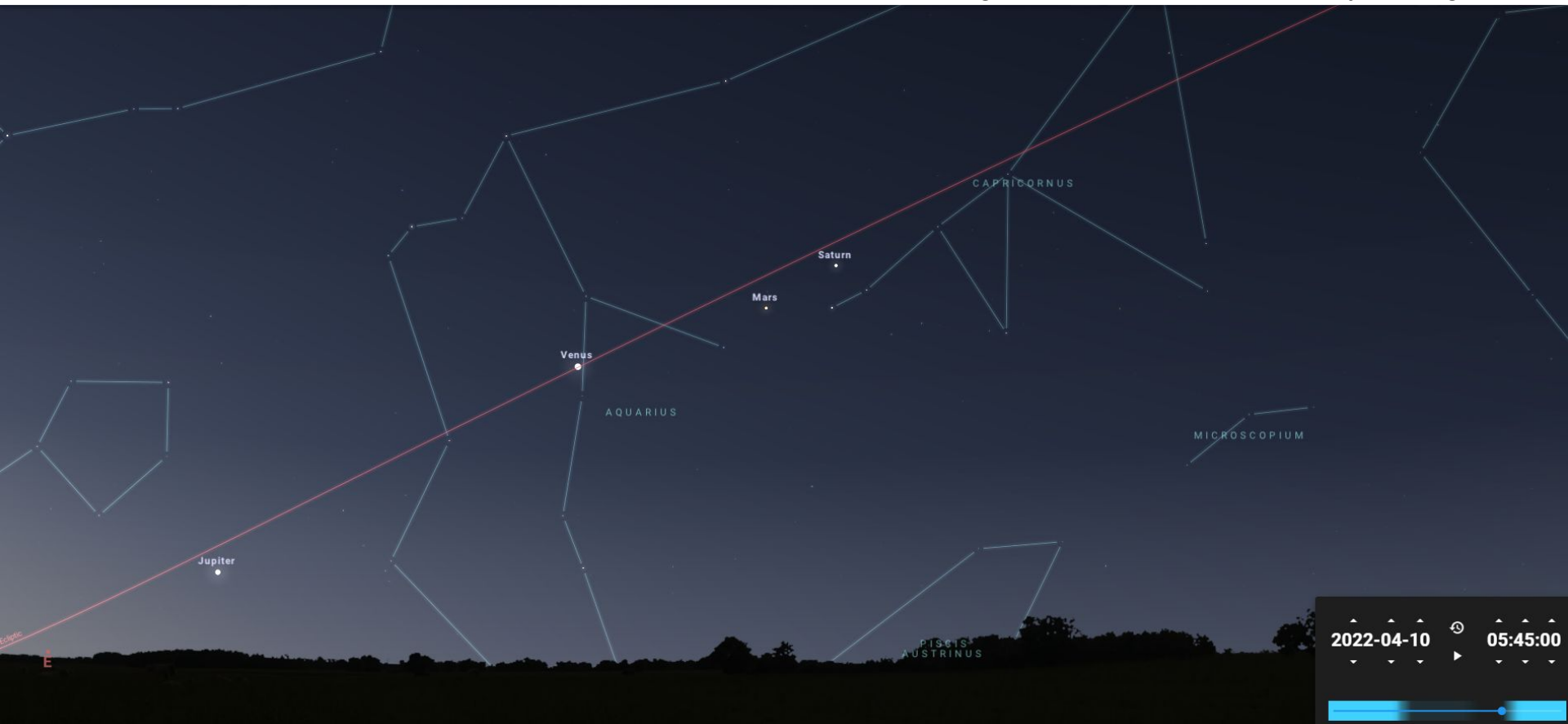
Dawn Planets - April 5

Mars-Saturn conjunction
Saturn rises 1st, Mars in 2 minutes, Venus 15 minutes later



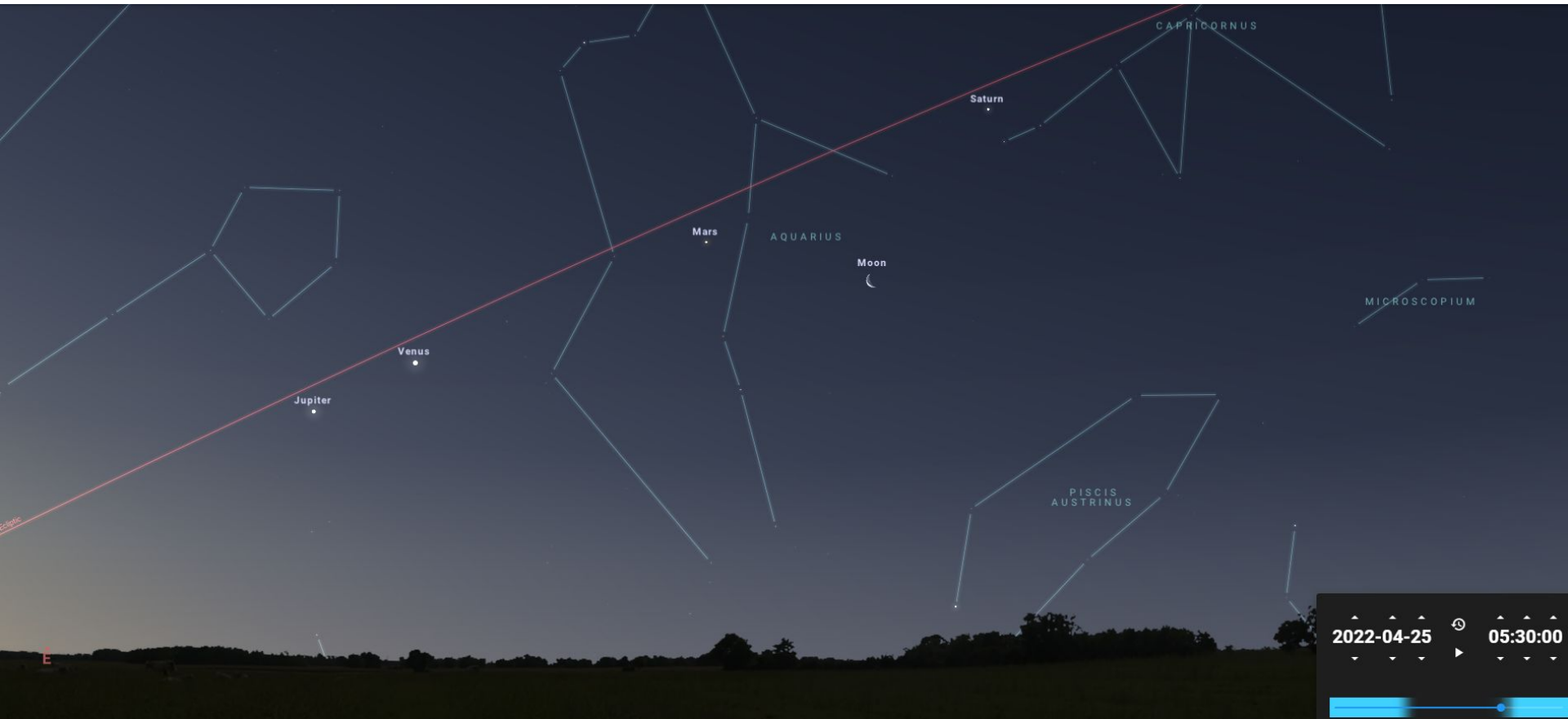
Dawn Planets - April 10

Jupiter appears, rises 0525 hrs
This pattern continues throughout April
Venus moving fastest to east, Saturn barely moving



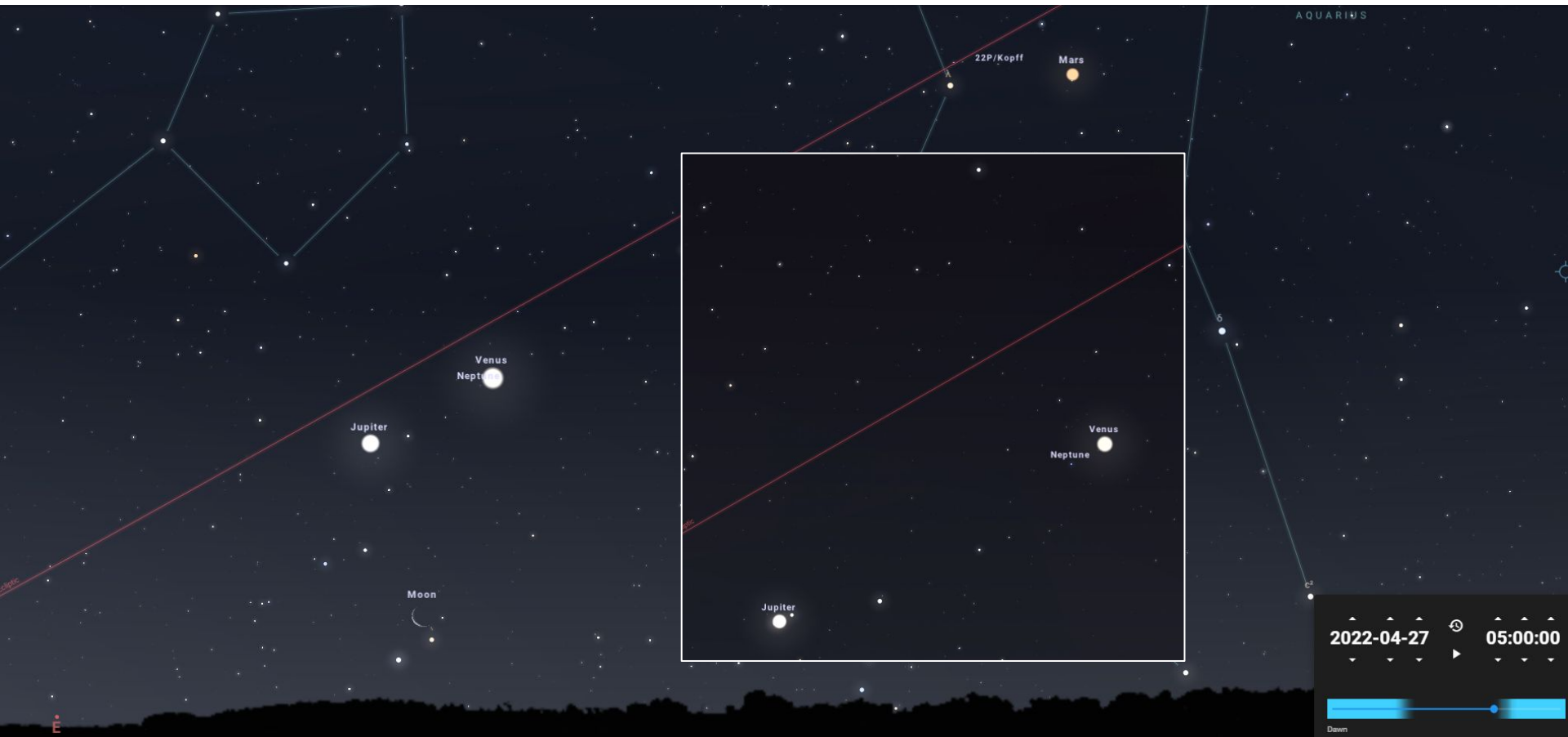
Dawn Planets - April 25

Same arrangement, crescent Moon appears



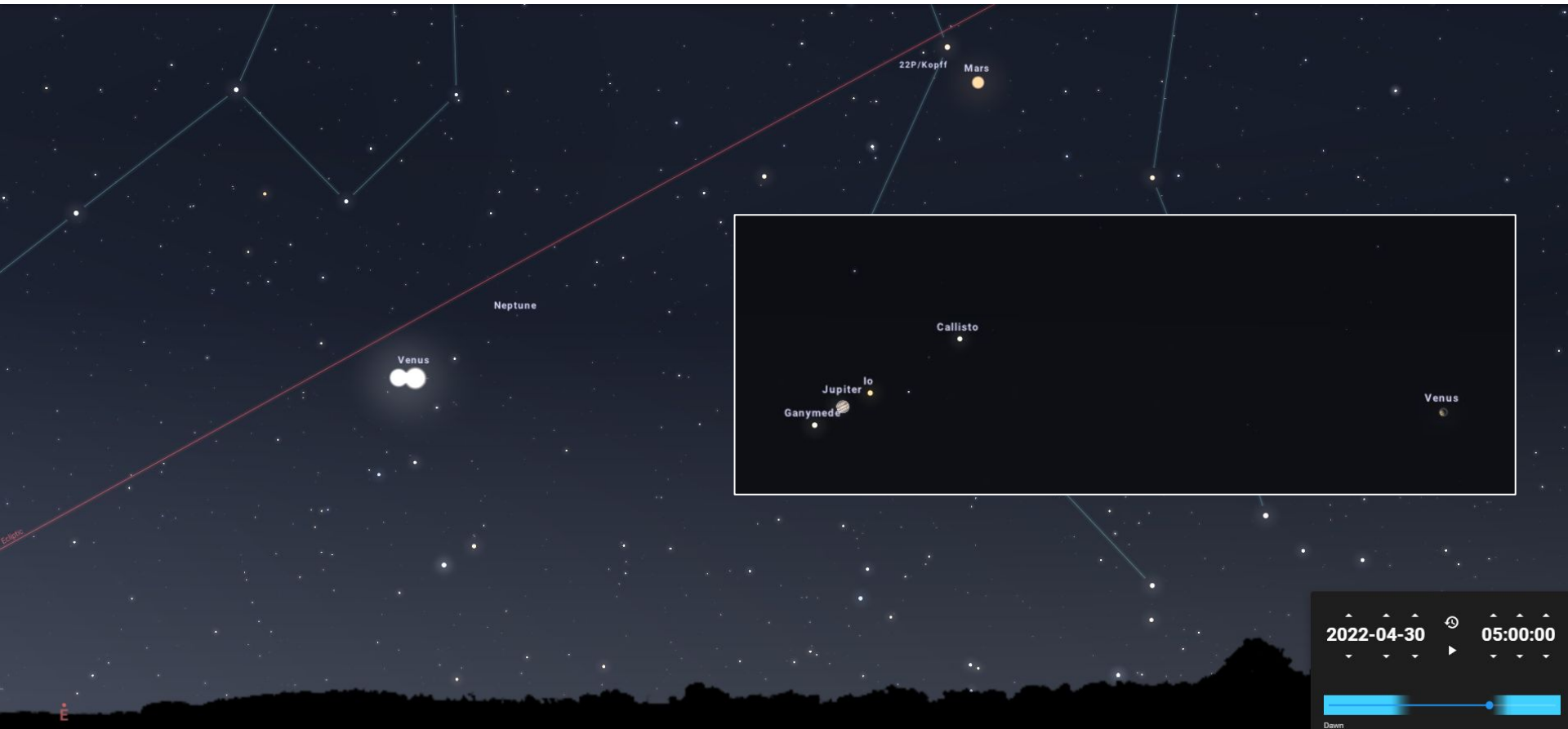
Dawn Planets - April 27

Neptune-Venus conjunction (mag 7.8, visible with good binoculars or small telescope within an hour of Venus rising 0420 hrs)



Dawn Planets - April 30

Venus-Jupiter conjunction, more occurrences over next few years, but none come this close at an elongation well away from Sun until November 2039



Evening Planets

Mercury/Uranus at twilight - April 17

Mercury's best evening appearance this year
Stand 2 deg apart, share same binocular field
Uranus moving downward, Mercury upward
during April



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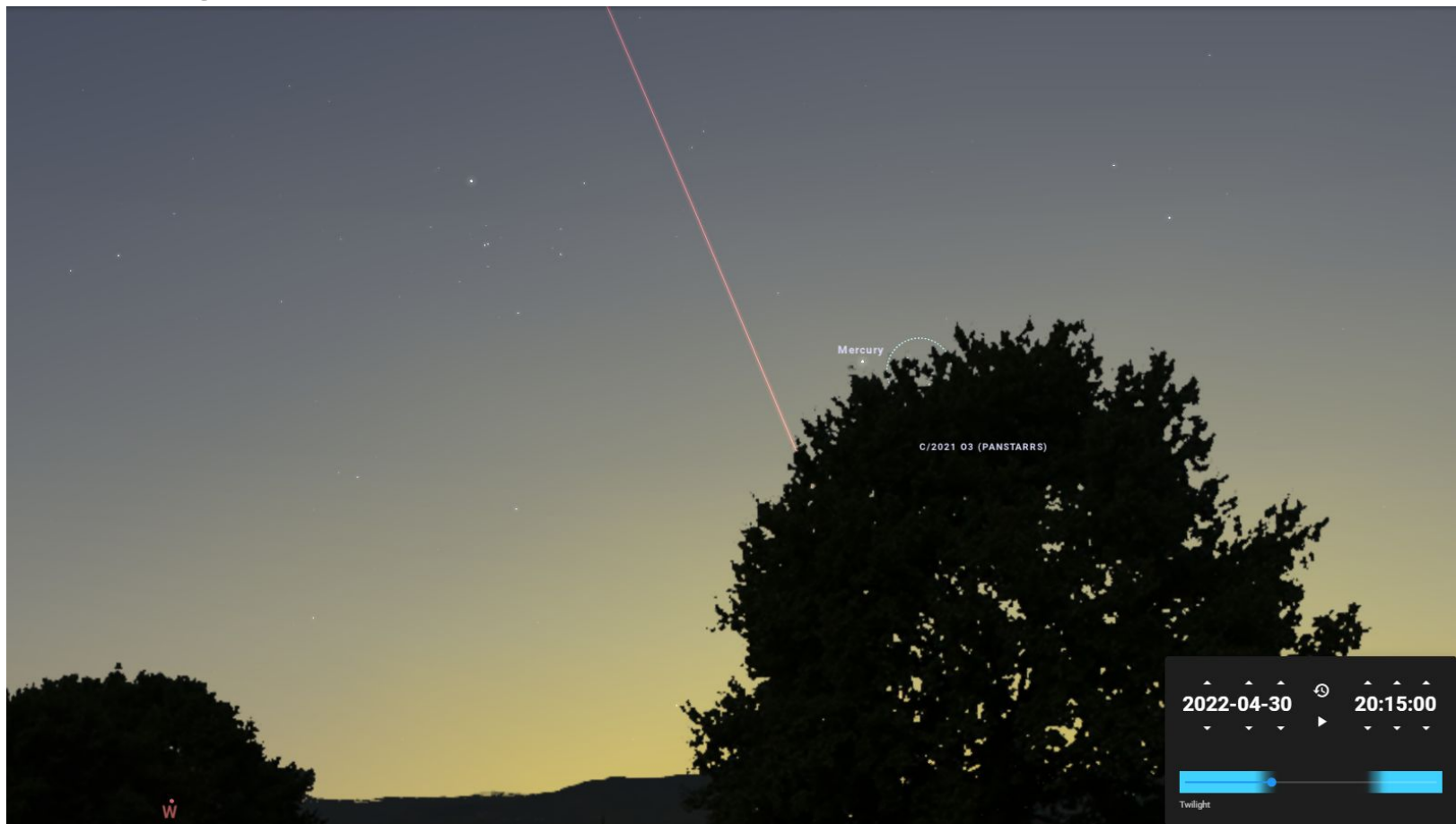


Twilight

Evening Planets

Mercury at twilight - April 30

Superior conjunction with the Sun on April 2
Greatest elongation on April 29, next to Pleiades



Mercury

C/2021 O3 (PANSTARRS)

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Twilight

Meteor Watch

Lyrid meteor shower, April 14 - 30

Peak activity April 22, looking SE
Radiant rises early evening before moon
0400 hrs: 80 deg alt, 5-10 per hour

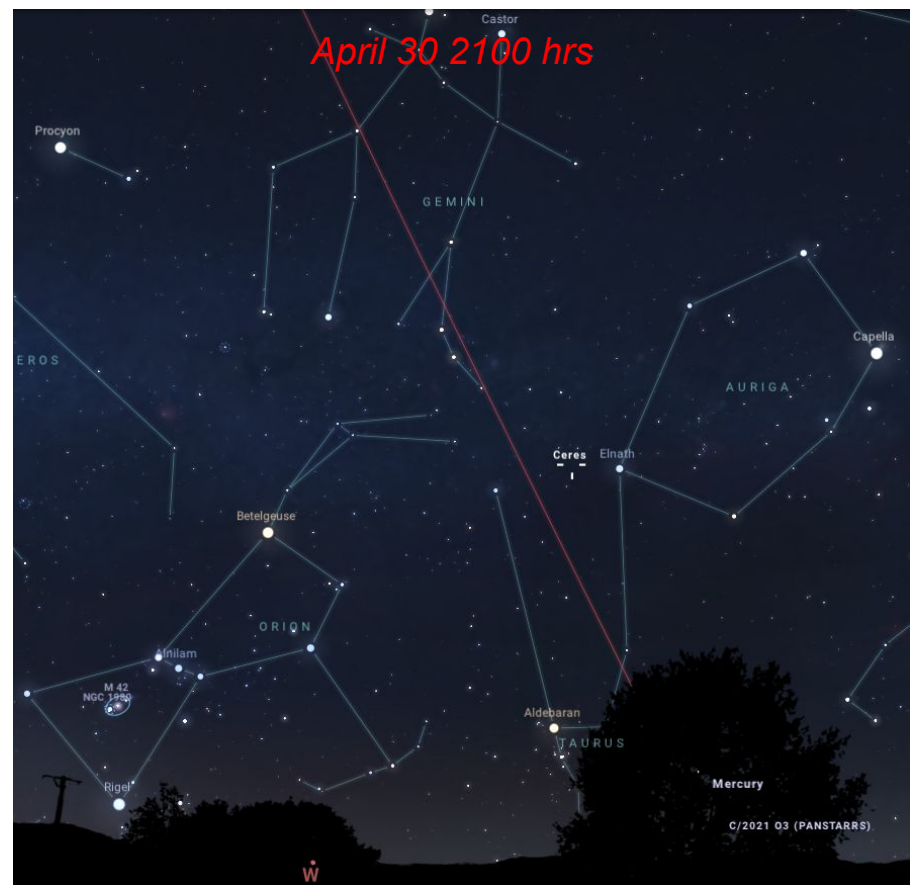


Asteroid Watch

Ceres - "still on the Bull"

Visible with small telescope

Next spring in opposition, closest since 2005 at magnitude 7



April constellations

Apr 15 - 2200 hrs

Antlia, Crater, Hydra, Leo, Leo Minor, Sextans, Ursa Major

Spring Triangle

- Arcturus, Regulus, Spica

Great Diamond of Virgo

- Arcturus, Cor Caroli, Denebola, Spica

April Deep Sky Objects

- 1 - M82 (Cigar Galaxy)
- 2 - M101 (Pinwheel Galaxy)
- 3 - M97 (Owl Nebula)
- 4 - M66 (Leo Triplet)
- 5 - M83 (Southern Pinwheel Galaxy)



M82 (Cigar Galaxy)



M101 (Pinwheel Galaxy)



M97 (Owl Nebula)



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