

March 2023 Astronomy Report

- **Moon:**
 - Phases
- **Spring Equinox - March 20**
 - DST starts March 12
- **Planets:**
 - Conjunctions - Venus/Jupiter & Uranus; Mercury/Jupiter
 - Mars high in sky all month (longest duration in night sky)
 - Evening planets - Mars, Venus, Jupiter, Uranus, Mercury
 - Morning planet - Saturn (late in month)
 - Neptune not visible (solar conjunction 3/15)
- **Asteroid of the month:**
 - Pallas
- **Comet:**
 - C/2022 E3 (ZTF)
- **Constellations:**
 - Dark Sky Star Party, March 18

Moon - Phases

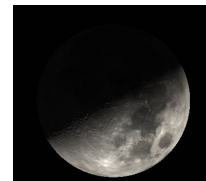
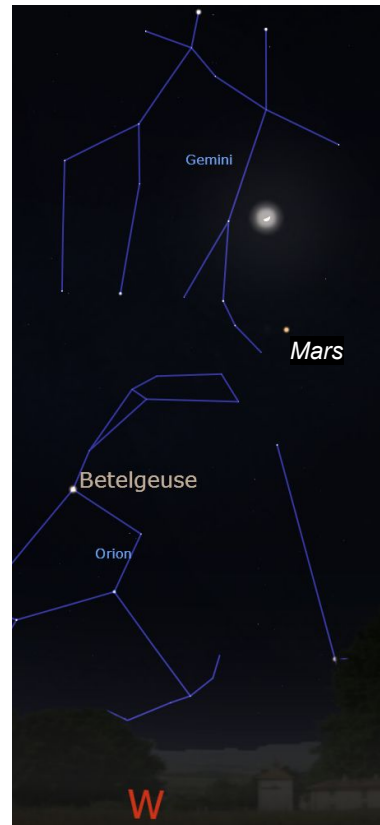
March 7 - Full Moon



March 14 - Last Quarter



March 28 - First Quarter

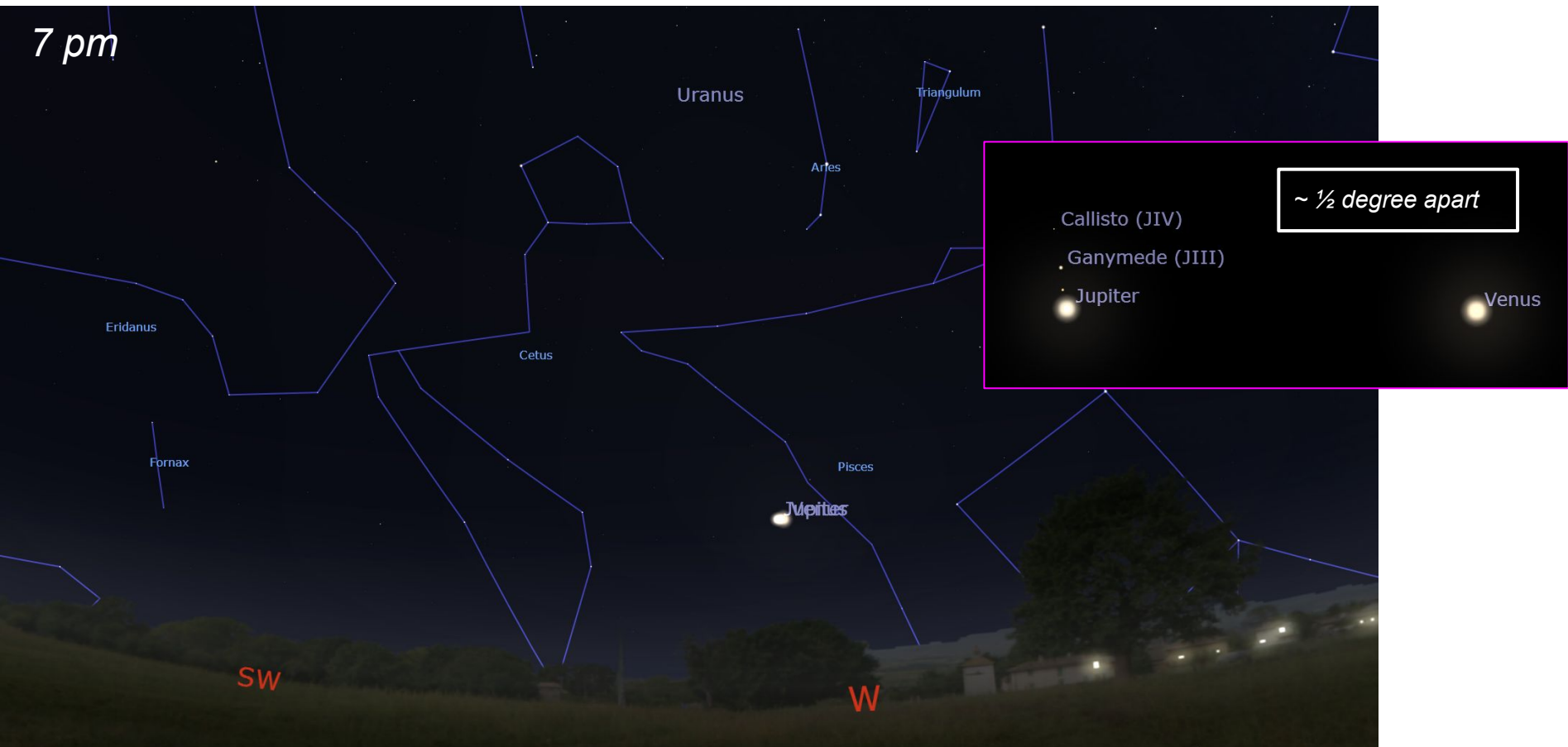


March 21 - New Moon

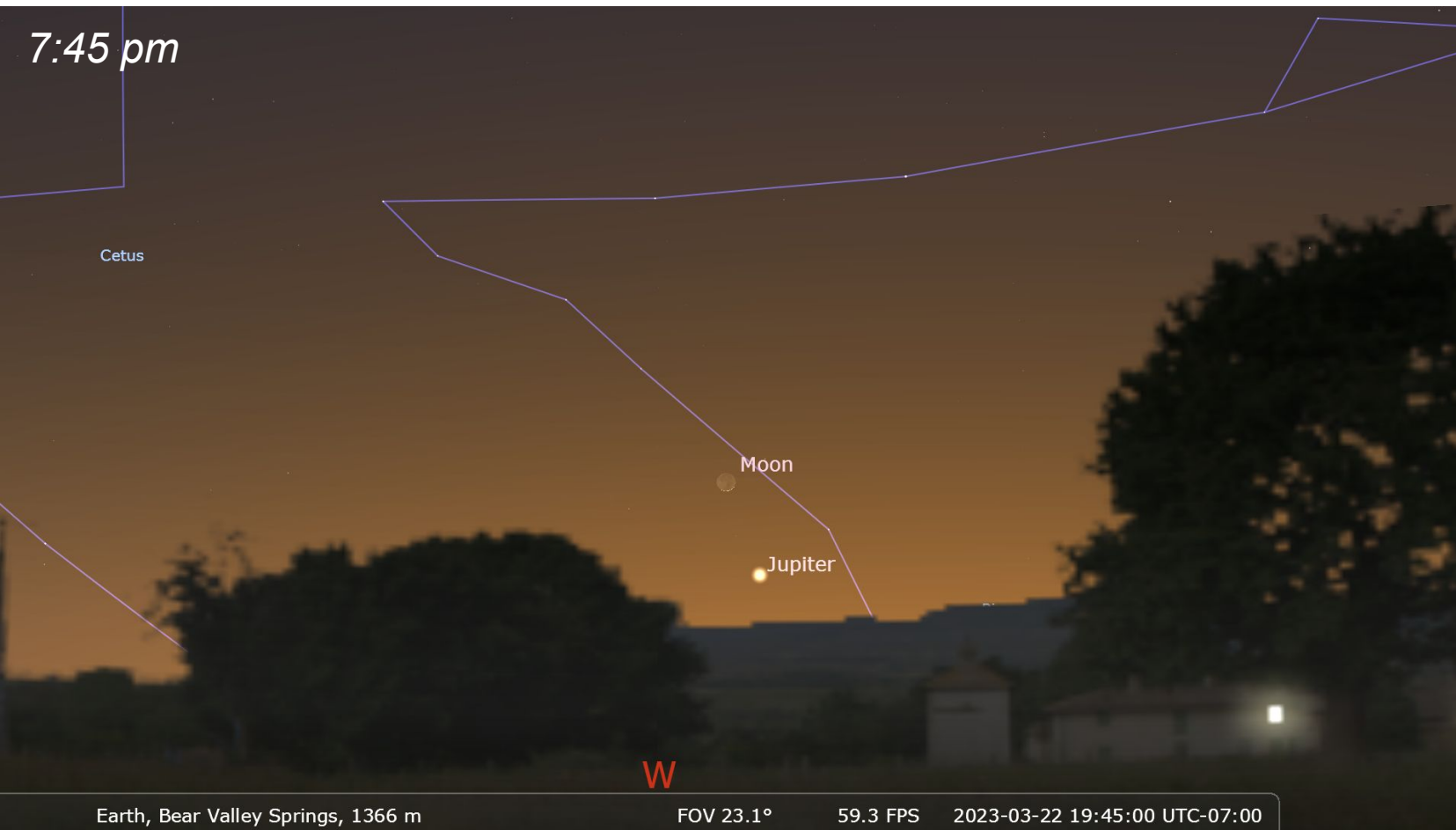
Apogee (252K miles) - March 3, 31
Perigee (225K miles) - March 19

Planets - Jupiter & Venus conjunction, March 1

move apart during March - Venus up, Jupiter down (heading to its conjunction with the Sun later this spring)



Planets - Moon & Jupiter, March 22



Planets - Moon & Venus/Jupiter, March 23



Planets - Moon & Uranus, March 24

8 pm

visible with binoculars



Moon
Uranus

Venus

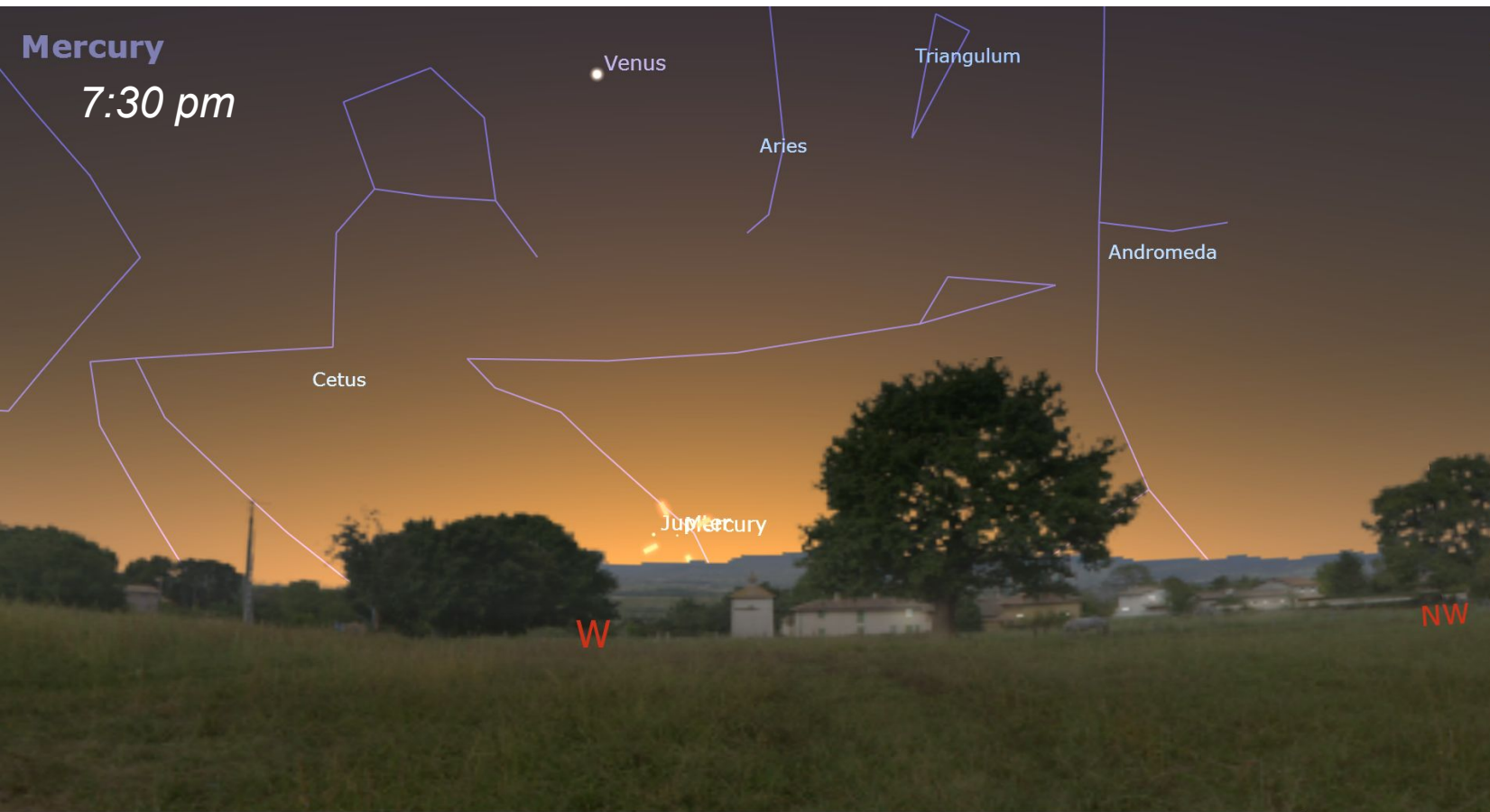
Aries



Occultation by the Moon of Al Butain II ~8:10 pm

Planets - Jupiter & Mercury conjunction, March 27

find a location with a horizon clear of obstructions for a good view of this conjunction (~45 minutes after sunset)



Mercury
7:30 pm

Venus

Triangulum

Aries

Andromeda

Cetus

Jupiter
Mercury

W

NW

Planets - Moon & Mars, March 27-29

Mars high in the sky (fading) all month, moves from Taurus to Gemini

March 27 - 8 pm



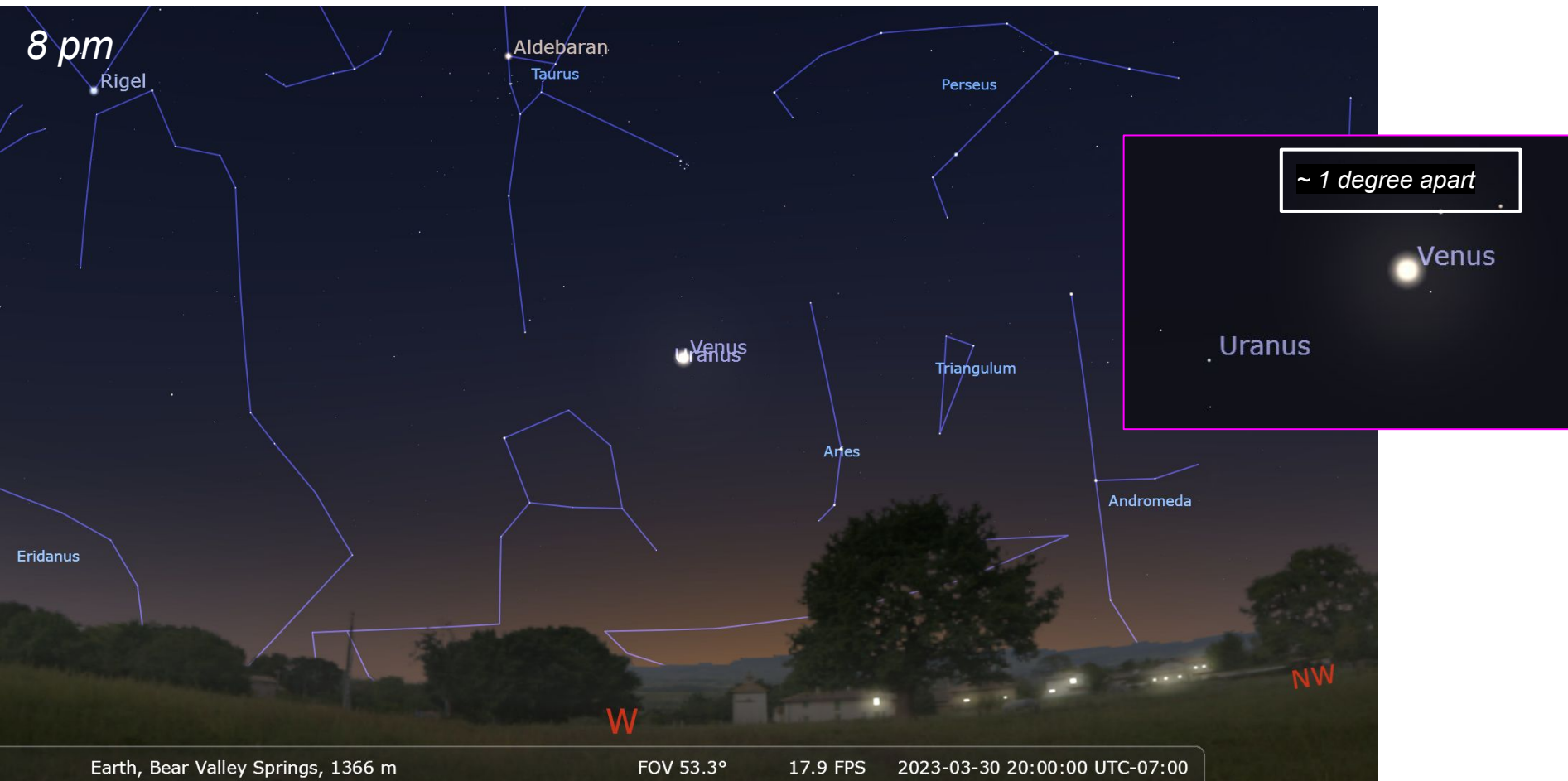
March 29 - 8 pm



March 28 - 8 pm

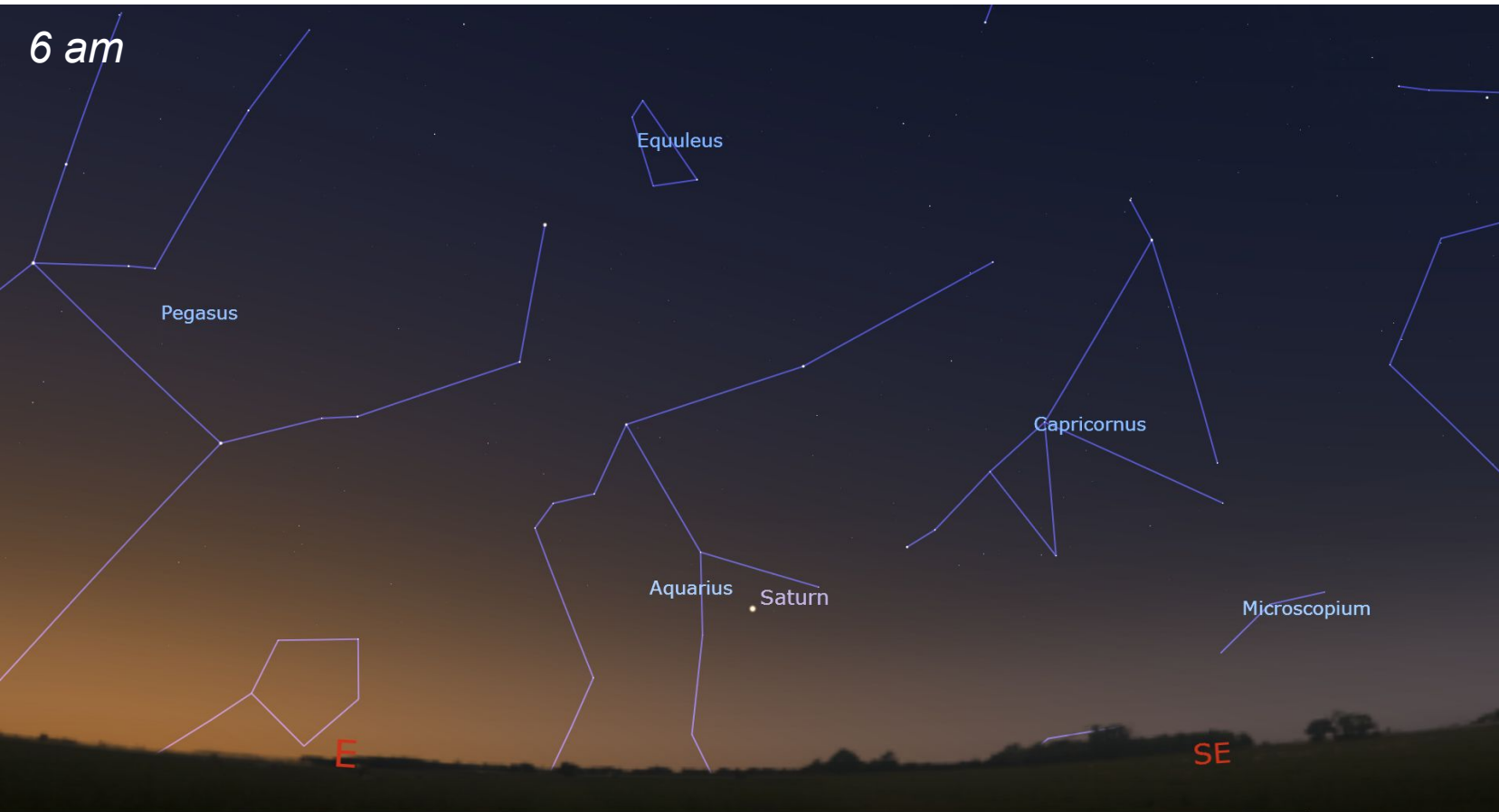


Planets - Venus & Uranus conjunction, March 30



Planets - Saturn, March 31

starts its morning reappearance on 3/19 and by end of month rises 75 minutes before sun



6 am

Pegasus

Equuleus

Capricornus

Aquarius Saturn

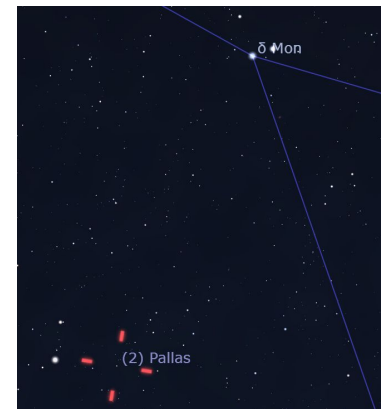
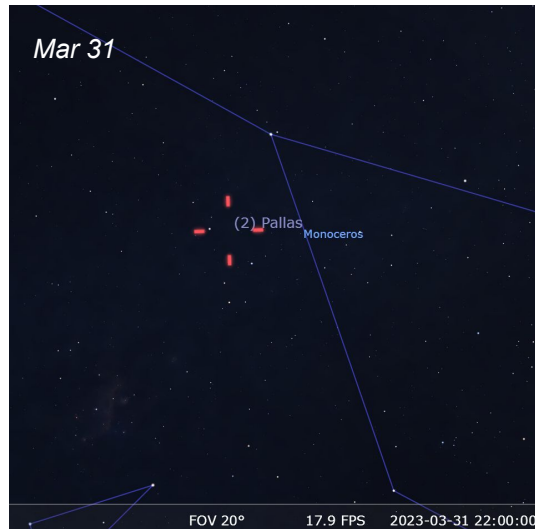
Microscopium

E

SE

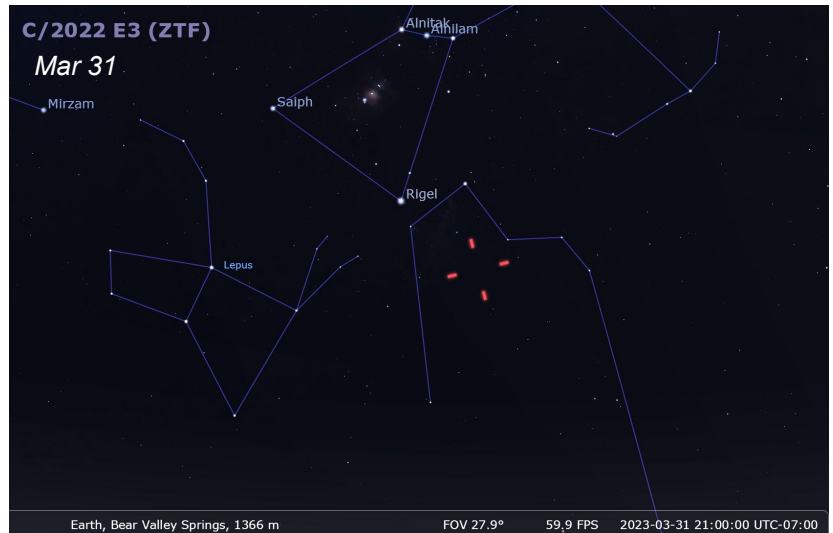
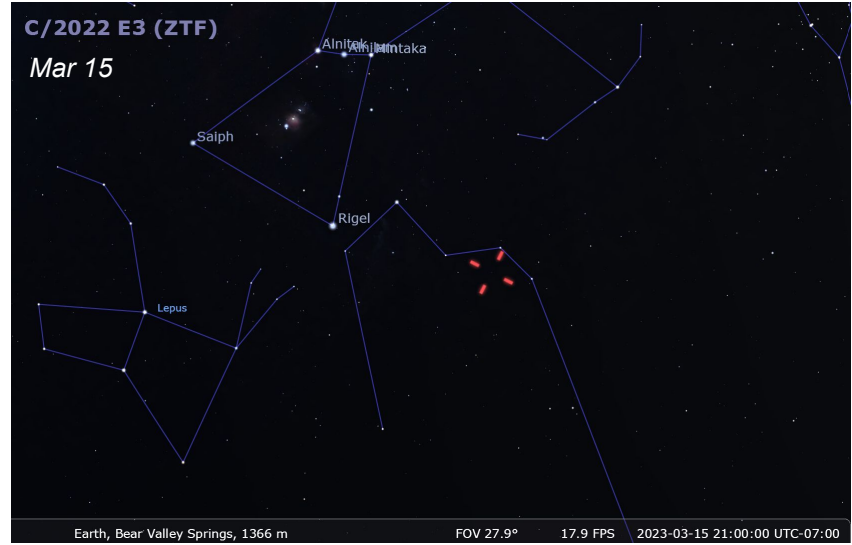
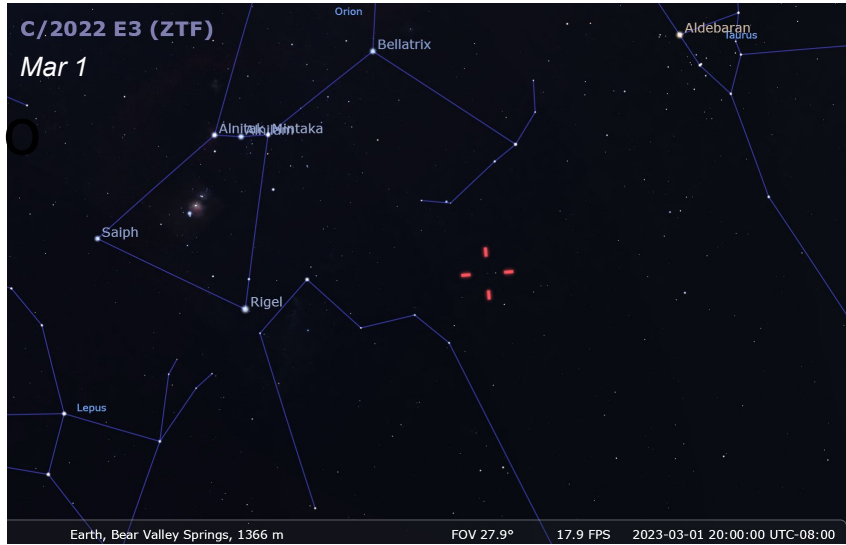
Asteroid - Pallas

- *small telescope required, SW sky*
- *2nd asteroid discovered, in 1802*
- *3rd largest asteroid, highly inclined orbit to asteroid belt*



Comet - C/2022 E3 (ZTF)

- *fading from view, telescope required*
- *moving westward and lower through month*



all times 8 pm

March constellations

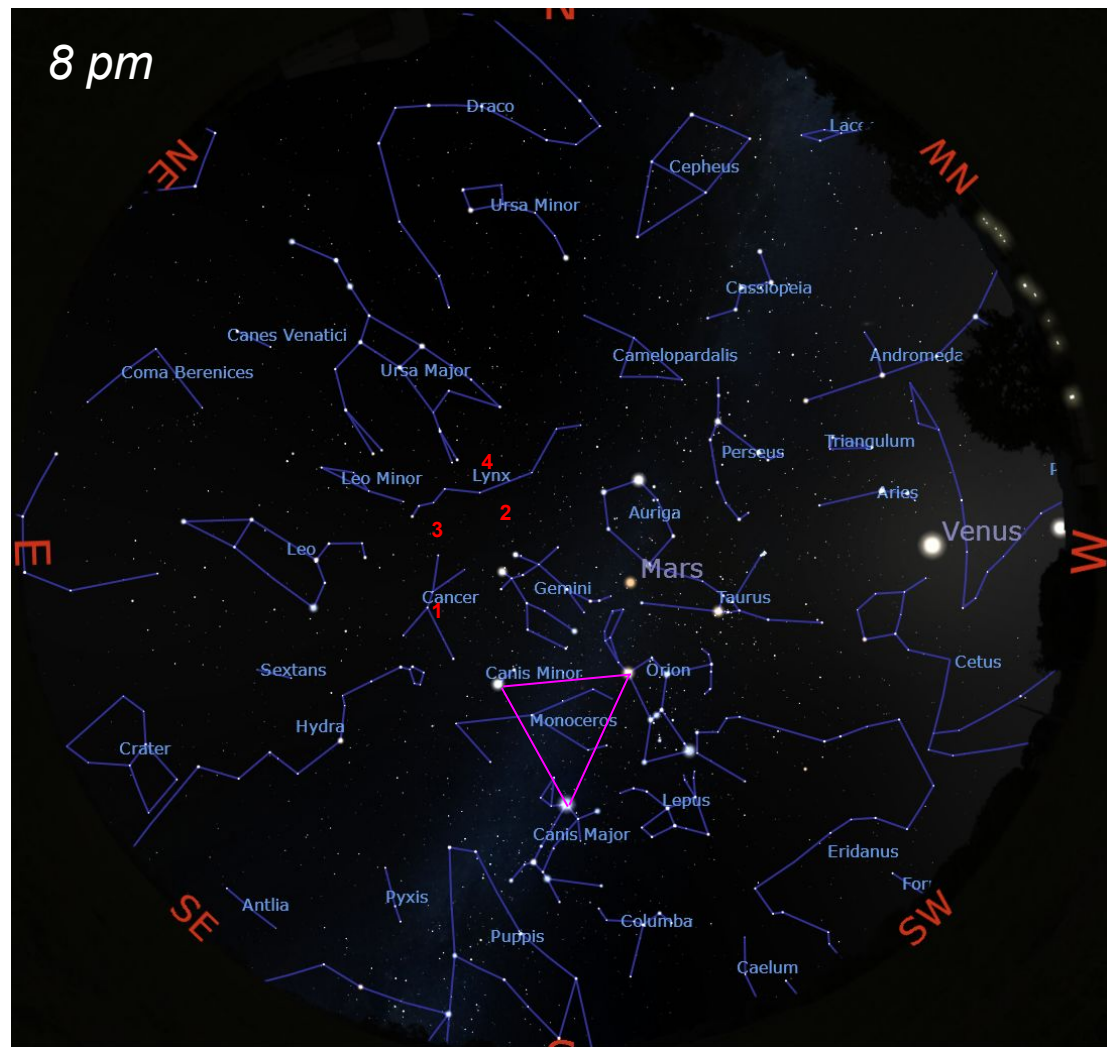
Dark Sky Star Party - Amberwood Ct

March 18th

Cancer, Canis Minor, Lynx

- 1 - M44 (Beehive Cluster)
- 2 - NGC 2419 (Intergalactic Wanderer)
- 3 - NGC 2683 (UFO Galaxy)
- 4 - NGC 2537 (Bear Paw Galaxy)

Winter Triangle (Procyon, Betelgeuse, Sirius)



M44 “Beehive Cluster”

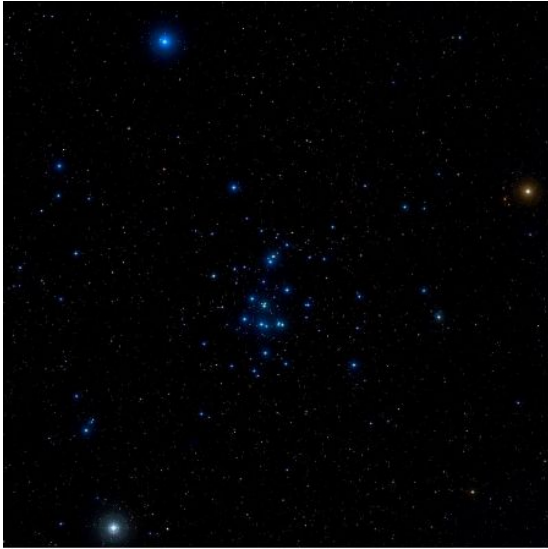


Image: Wikisky

Open star cluster in Cancer, 577 light years from Earth visible to the naked eye, best w/ binoculars, small scopes mid-line from Pollux (Gemini) to Regulus (Leo)

NGC 2419 “Intergalactic Wanderer ”

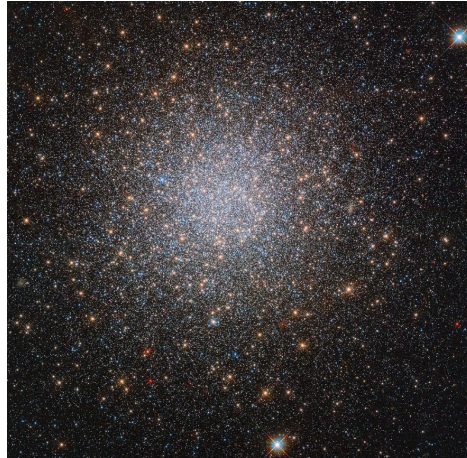


Image: Hubble Space Telescope

v large globular cluster in Lynx, 300,000 light years from Earth visible in good conditions w/ small good quality scopes located on outer edge of Milky Way

NGC 2683 “UFO Galaxy”



Image: Hubble Space Telescope

Spiral galaxy in Lynx, 30 million light years distant visible w/ small telescope

NGC 2537 “Bear Paw Galaxy”

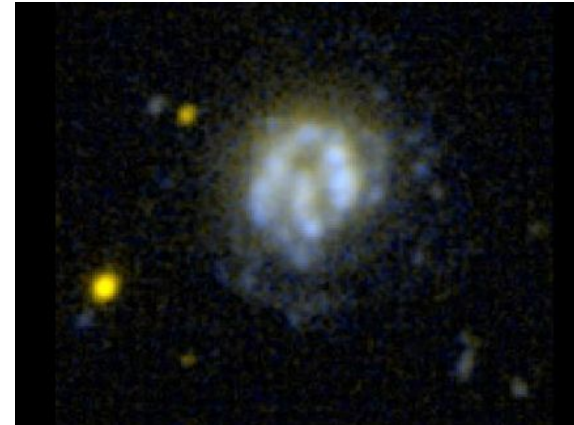


Image: GALEX/NASA

Blue compact dwarf galaxy in Lynx, 29 million light years distant