February 2023 Astronomy Report

- Moon:
  - Phases

- Planets:
  - V, M, J visible every evening; U, N with binoculars
  - Mars high in sky in Taurus all month
  - Mercury visible in early morning early February
  - Saturn not visible, conjunction with Sun on 16th, reappears in morning sky next month

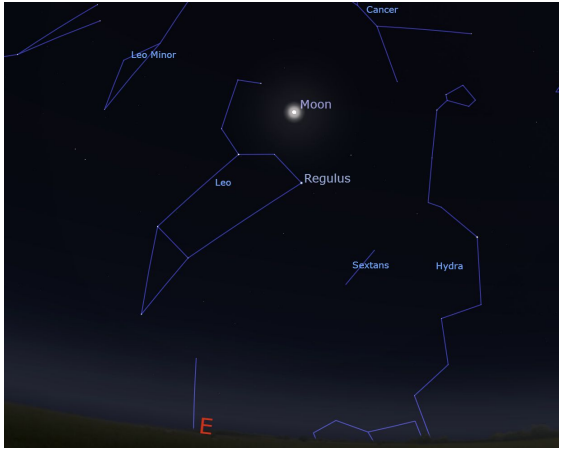
- Meteors:
  - none this month

- Comets:
  - C/2022 E3 (ZTF)

- Constellations:
  - Messier Marathon, Winter Hexagon

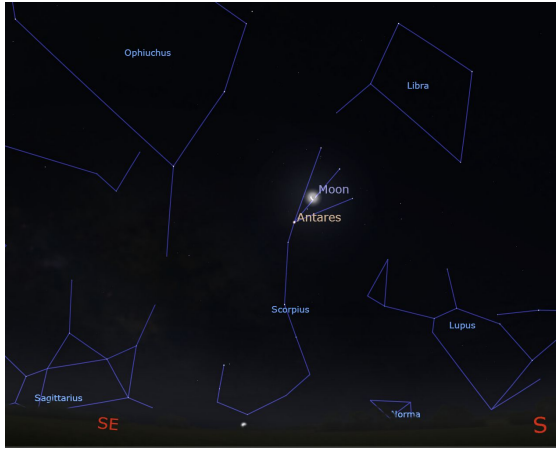
Moon - Phases

February 5 - Full Moon



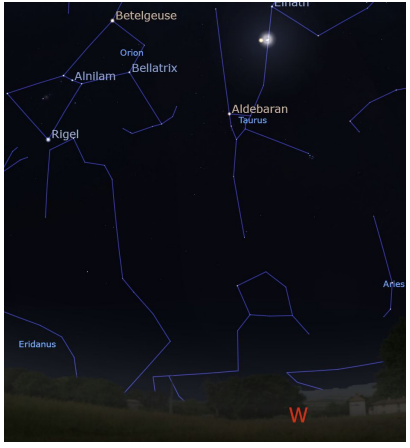
February 4 at apogee (252.5K miles)

February 13 - Last Quarter

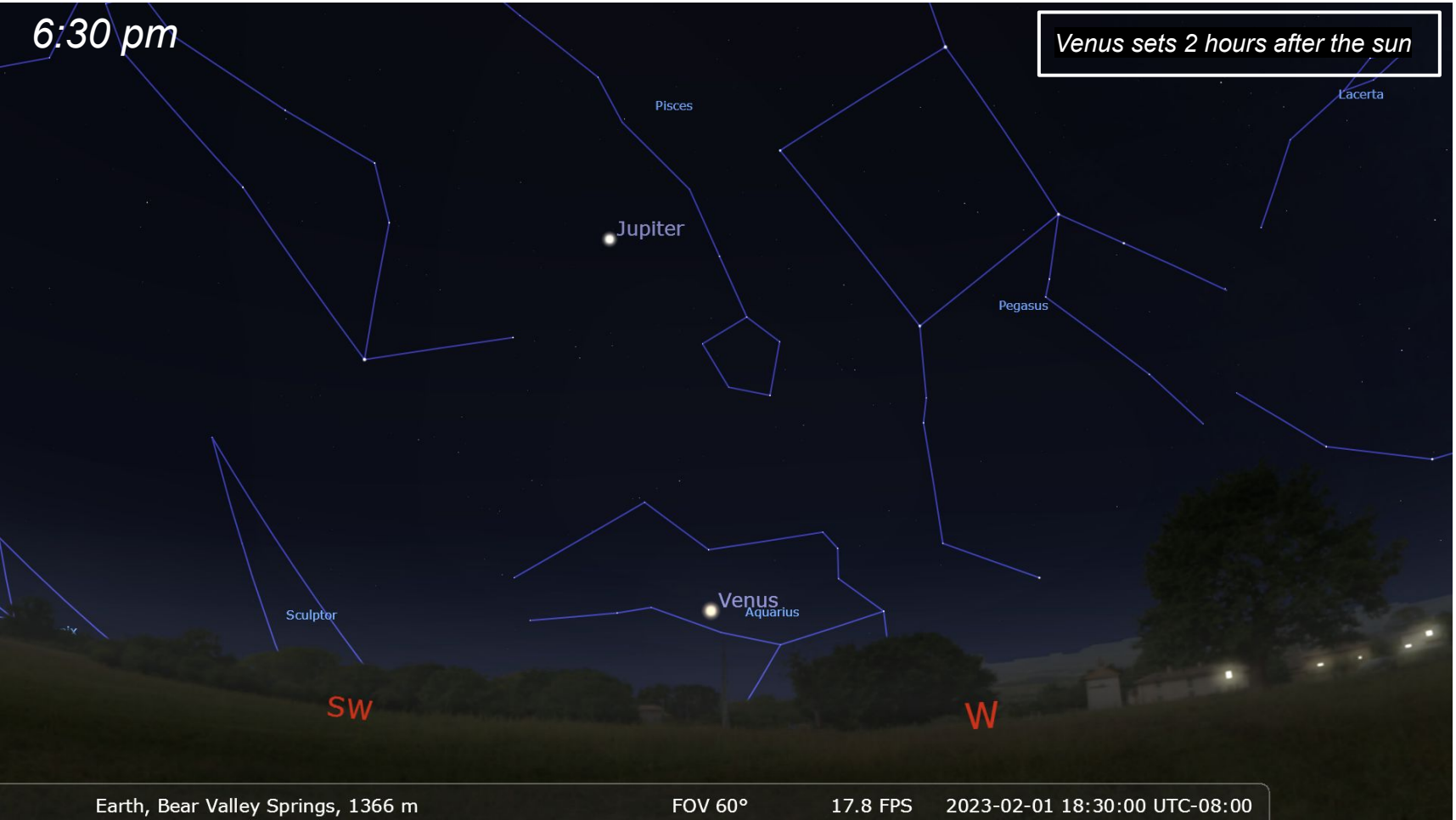


February 19 - New Moon
at perigee (222.6K miles) on 19th

February 27 - First Quarter



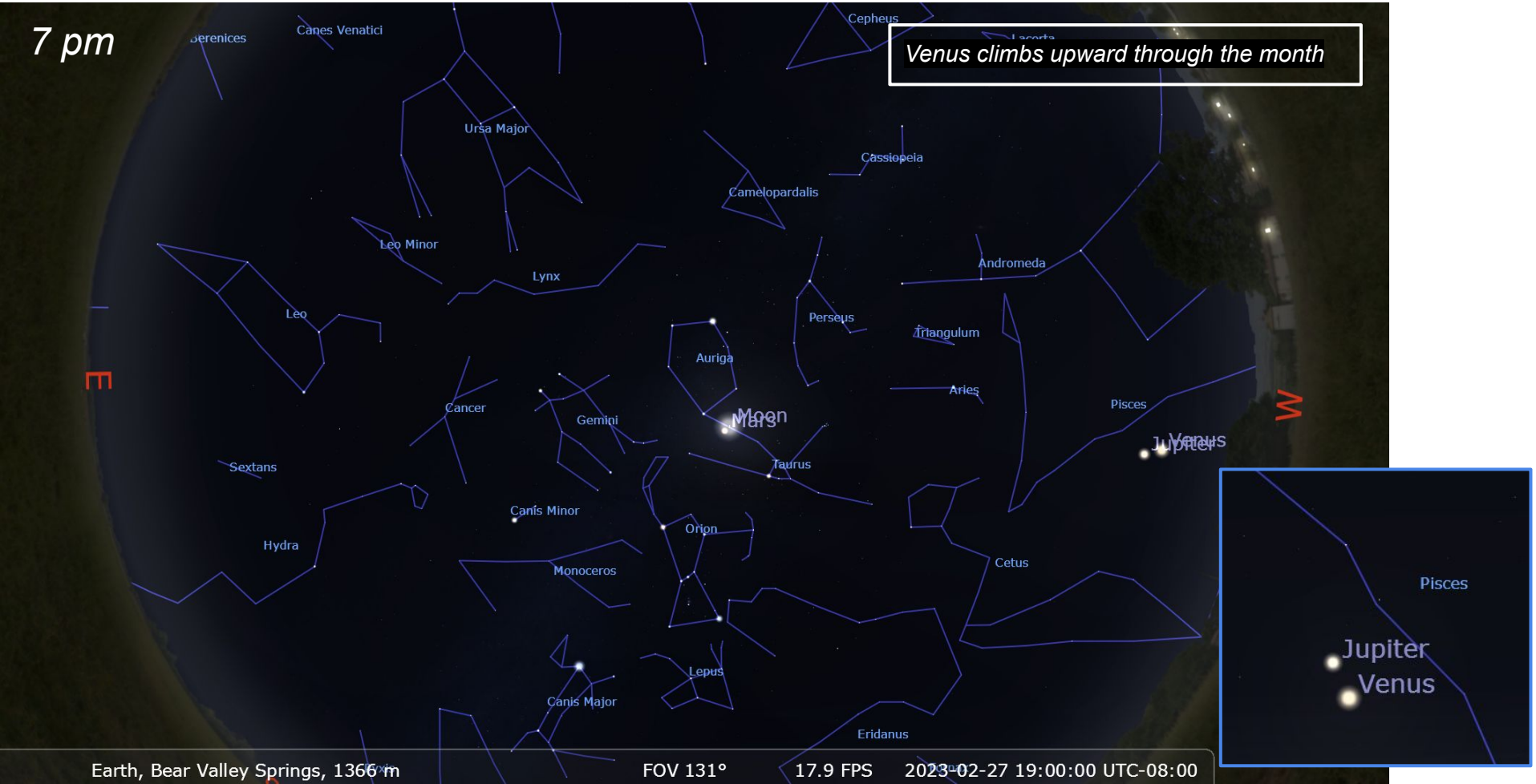
Planets - Jupiter & Venus, February 1



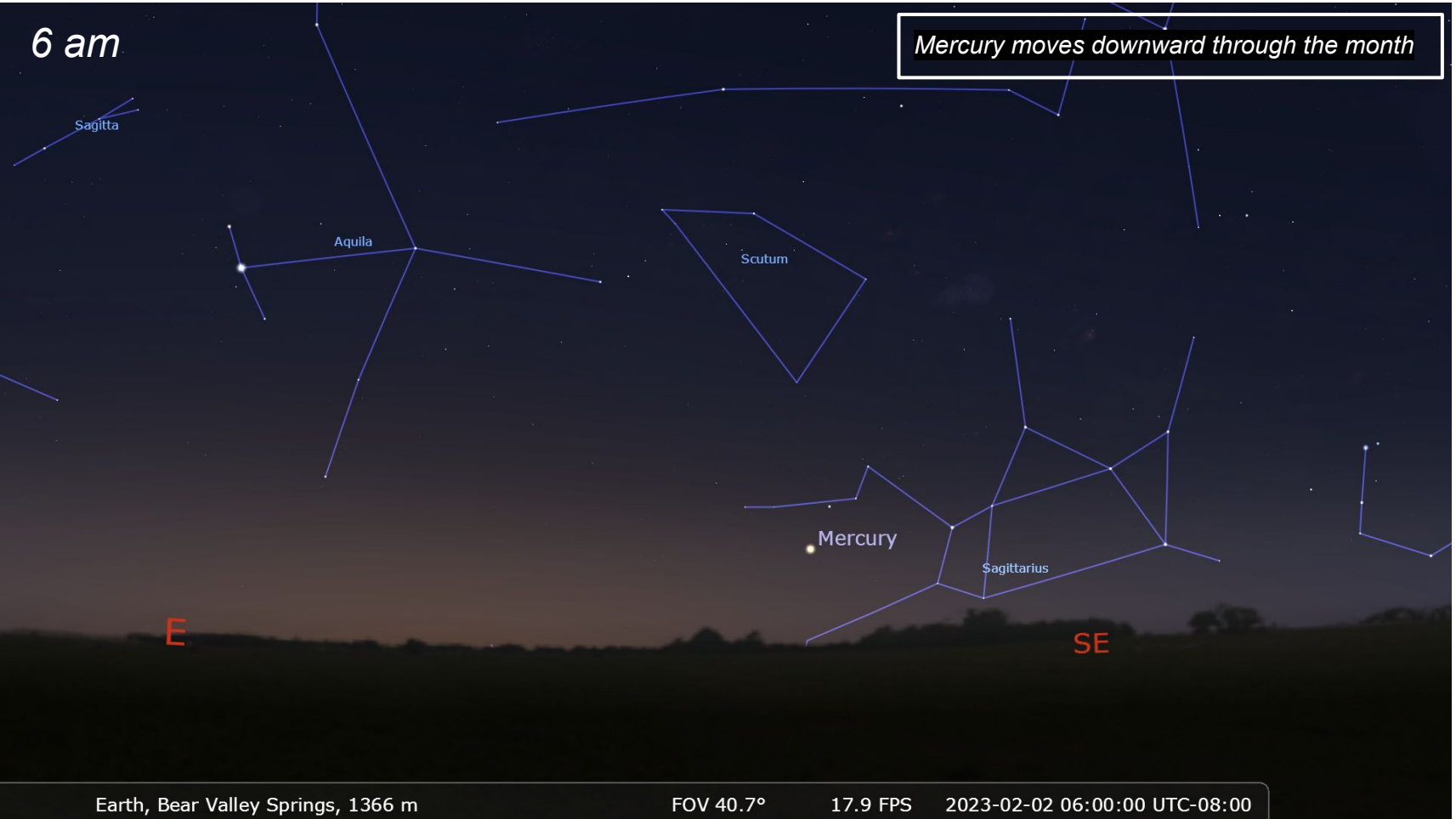
Planets - Jupiter & Venus, February 14

Planets - Jupiter, Venus, crescent Moon, February 21

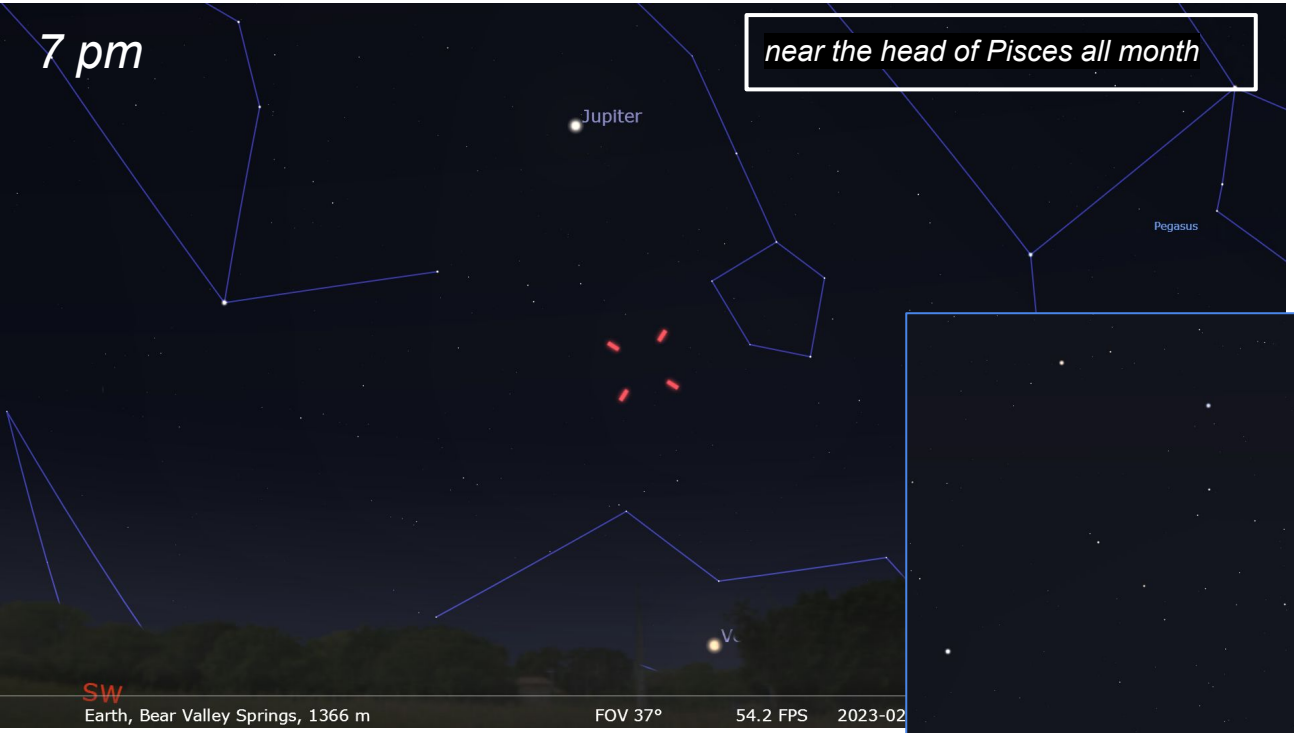
Planets - Moon/Mars & Jupiter/Venus, February 27



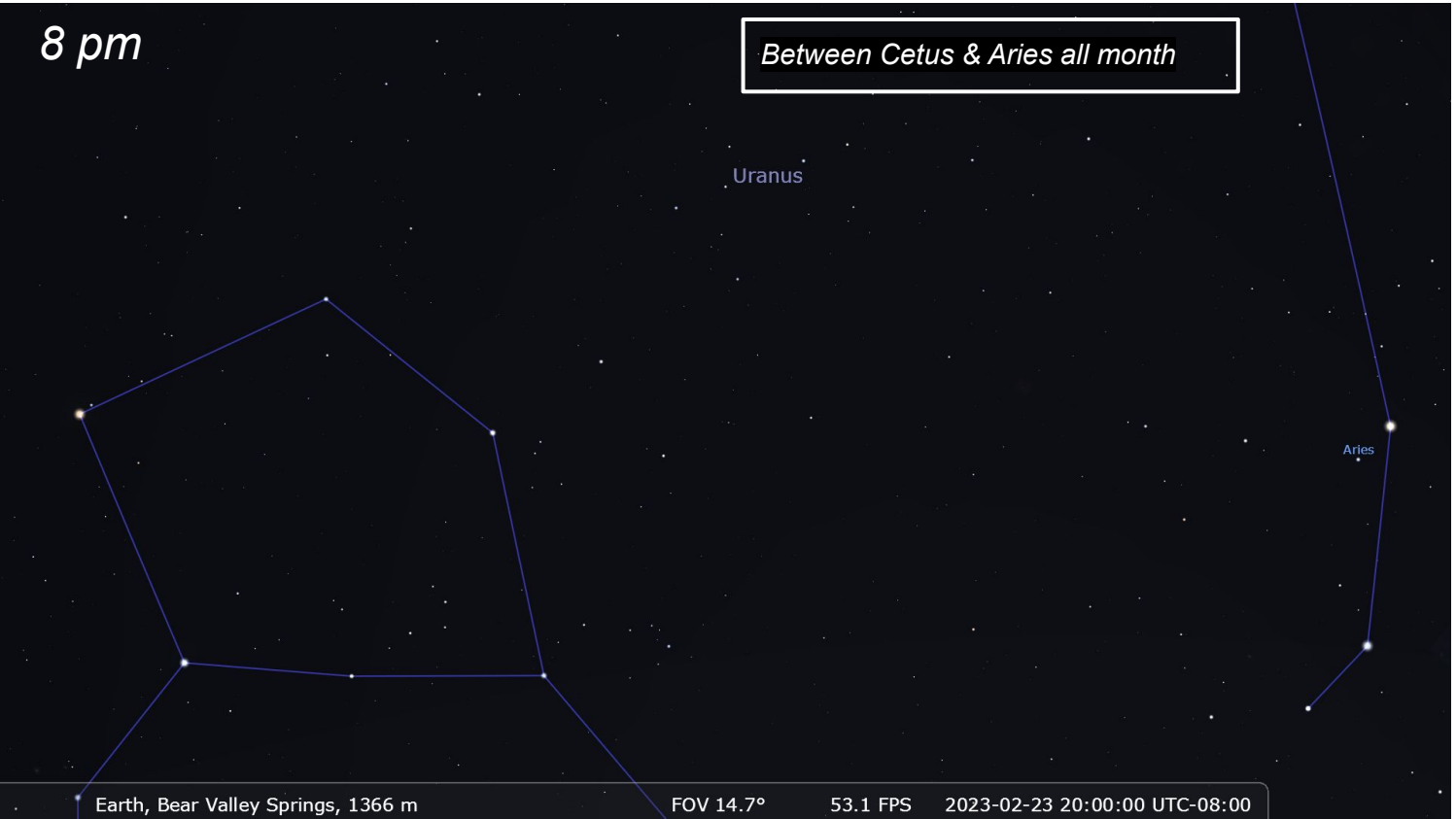
Planets - Mercury, February 2



Planets - Neptune, February 2



Planets - Uranus, February 23



Comets - C/2022 E3 (ZTF)

- *closest to Earth on February 1 (26 million miles)*
- *visible in the evening, fading during the month*
- *rapid motion - 6 deg per night first week of Feb, moving south*

photo by Sean Spratt

all times 8 pm

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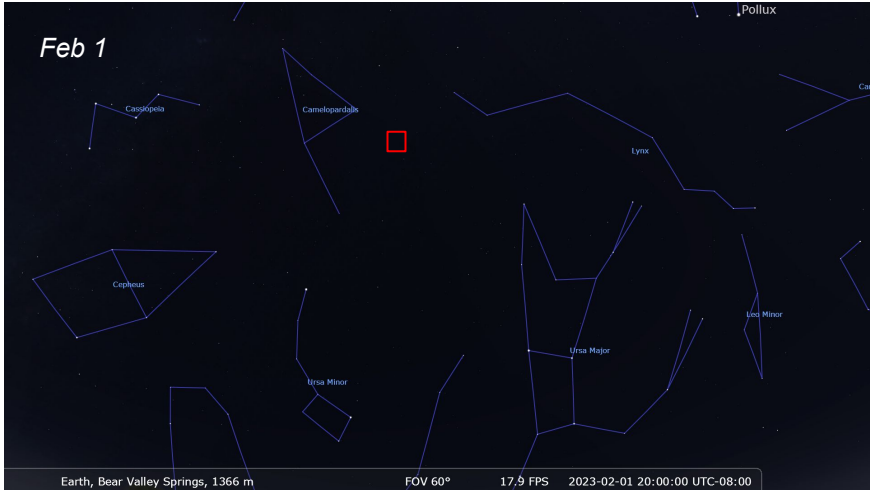


all times 8 pm

February constellations

Dark Sky Star Party - Amberwood Ct

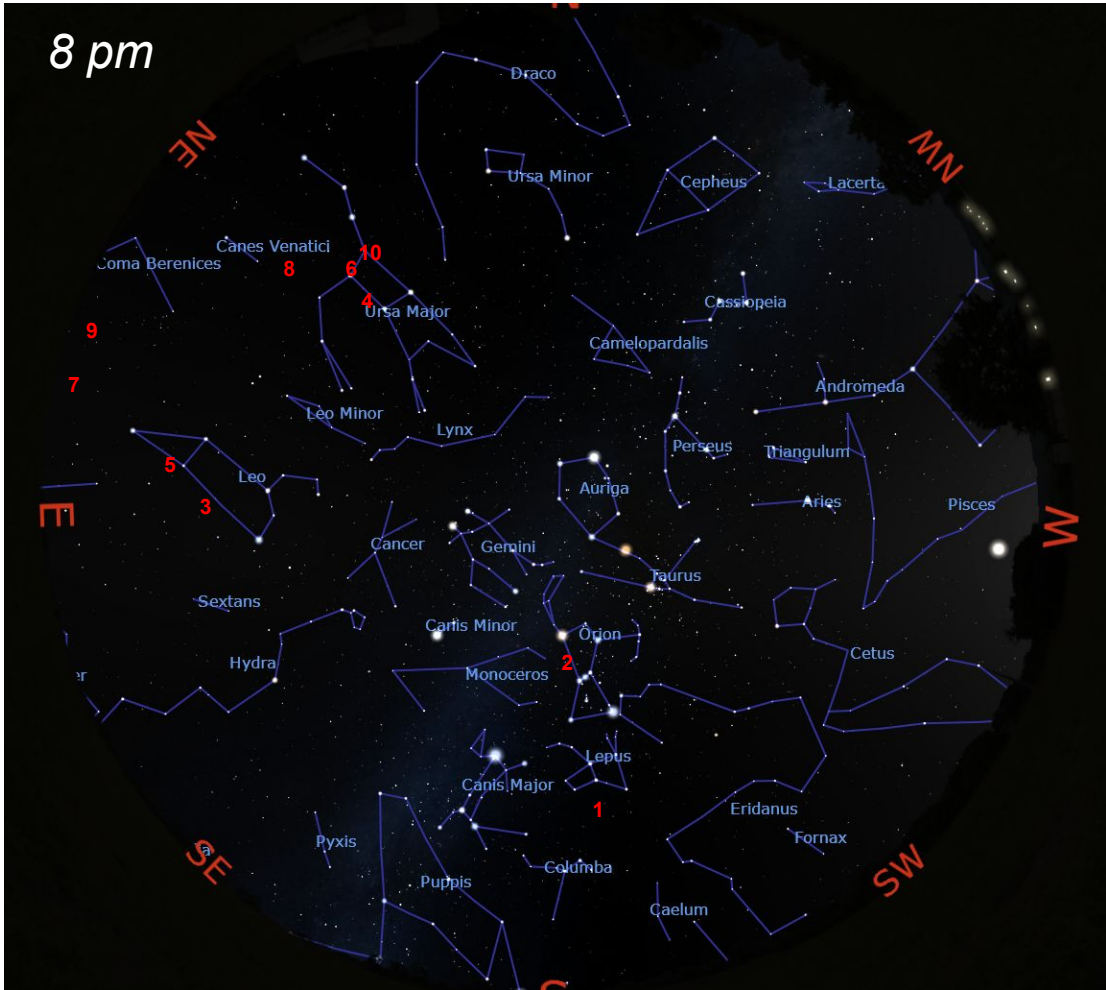
Feb 18th

Auriga, Camelopardalis, Canis Major, Columba, Gemini, Monoceros, Puppis

Messier Marathon

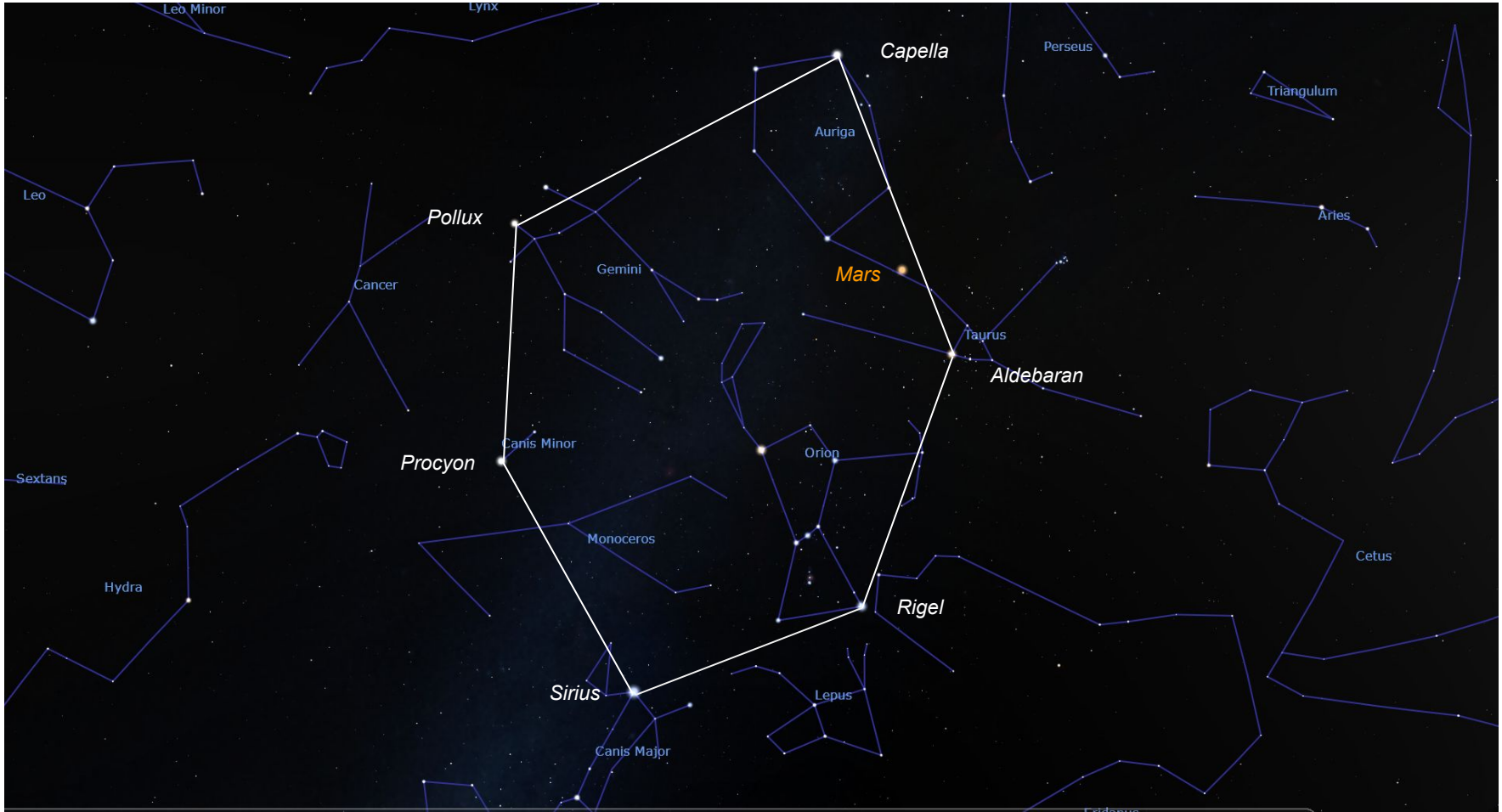
1 - M79
2 - M78
3 - M95, M96, M105
4 - M108
5 - M65, M66 (Leo Triplet)
6 - M109
7 - M84, M86, M98, M99
8 - M106
9 - M100 (Blowdryer Galaxy), M85
10 - M40

all M objects visible in Northern Hemisphere in a single night mid-March to early April



Sources: Astronomy magazine (Feb 2023); Stellarium

Winter Hexagon

Dark Sky Star Party

Source: constellation-guide.com