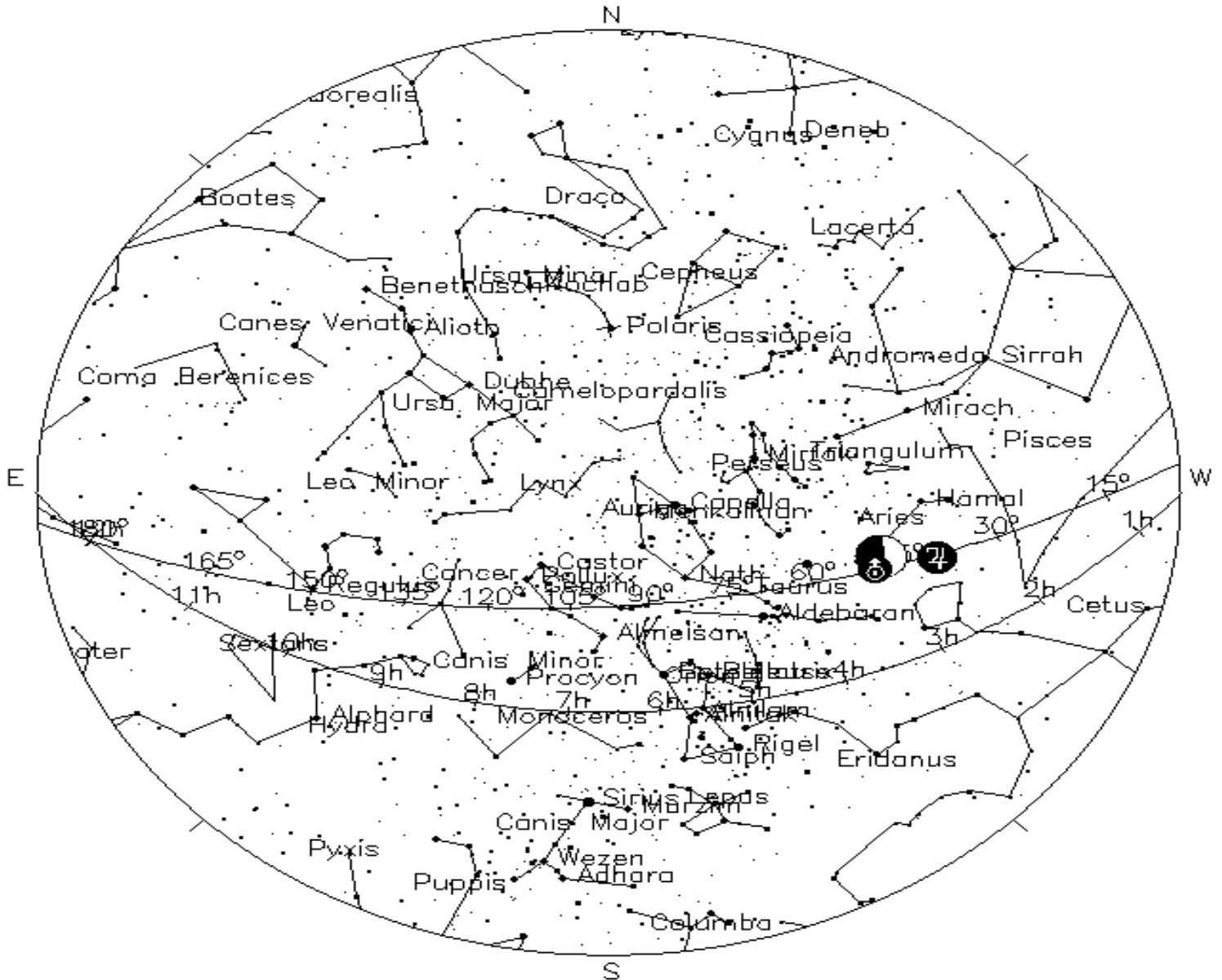


ik



Aspect of the sky from 50 45' N : 2 00' W at 21:00 UTC

Chart from www.fourmilab.ch

Lunar Phases: Last Qtr: Feb. 2nd at 23:18; New: Feb. 9th at 22:59; First Qtr: Feb. 16th at 15:01 and Full; Feb. 24th at 12:30.

Apsides: Perigee (closest) Feb. 10th at 18:52, 358088 Km, (33' 17"); Apogee (furthest) Feb. 25th at 14:58, 406312 Km, (29' 12")

Mercury (♿): has been a morning star, but this month will not be visible being too close to the horizon on the 1st. just before day break, finally reaching Superior Conjunction on the 28th.

Venus (♀): has been a morning star but moves in toward the Sun and will be in conjunction with Mars on the 22nd, it won't be seen due to being so low on the SE horizon before sunrise.

Mars (♂): is moving out from the Sun, but is still too close to the horizon at morning dusk to be seen. See Venus's entry!

Jupiter (♃): is at 85° elongation on the 1st, so is still well on view in the evening sky, Mag.-2.4, setting at 23:34 by month's end Moon is close on the 14th and 15th.

Saturn (♄): is 12° above the SW horizon at dusk on the 1st at mag.0.8. It reaches solar conjunction on: the 28th. Coincidentally this means it is in conjunction with Mercury, exactly at 15:50, sadly, not observable.

Uranus (♅): is 9° east of Jupiter during the month. at mg 5.8.

Neptune (♆): is 18° east of Saturn at mag 8.0, and setting 3 hours after the Sun on the 1st. Moon is near (5°) on the 12th.

Meteors: There is no recognised shower this month, and the general sporadic meteor count is low at this time of year.

Comet 144P Kushida is near the 'nose' of Taurus on the night of the 2/3 February and moving east, through the Hyades cluster. mag.9.

Sunrise set times: All times in UTC

Date	Rise	Transit	Set	Date	Rise	Transit	Set
01 Feb 2024	07:55:55	12:23:33	16:51:51	16 Feb 2024	07:27:37	12:24:08	17:21:29
06 Feb 2024	07:47:11	12:24:04	17:01:41	21 Feb 2024	07:16:59	12:23:42	17:31:18
11 Feb 2024	07:37:43	12:24:16	17:11:36	26 Feb 2024	07:05:55	12:23:00	17:41:00
02 Mar 2024	06:54:29	12:22:04	17:50:36				

Moonrise set time All times in UTC

Date	Rise	Transit	Set	Date	Rise	Transit	Set
01 Feb 2024	--:--:--	04:47:35	09:59:51	16 Feb 2024	09:41:21	18:09:42	01:33:47
06 Feb 2024	05:56:13	08:57:37	11:57:32	21 Feb 2024	13:44:24	22:37:12	06:47:40
11 Feb 2024	08:39:39	13:55:41	19:29:49	26 Feb 2024	19:57:38	01:28:05	07:53:09
02 Mar 2024	00:59:16	04:56:38	08:44:20				

B Persei, (Algol) (Mag 2.1 to 3.4) – there are 4 visible minima this month.

1st at 20:25; 19th at 01:21 (low in NW); 21st at 22:11 and 24th at 19:00.

RZ Cassiopeiae (Mag. 6.2 to 7.7) – there are 8 opportunities, thus:

2nd at 03:05; 6th at 21:52; 8th at 02:30; 12th at 21:18; 14th at 02:00; 18th at 20:44; 24th at 20:10; 26th at 00:50;

Lambda Tauri (Mag 3.4 to 3.9) – there are 5 opportunities:

12th at 00:04 (low in west); 15th at 22:57; 19th at 21:45; 23rd at 20:40 and 27th at 19:33.

For observation of the ISS during the month, log-in to <http://www.heavens-above.com>. Morning passes start on Feb. 15th and continue to month's end.

The next Durlston event is on Saturday 3rd Feb at 7pm, and Saturday 17 Feb at 7.00. The Moon Jupiter, Orion Nebular, galaxies, n cxz star clusters and Winter constellations.

The guest speaker for February is Professor Malcolm MacCallum presenting 'Black Holes and other compact objects'

Solar news:

The Sun has generally been quieter, with no notable solar events recently.

Timings for Jupiter's **Great Red Spot (GRS)**: the opportunities are as follows:

1st at 18:42; 3rd at 20:21; 5th at 22:00; 7th at 23:40; 8th at 19:31; 10th at 21:10; 12th at 22:50; 15th at 20:20; 17th at 21:58; 18th at 17:50- sky bright dusk- ; 20th at 19:30; 22nd at 21:08; 24th at 22:45; 25th at 18:40; 27th at 20:18 and 29th at 21:55.

There are no known meteor showers this month, and the sporadic count is low also, so hard luck!

Good observing Robert Hatch 01/02/2023

Passes of the ISS for February - New Format:**Evening passes:**

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start Time	Highest point						End Time	Pass type	
			Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time			
30 Jan	-3.4	17:51:55	10°	WNW	17:55:17	66°	SSW	17:58:36	10°	ESE	visible
30 Jan	-1.3	19:29:16	10°	W	19:31:37	18°	SW	19:31:56	18°	SSW	visible
31 Jan	-1.7	18:41:09	10°	W	18:43:59	25°	SW	18:46:39	11°	SSE	visible
01 Feb	-2.2	17:53:09	10°	W	17:56:16	36°	SSW	17:59:23	10°	SE	visible
02 Feb	-0.7	18:43:13	10°	WSW	18:44:40	12°	SW	18:46:06	10°	SSW	visible
03 Feb	-0.9	17:54:36	10°	W	17:56:59	18°	SW	17:59:21	10°	S	visible

Morning passes:

Date	Brightness (mag)	Start Time	Highest point						End Time	Pass type	
			Alt.	Az.	Time	Alt.	Az.	Time			
15 Feb	-0.8	06:41:49	10°	S	06:44:02	17°	SE	06:46:16	10°	E	visible
16 Feb	-0.6	05:55:01	10°	SSE	05:56:01	11°	SE	05:57:01	10°	ESE	visible
17 Feb	-2.0	06:40:52	10°	SW	06:43:55	33°	SSE	06:46:59	10°	E	visible
18 Feb	-1.5	05:53:01	10°	SSW	05:55:44	23°	SE	05:58:28	10°	E	visible
19 Feb	-1.2	05:06:02	12°	S	05:07:35	16°	SE	05:09:42	10°	E	visible
20 Feb	-0.6	04:19:55	10°	SE	04:19:55	10°	SE	04:20:04	10°	SE	visible
20 Feb	-2.8	05:52:50	14°	SW	05:55:31	44°	SSE	05:58:44	10°	E	visible
21 Feb	-2.4	05:06:34	29°	S	05:07:13	31°	SSE	05:10:14	10°	E	visible
22 Feb	-1.1	04:20:11	18°	ESE	04:20:11	18°	ESE	04:21:35	10°	E	visible
22 Feb	-3.7	05:53:05	19°	WSW	05:55:19	76°	SSE	05:58:40	10°	ENE	visible
23 Feb	-3.5	05:06:36	55°	S	05:06:53	58°	SSE	05:10:11	10°	ENE	visible
24 Feb	-1.5	04:20:02	24°	E	04:20:02	24°	E	04:21:39	10°	E	visible
24 Feb	-3.8	05:52:55	20°	W	05:55:06	79°	N	05:58:28	10°	E	visible
25 Feb	-4.0	05:06:17	74°	WSW	05:06:33	89°	SW	05:09:55	10°	ENE	visible
26 Feb	-1.7	04:19:36	28°	E	04:19:36	28°	E	04:21:21	10°	ENE	visible
26 Feb	-3.7	05:52:29	18°	W	05:54:48	74°	N	05:58:09	10°	E	visible
27 Feb	-3.8	05:05:45	61°	WNW	05:06:11	74°	N	05:09:32	10°	E	visible
28 Feb	-1.9	04:18:59	32°	ENE	04:18:59	32°	ENE	04:20:55	10°	E	visible
28 Feb	-3.8	05:51:52	17°	WNW	05:54:22	87°	N	05:57:44	10°	E	visible
29 Feb	-0.2	03:32:12	10°	ENE	03:32:12	10°	ENE	03:32:15	10°	ENE	visible
29 Feb	-3.8	05:05:05	54°	WNW	05:05:43	77°	N	05:09:04	10°	E	visible
01 Mar	-2.1	04:18:17	35°	ENE	04:18:17	35°	ENE	04:20:22	10°	E	visible
01 Mar	-3.7	05:51:10	15°	W	05:53:46	63°	SSW	05:57:04	10°	ESE	visible
02 Mar	-0.3	03:31:30	11°	E	03:31:30	11°	E	03:31:38	10°	E	visible
02 Mar	-3.9	05:04:23	52°	W	05:05:05	81°	SSW	05:08:26	10°	ESE	visible