



## What's Up?

### Sky Events for: January 2022

- 1/01 Early Morning: Mars is moving past Antares, and currently Antares is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  magnitude brighter than Mars. Very close to the horizon, a very thin crescent Moon is below and left of Mars and Antares.
- 1/01 Early evening sky: Jupiter, Saturn, Mercury, and Venus are in a line above the southwestern horizon. Venus and Mercury are low to the horizon – so catch this shortly after sunset to see all four planets (5 if you count Earth).
- 1/02 New Moon
- 1/03 Quadrantids Meteor Shower – Short (peak lasts only about 4 hours – and will be at peak on 1/3 at ~ 1:40 pm MST). Although not at the peak, early morning viewing on the 4th, should still offer about 25 per hour under ideal conditions. The Moon being only one day past New, will offer no obstructions.
- 1/03 – 1/05 30 minutes after sunset. Watch as a very thin crescent Moon travels 3 degrees below Mercury on the 3rd, and 4 degrees below and to the left of Saturn on the 4th, and ~ 4 degrees below Jupiter on the 5th. Venus is now on its way around the Sun, (conjunction on the 8th) and will be visible in the morning sky, starting around mid -month.
- 1/06 – 1/12 Continue watching shortly after sunset, noticing that Mercury and Saturn are getting closer to each other each night. The 12th will be the closest approach at about 3.5 degrees separation. Being so close to the horizon, binoculars will probably be helpful. After the evening of the 12th, Mercury will begin its fast plunge to its conjunction with the Sun on the 23rd.
- 1/09 First Quarter
- 1/11 Uranus 1.5 degrees N of the Moon.
- 1/12 Later in the evening the Moon will be about 4 degrees above the Pleiades. Because the Moon will be quite bright, binoculars will again help to see the cluster.
- 1/13 Late Evening: Still in Taurus, the Moon is ~ 6 degrees from Aldebaran.

## Sky Events for: January 2022 (continued)

- 1/17 Morning before sunrise: a full Moon is ~ 4 degrees from Pollux, in the western sky.
- Full Moon: This is the smallest full Moon in 2022. January's Full Moon is known as: The Wolf Moon, Moon After Yule, Old Moon, Ice Moon and Snow Moon. Because of the cold temperatures, and snow-covered ground, wolf packs roam freely at the time of year, and so you are more likely to hear wolf howls at this full Moon. We, though rarely, do see wolfs where we live.
- 1/20 Dawn: a waning gibbous Moon is about 4 degrees above Regulus in the western sky.
- 1/23 Mercury in conjunction with the Sun.
- 1/24 Dawn: It's Virgo's turn: and the Moon appears 5 degrees upper right of Spica.
- 1/25 Last Quarter
- 1/29 Dawn: Venus, now around the Sun, Mars and a very thin waning crescent Moon are in a line looking southeast.
- 1/30 Dawn: Very close to the southeast horizon. The Moon (only one day until New) and Mercury join the view with Venus and Mars above in the morning sky.