



February 2026 Astronomy Report



- **Moon:**
 - Phases
 - Total lunar eclipse, March 3
- **Planets:**
 - Evening: Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Jupiter, Mercury
 - Morning: Jupiter
 - *Venus & Mars not visible this month*
- **Comets/Asteroids/Meteor Showers:**
 - Comet C/2024 E1 (Wierzchos)
- **Dark Sky Star Party:**
 - 22171 Cody Ct - BVS, February 13
- **Public Viewing:**
 - Cub Lake, February 21

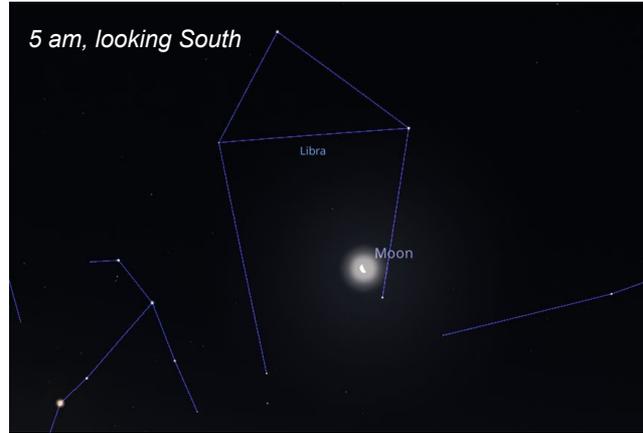
Moon - Phases

February 17 - New Moon

February 1 - Full Moon (Cancer)



February 9 - Last Quarter (Libra)



February 24 - First Quarter (Taurus)



Apogee (251K miles) - 10th
Perigee (230K miles) - 24th

Moon - Total lunar eclipse, March 3

Starts - 1:51 am

Totality - 3:04 am to 4:04 am

Ends - 5:16 am

looking West



Sunlight scattered from Earth's atmosphere bathes the totally eclipsed Moon in a reddish glow.



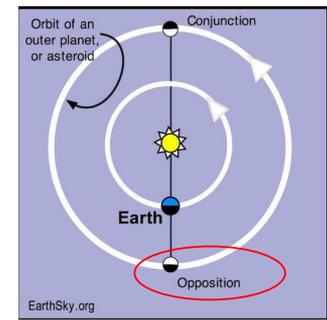
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Evening/Morning Planets: Jupiter - (Gemini)

Jupiter is visible all night throughout February after reaching opposition last month.



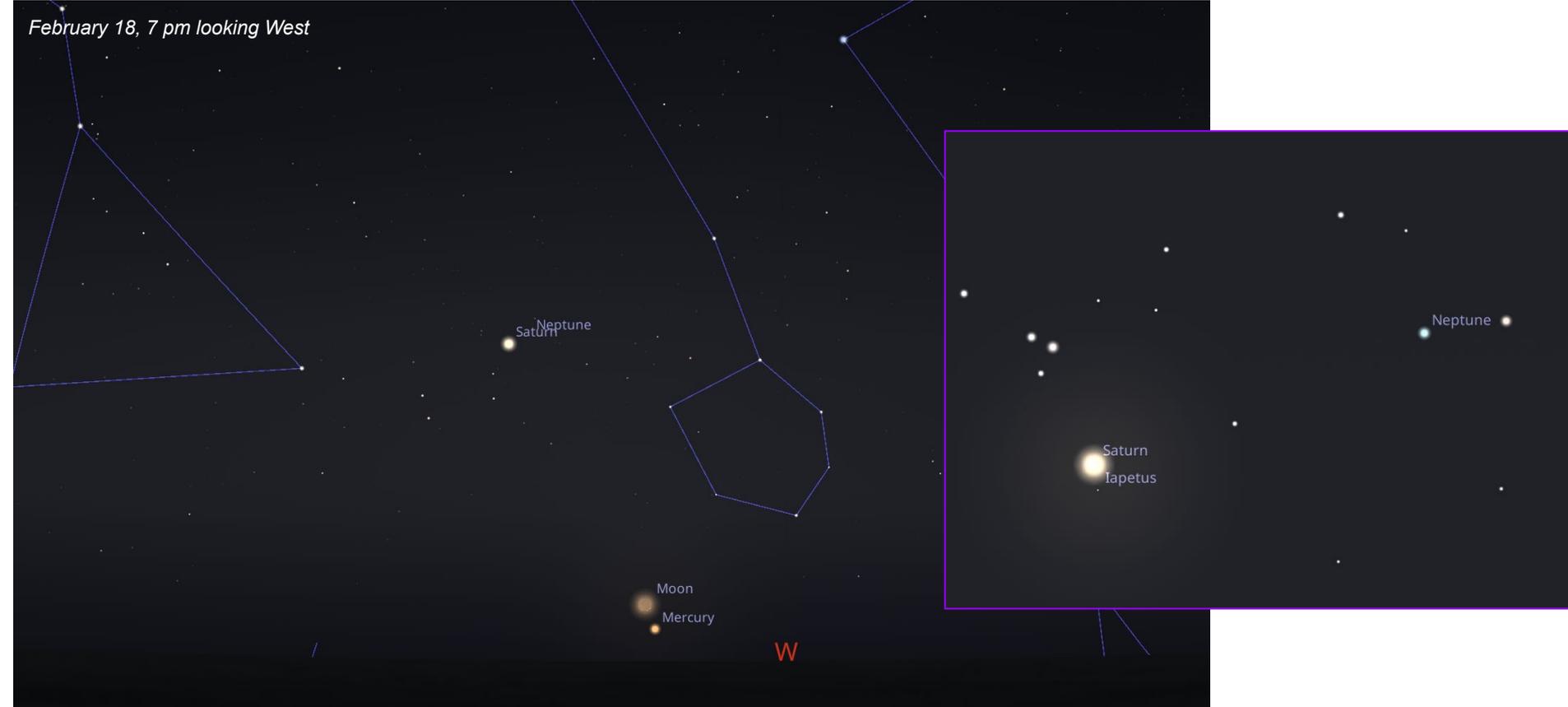
February 18, 7 pm looking SE



Evening Planets: Saturn/Neptune/Mercury - (Aquarius, Pisces)

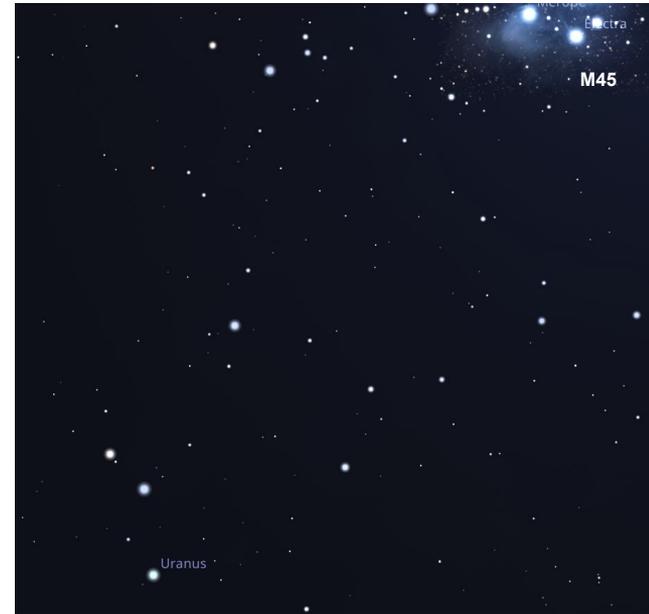
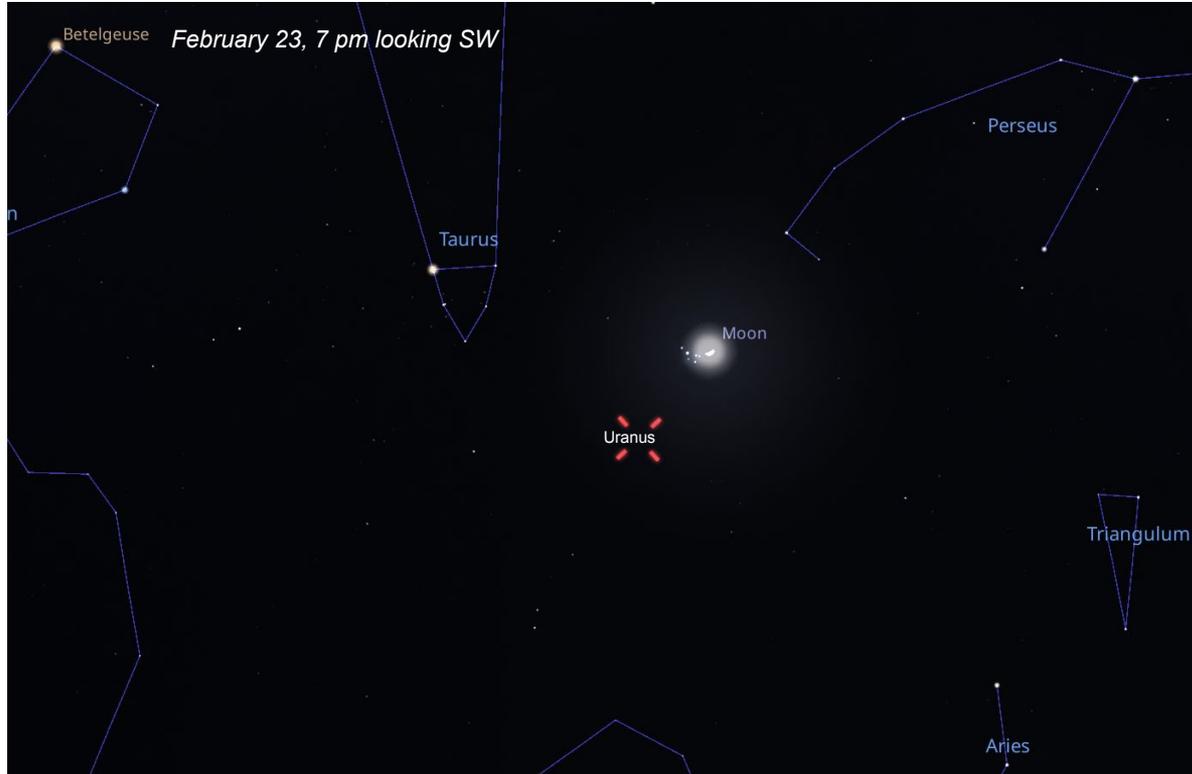
The western sky holds several planets after sunset mid month. On Feb. 18, a thin crescent Moon joins in as well.

February 18, 7 pm looking West



Evening / Morning Planets: Uranus - (Taurus)

On Feb. 23, the Moon is preparing to pass in front of a portion of the Pleiades (M45). Uranus is visible through binoculars nearby (may be hindered by moonlight).





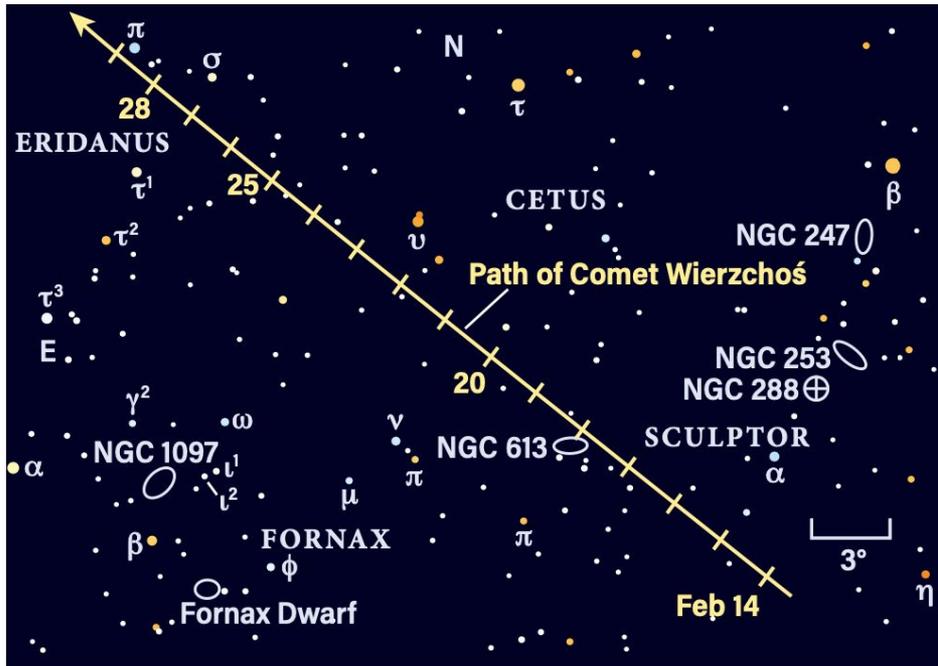
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Comet - C/2024 E1 (Wierzchos)

- 6th magnitude comet visible in the Northern Hemisphere in the second half of February (evening twilight)
- Visible with small telescopes at a dark site



This chart shows the path of Comet Wierzchos in the second half of February. Only deep-sky objects brighter than 10th magnitude are shown. Credit: Astronomy: Roen Kelly





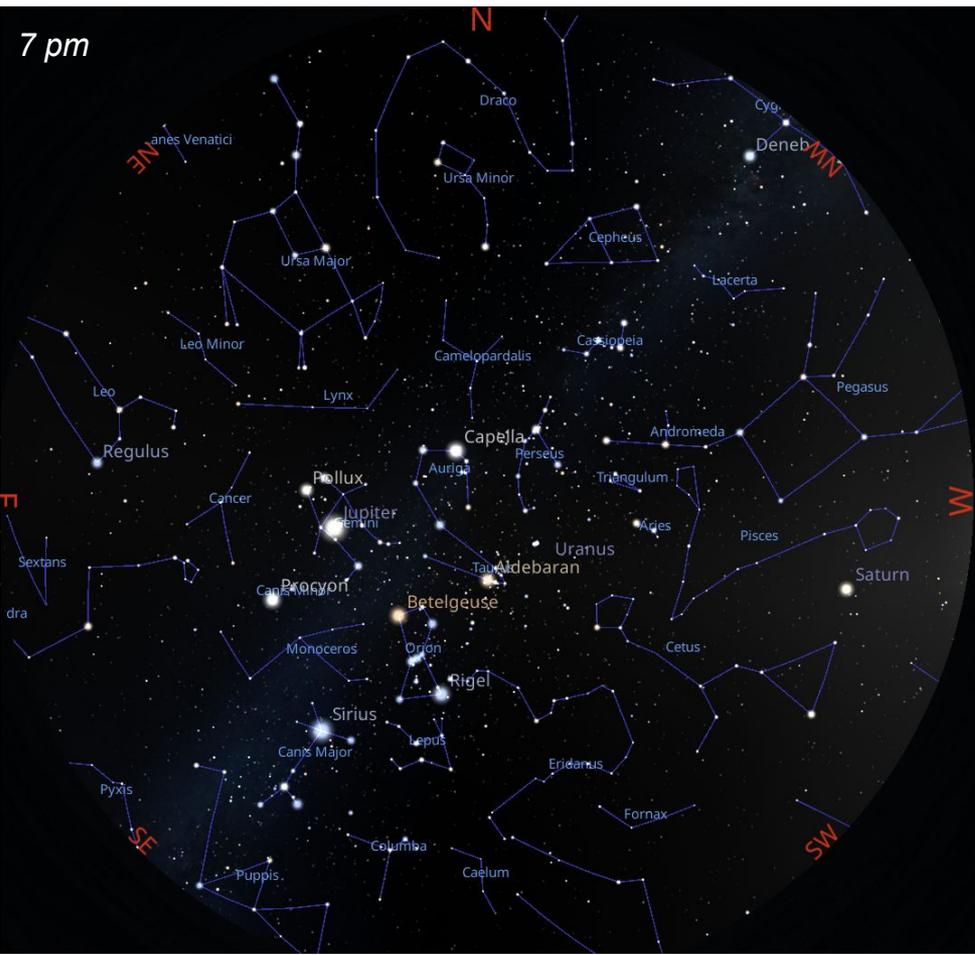
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Dark Sky Viewing 22171 Cody Ct - BVS, February 13

Ps 19:2



Dark Sky Viewing 22171 Cody Ct - BVS, February 13

7 pm



1 - M37 (Salt & Pepper Cluster)



*brightest, largest & richest cluster in Auriga
4500 light years from Earth (binoculars, small scopes)*

2 - M36 (Pinwheel Cluster)



*4100 light years from Earth (binoculars, small scopes)
only 25 million years old*

3 - M38 (Starfish Cluster)



*visible with binoculars, small scopes
4200 light years from Earth*

4 - NGC 2126 (Flaming Star Nebula)



*emission/reflection nebula - popular target
1500 light years from Earth*

Public Viewing

Cub Lake, February 21



February 2026 Viewing Chronology

- 1 - Full moon
- 9 - Last Qtr moon
- 13 - Dark Sky Star Party *(7 pm)*
- 17 - New moon
- 18 - Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Mercury *(7 pm)*
- 21 - Public Viewing *(7 pm)*
- 23 - Uranus, M45, moon *(7 pm)*
- 24 - 1st Qtr moon
- March 3 - Total lunar eclipse *(2-5 am)*

C/20 E1 (Wierzchos) comet - Feb 14 - 28

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