

What's In the Sky

February 2024



February 2: Groundhog Day

Punxsutawney Phil will emerge from his burrow early this morning. What will he predict for 2024?

February 9: New Moon

This is a good time to take a look at some dark sky objects. I got this shot of the Orion Nebula in just 5 minutes with my Seestar s50 Smart Telescope.



February 11-13: The Crescent Moon Smiles

Usually the crescent Moon is vertical, but on the nights of February 11-13 it will be more horizontal and look like a smile.

February 14: Jupiter and Moon Conjunction

Jupiter will be next to the moon. A beautiful sight for Valentines Day.

February 20-24: Planetary Conjunction

In the morning hours of February 20-24, [Mars](#) and Venus will be visiting one another.

February 24: The Full Snow Moon

February's Full Moon is called the "Snow Moon" due to the snowy conditions that usually prevail in the Northern Hemisphere. Other names for this Moon are: the Raccoon Moon and Hunger Moon. This is a Micromoon and fairly small compared to a Supermoon. This is because it is at it's farthest point from Earth.

Planets

Venus, Mars, and Mercury, rise in the morning sky a few hours before the Sun. Jupiter is still in the night sky high overhead after darkness falls and until midnight. Saturn won't be with us long. At the beginning of February Saturn can be seen low in the West setting about 2 hours after the Sun. By the end of the month Saturn will set with the Sun and no longer be visible in the night sky. Saturn will reappear in the early morning sky in April. Uranus is following closely behind Jupiter. Neptune is in the West after sunset and until 9:30pm at the beginning of February. By the end of the month Neptune will be setting with the Sun.