

## February 10 Sky notes

**Based on sky visible at 8:30pm 4<sup>th</sup> February**

**View of Sky facing North on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 (80deg Field of View)**



**Ursa Major** – visible on North East (Bodes Galaxies – M81 / M82)  
**Dubhe/Merak** – Pointer stars to Polaris (Pole Star)

**Ursa Minor** – prominent in northern sky  
(brightest stars : Polaris (Pole Star – alt 51deg approx) and Kochab)

**Draco** – faint constellation between Ursa Major & Ursa Minor

View of Sky facing **East** on **February 4th 2010**

(80deg Field of View)



**Gemini** – visible in South East

brightest stars Castor and Pollux . open clusters – M35

**Cancer** –East

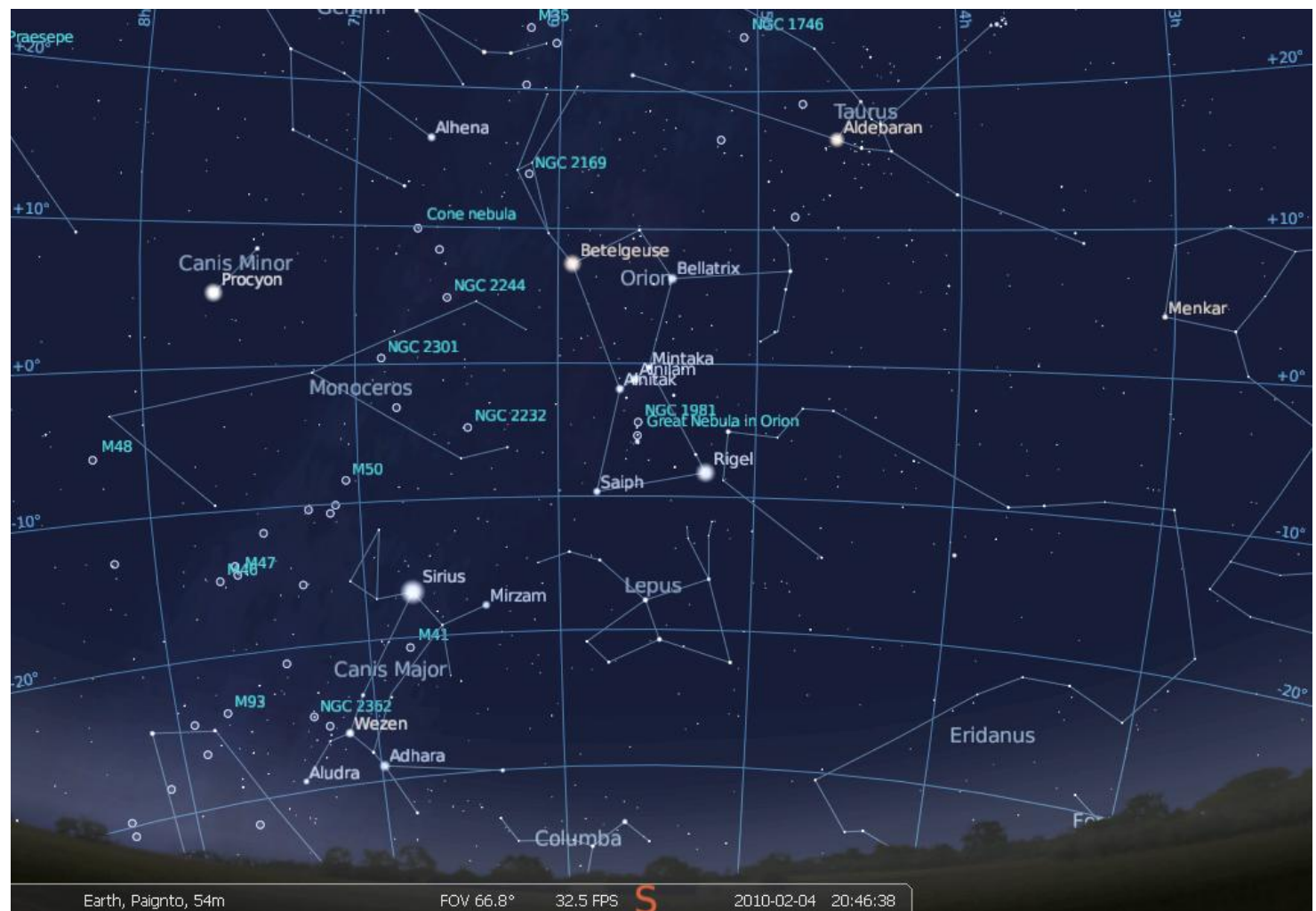
Open Clusters M44 (Praesepe) - (close to Mars) and M67

**Leo** – rising in East

Bright star Regulus

View of Sky facing **South** on **February 4th 2010**

(70deg Field of View)



**Orion** – prominent – almost due south

**Canis Major** – prominent in south East

Bright star Sirius – brightest star in sky (magn -1.44 , distance of 8.6 light years)

**Eridanus** /Cetus– low in south

View of Sky facing **West** on **February 4th 2010**

(80deg Field of View)



**Square of Pegasus** - low in west

**Pisces** – below square of Pegasus

**Cassiopeia** – low in north west

## **Moon :**

**Full Moon (Feb 1st), Last Quarter (Feb 6th), new moon (Feb14th) ,First Quarter (Feb 22rd)**

## **Pleiades Occultation (Feb21st)**



**View of occultation at 18:50 pm (Feb21st) – best seen from about 18:30 – 20:30 pm**

**Best view of occultation with binoculars / low power telescope (40- 50x magnification)**

**Several occultations of stars at about 18:50pm**

## **Solar System – February 4th**

### **Mercury**

**Visible low in east before dawn – early Feb – maximum altitude only about 5deg**

### **Venus**

**Best seen at end of month (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>) –only 7deg altitude after sunset**

# Mars

In constellation of Cancer – near open cluster Praesepe

Mars



Magnitude -0.78 , size of 14”

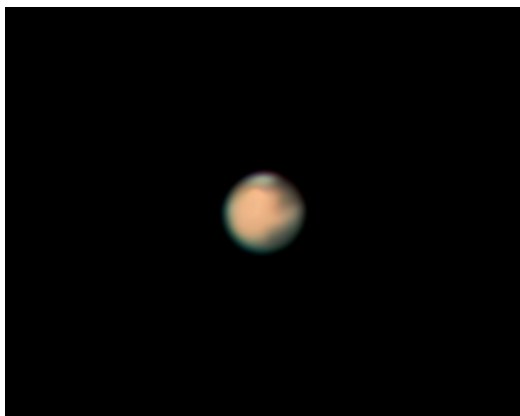


Image of Mars on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010 – showing Polar Cap (SLOOH 14”SCT)

# Jupiter

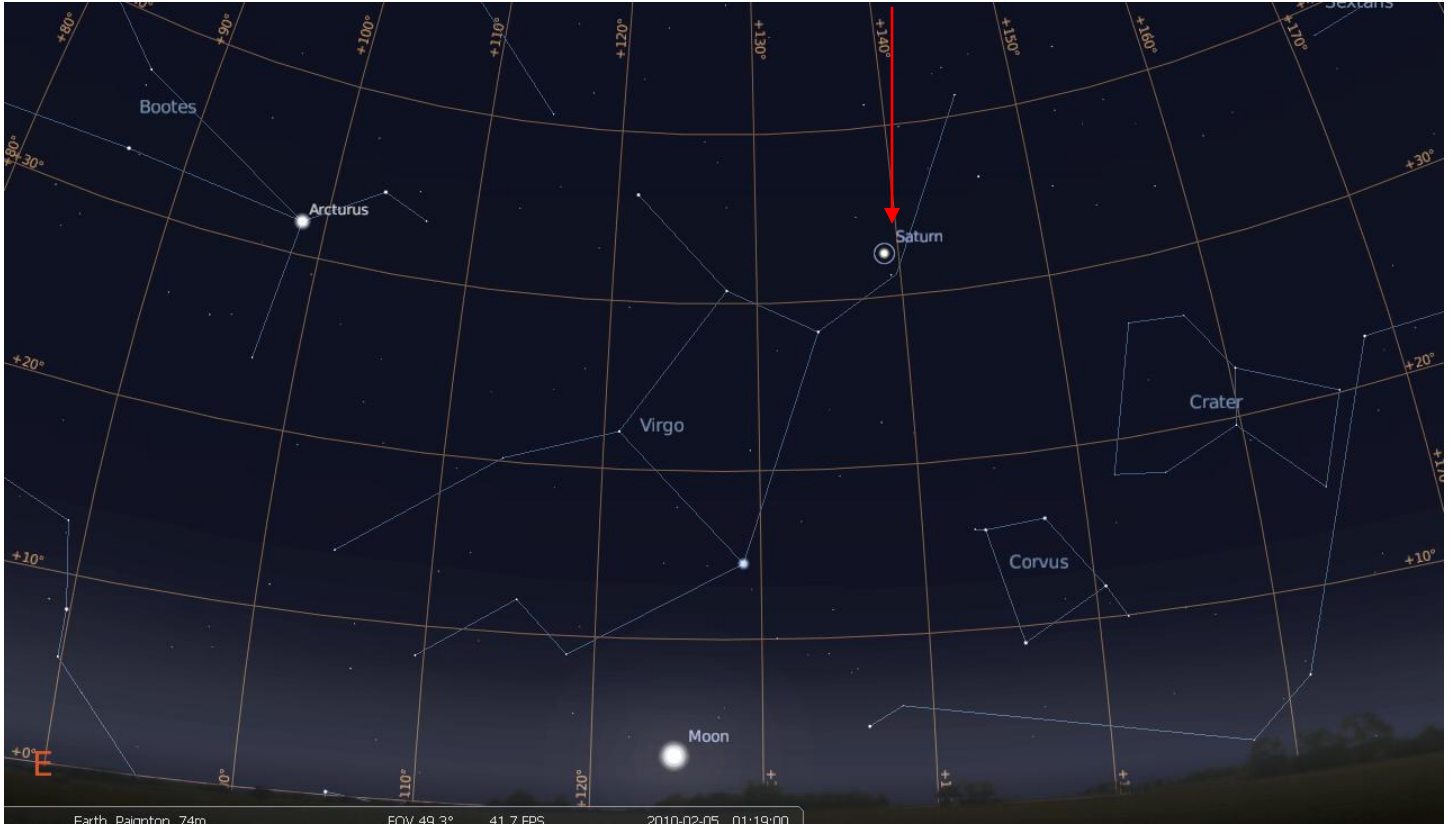
Not visible this month

# Saturn

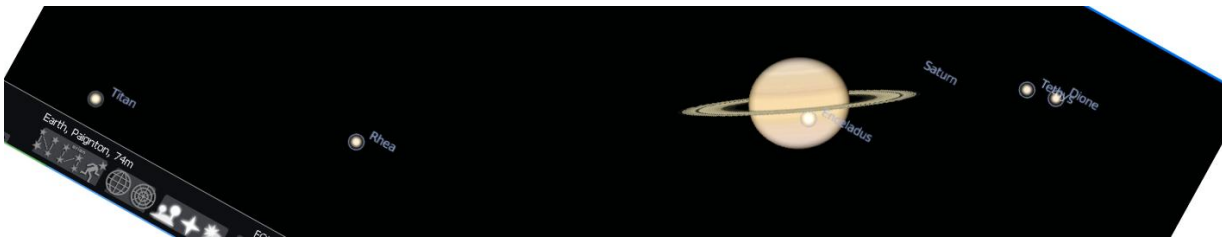
In constellation of Virgo – magn +0.5

Rising at 9:30pm ( Early Feb) –

Saturn



Rings are opening (5 deg):



View of Saturn ( Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 – 11pm)