

What's Up: February 2024 (compiled by Barry & Colin)

*Note: This trial is compiled from Night Sky sections in Astronomy Now, Sky & Telescope, Sky at Night. There may be more specialist alerts (please advise).
What do you want to see included? Input welcome from all members (with acknowledgement).*

Object	Date - Time	Event
Moon/ Pleiades	16/17th – 18:00-23:00	Photo opportunity! First quarter Moon passes 1° under Pleiades
Moon phases	February	Brightening 13 th to 29 th New 9 th , Full 24 th
Earthshine	11 th & 12th	Light from Earth is reflected back on to non-illuminated thin crescent Moon
Supernova	All month	SN2024gy, discovered 4/01/2024. In NGC4216, 6.5° SE Denebola
Comet	4th	144P/Kushida approaching Hyades, close to Aldebaran
Comet	Early evening February	12P/Pons-Brooks in NW Cygnus
Comet	February	62P/Tsuchinshan mag7 in pre-dawn Virgo
Comet	14 th , 05:30	C/2021 S3 (PanSTARRS) at perihelion mag7 in pre-dawn in Ophiuchus, 1° NE of M9 (globular cluster)
Asterism	All month	The Winter Hexagon (clockwise from top: Capella, Aldebaran, Rigel, Sirius, Procyon, Pollux). A good way to find your bearings in the sky!
Multiple star	Castor	True binary, Castor A (+2), B (+3), sep 4.5". Also C (+10) sep 70" (Castor is actually a visual and spectroscopic sextuplet)
Jupiter - Io	15 th – 18:30- 20:05	Io transit, followed by shadow
Jupiter - Ganymede	4 th – 19:00	Ganymede's disc shadow
Jupiter - Europa	9 th – 18:55	Europa appears from behind the disc, 19:12 E disappears as it enters Jupiter's trailing shadow, 21:35 E reappears as it leaves the shadow
Uranus	16th	Situated half way between Moon and Jupiter
Venus	22nd	Near Moon, 37' separation
Cluster	February	M67: Ancient (5Bn years) open cluster, near α Cancri.
Clusters, well placed	February	M9, M44 (Beehive), M46, M47, M93
Nebulae, well placed	February	NGC1499 (California), IC405 (Flaming Star), M1 (Crab), IC443 (Jellyfish), NGC2174 (Monkey head), Barnard 33 (Horsehead)
Galaxies, well placed	February	M81 (Bodes), M82 (Cigar), M31 (Andromeda), M106