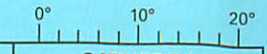
SKY CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2019

An aid to enjoying the changing sky

Planetarium business office:
(517) 355-4676
http://twitter.com/AbramsSkyNotes
http://abramsplanetarium.org/

Use this scale to measure angular distances between objects on diagrams below.

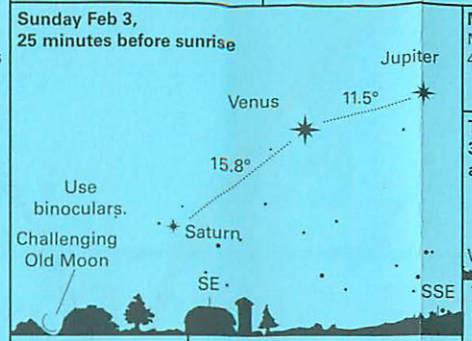


Evening Planets: Mars starts the month high in the southwest at dusk. As the month progresses, the red planet moves west and remains quite high and easily visible. Mars shines at 1st magnitude. Mars passes one degree north of **Uranus** on February 12. Use binoculars to spot 5.8 magnitude Uranus. In the same field of view with Uranus, look for the stars 54 Cet and Omi Psc. (see Feb 9) Omicron Pisces is 4.3 mag and 54 Ceti shines at 5.9 mag. A quirky thing about 54 Ceti is that its name indicates it's in the constellation of Cetus the Whale, but it's actually in the constellation of Aries the Ram. Uranus passes 54 Ceti by two tenths of a degree on March 4. **Mercury** joins the evening sky mid-month. Look for Mercury low in the west shortly after sunset. Mercury is at its greatest elongation from the Sun Feb 26 and quickly drops from view in the first week of March.

Morning Planets: Venus, Saturn, and **Jupiter** shine bright in the southeast dawn sky all month long. Watch as Venus moves closer to Saturn and farther from Jupiter. Venus passes 1° north of Saturn on February 18. Jupiter and Saturn are 26° apart. These slow moving planets are slowly converging. Watch over the next two years. By the end of 2020, Jupiter and Saturn will be a mere tenth of a degree apart. Every 20 years, the two giant planets pass each other. The last time this occurred, in 2000, Jupiter and Saturn appeared too close to the sun to easily observe. Their conjunction in 1981 was the last time these two giants have been easily observed next to each other.

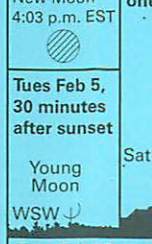
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

Sunday Feb 3, 25 minutes before sunrise

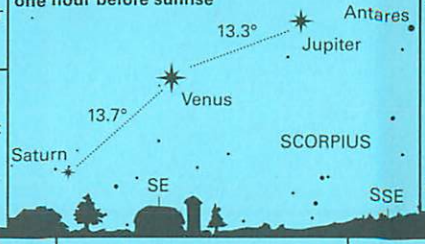


Mon Feb 4
New Moon
4:03 p.m. EST

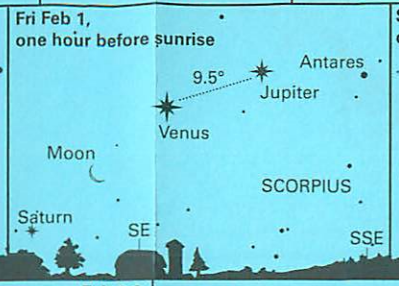
Tues Feb 5, 30 minutes after sunset



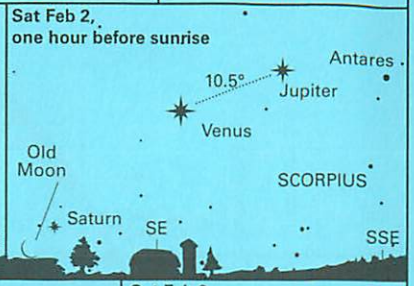
Tues Feb 5, one hour before sunrise



Fri Feb 1, one hour before sunrise



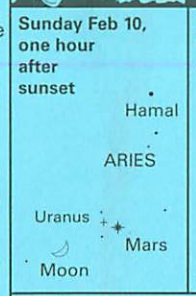
Sat Feb 2, one hour before sunrise



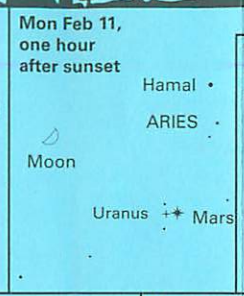
Tues Feb 12
First Quarter Moon
5:26 p.m. EST

Visit *abramsplanetarium.org/msta/* to see the extra content page.

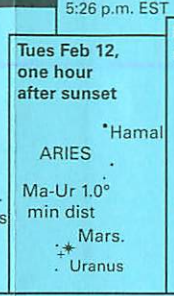
Sunday Feb 10, one hour after sunset



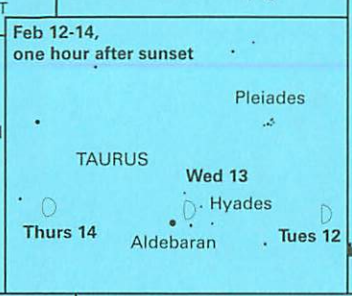
Mon Feb 11, one hour after sunset



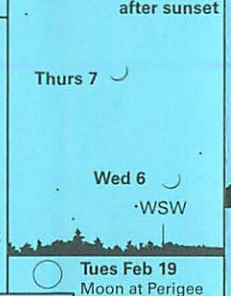
Tues Feb 12, one hour after sunset



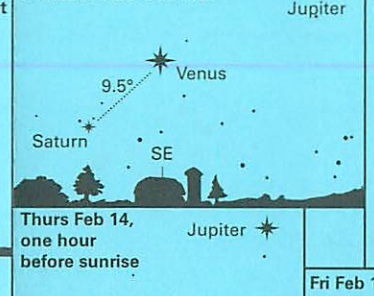
Feb 12-14, one hour after sunset



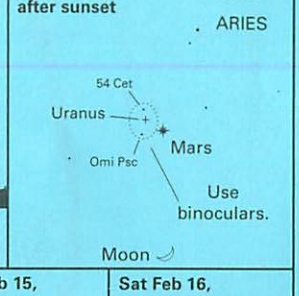
Fri 8 — Feb 6-8, one hour after sunset



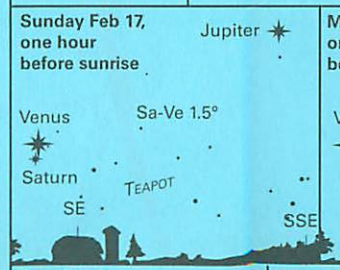
Sat Feb 9, one hour before sunrise



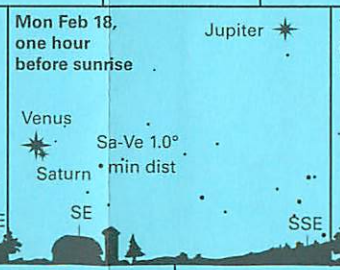
Sat Feb 9, one hour after sunset



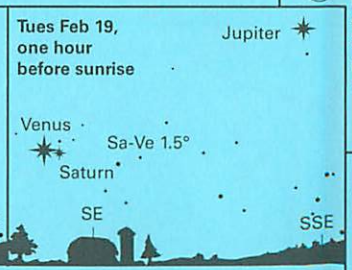
Sunday Feb 17, one hour before sunrise



Mon Feb 18, one hour before sunrise

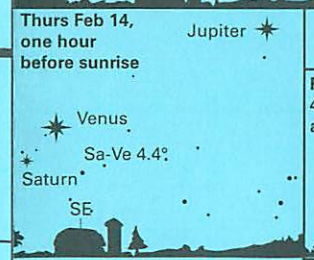


Tues Feb 19, one hour before sunrise



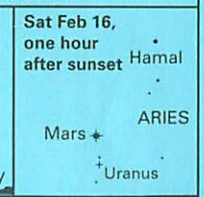
Tues Feb 19
Moon at Perigee
4:03 a.m. EST
221681 miles
Full Moon
10:54 a.m. EST
Supermoon!
(closest full moon of year)

Thurs Feb 14, one hour before sunrise

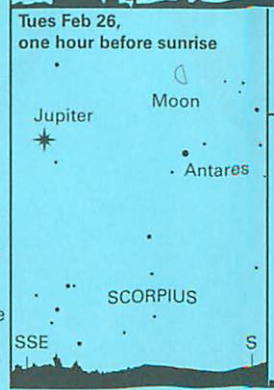


Fri Feb 15, 40 minutes after sunset

Sat Feb 16, one hour after sunset

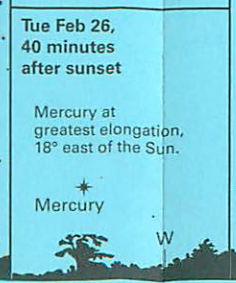


Tues Feb 26, one hour before sunrise

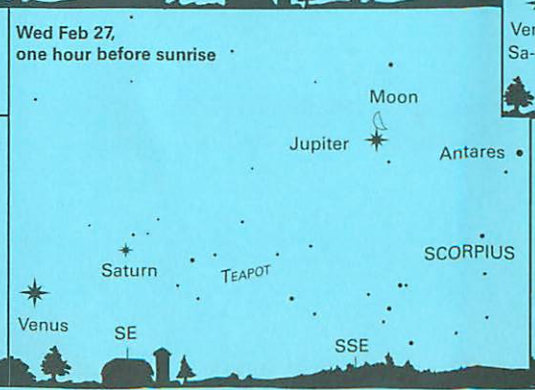


Tues Feb 26
Last Quarter Moon
6:28 a.m. EST

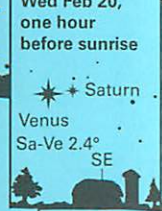
Tue Feb 26, 40 minutes after sunset



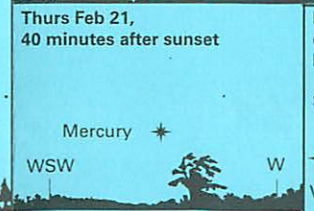
Wed Feb 27, one hour before sunrise



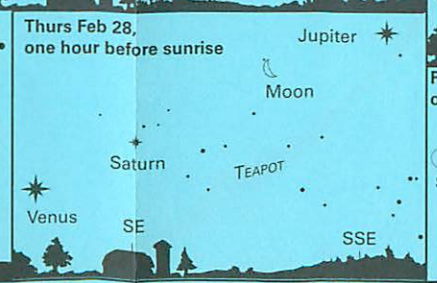
Wed Feb 20, one hour before sunrise



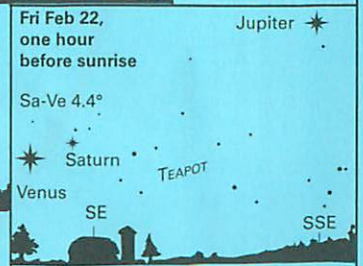
Thurs Feb 21, 40 minutes after sunset



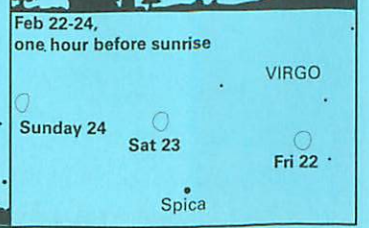
Thurs Feb 28, one hour before sunrise



Fri Feb 22, one hour before sunrise



Feb 22-24, one hour before sunrise



John S. French
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February Evening Skies

This chart is drawn for latitude 40° north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local standard times:

Late January	10 p.m.
Early February	9 p.m.
Late February	8 p.m.
Early March	7 p.m.

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above times.

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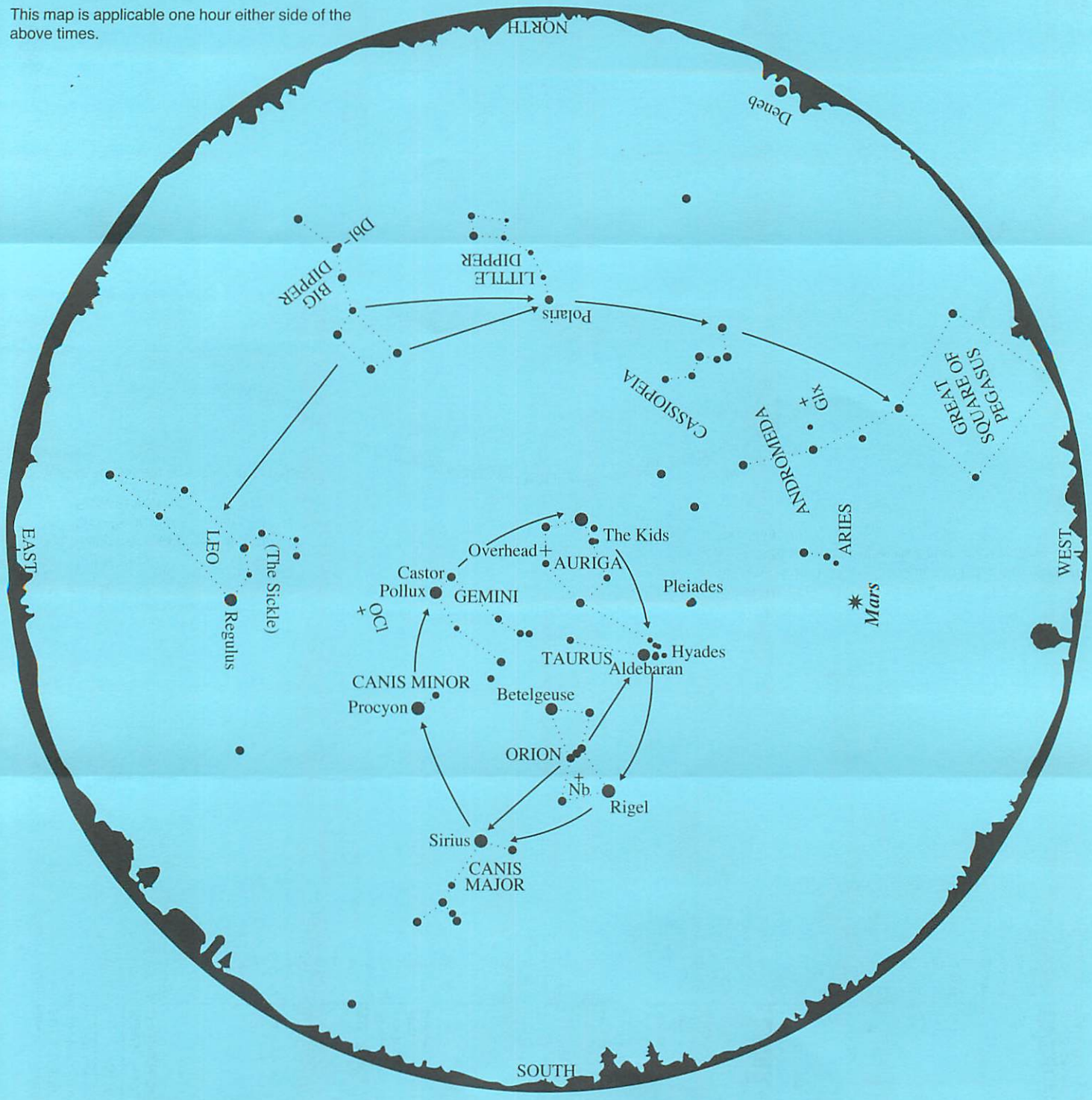

The planet Mars is plotted for mid-February 2019. At chart time 10 objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Sirius, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Mars, Pollux, Deneb and Regulus. In addition to stars, other objects that should be visible to the unaided eye are labeled on the map. The double star (Dbl) at the bend of the handle of the Big Dipper is easily detected. The famous Orion Nebula, a cloud of gas and dust out of which stars are forming, is marked (Nb) in that constellation. The open or galactic star cluster (OCl) known as the "Beehive" can be located between the Gemini twins and Leo. The position of an external star system, called the Andromeda Galaxy after the constellation in which it appears, is also indicated (Glx). Try to observe these objects with unaided eye and binoculars.

—D. David Batch