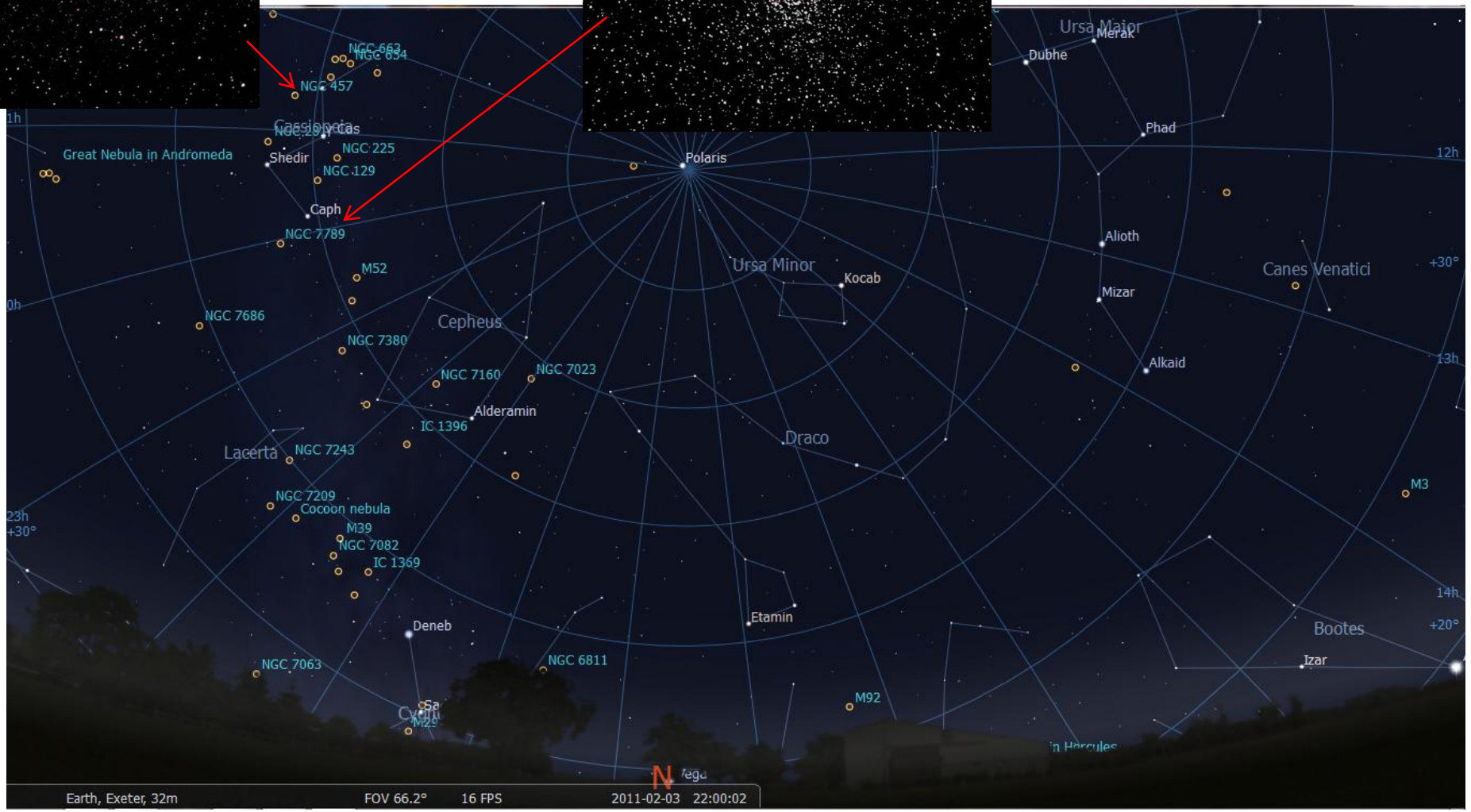
Feb 11 Sky notes

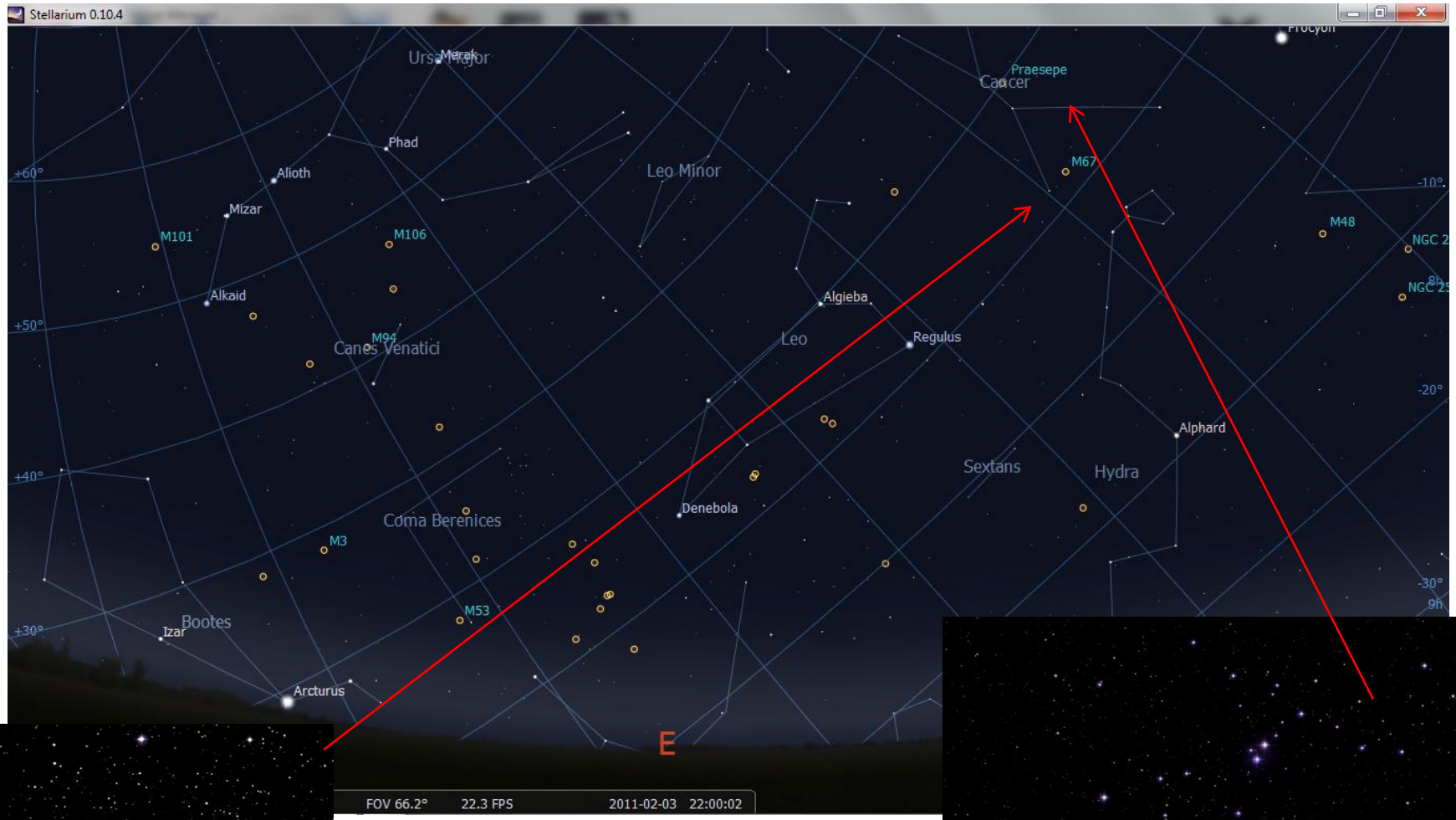
View facing North 10:00pm on Feb 3rd 2011 (68deg Field of View)

NGC457(Owl cluster) – 9000 lt yrs away (bright stars Phi Cass & HD902)

NGC7789 – most densely packed open cluster (over 1000 stars within 40 light yr size) 8000 light yrs away



View facing East 10:00pm on Feb 3rd 2011 (68deg Field of View)



M67 open cluster
500 stars in 0.5 deg
Many red giants (class K/M)
3-4 billion yrs old (most ancient cluster)
Distance of 2500 light years

M44 open cluster
About 200 stars (1,5deg span – best at low magn)
577 light yrs away – only 400 million yrs old

View facing South 10:00pm on Feb 3rd 2011 (68deg Field of View)

Open star cluster NGC2244
O-B stars in NGC2244 have fierce interstellar winds
Creating a cavity at the centre of the Rossette nebula
(distance of 5000 light years)

Great Orion Nebula M42

Composite image (10/20/30/45 sec Exposures)

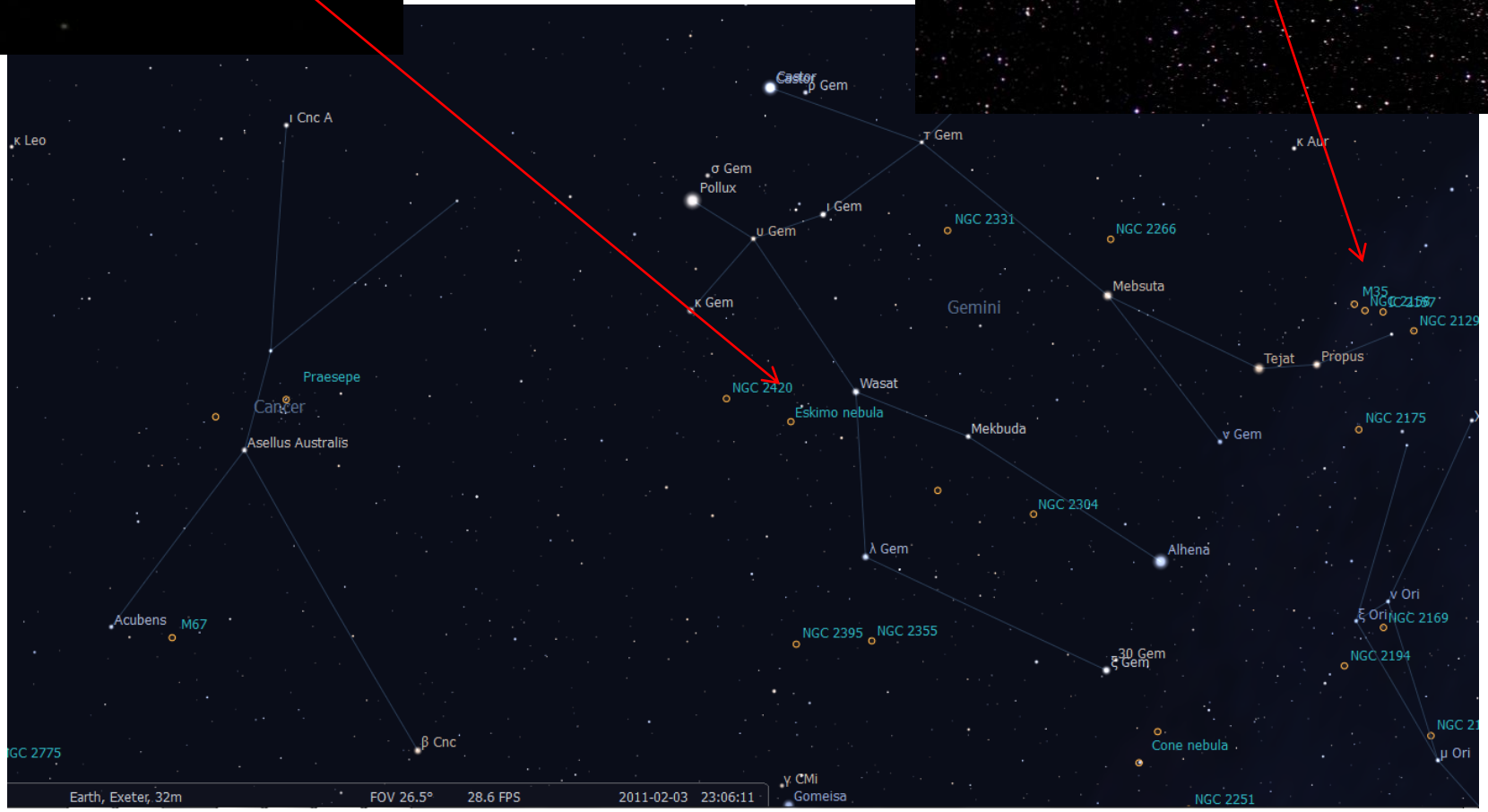
10” Schmidt Newtonian f/4.0 – canon 350D

08/01/11

Constellation of Month (Feb 11) – Cancer / Gemini

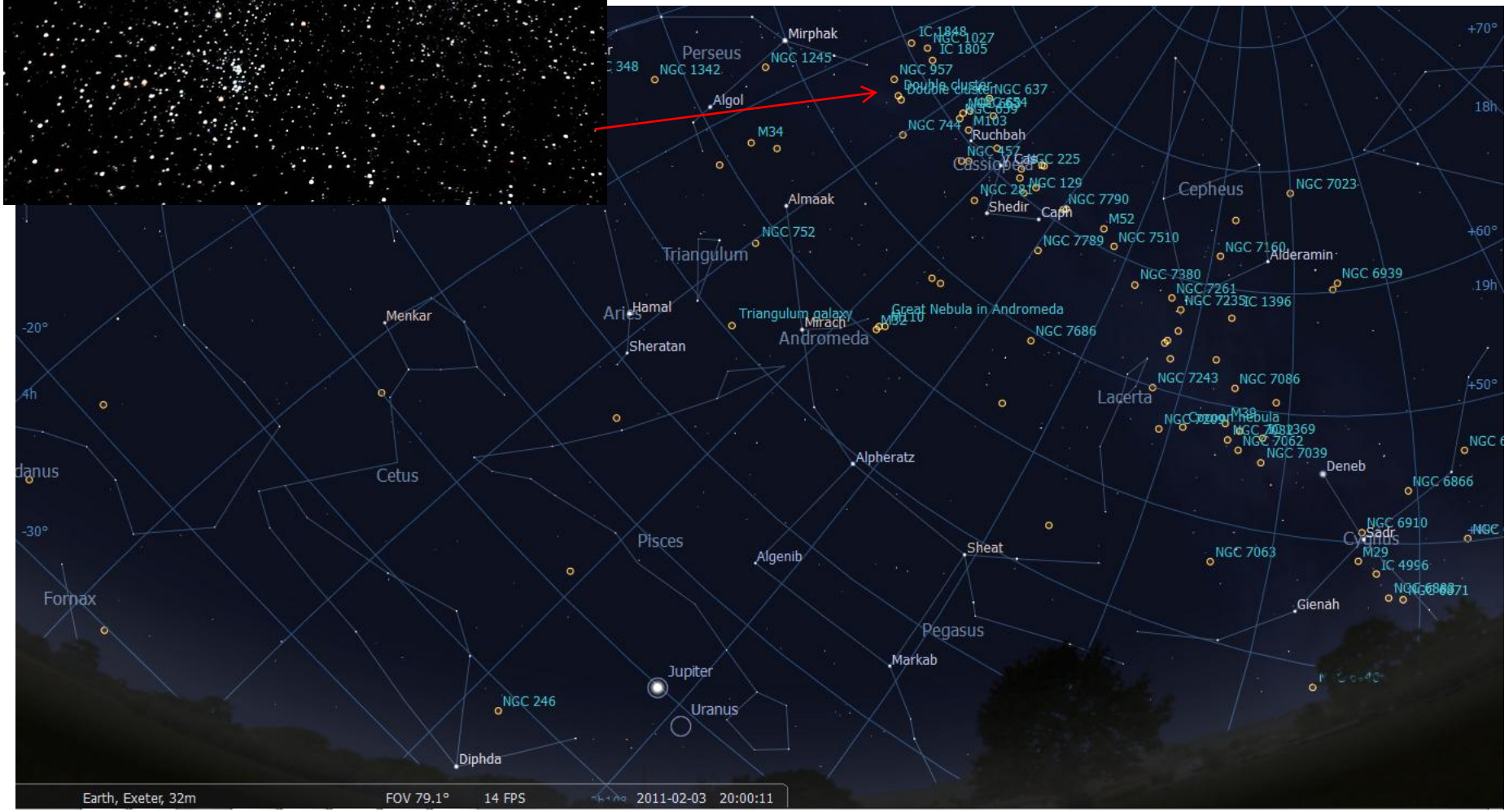
Eskimo PlanetaryNebula NGC2392

Open star cluster M35
(over 200 stars in 0.5 deg)
Mainly blue-white giants
2800 light years away
Adjacent Cluster NGC2158
Is over 16000 lt years away



View facing West 10:00pm on Feb 3rd 2011 (68deg Field of View)

Spectacular Double cluster (NGC869 - 7100lt yrs / NGC884 - 7400 lt yrs)
Most stars are blue-white hot type A/ B supergiants
There are a few red supergiant stars in NGC884
One of the best telescopic open clusters in the northern hemisphere



Moon

New moon (Feb 3rd) , 1st quarter(Feb 11th) , Full moon (Feb 18th) , Last Quarter (Feb 25th)

Lunar Rays

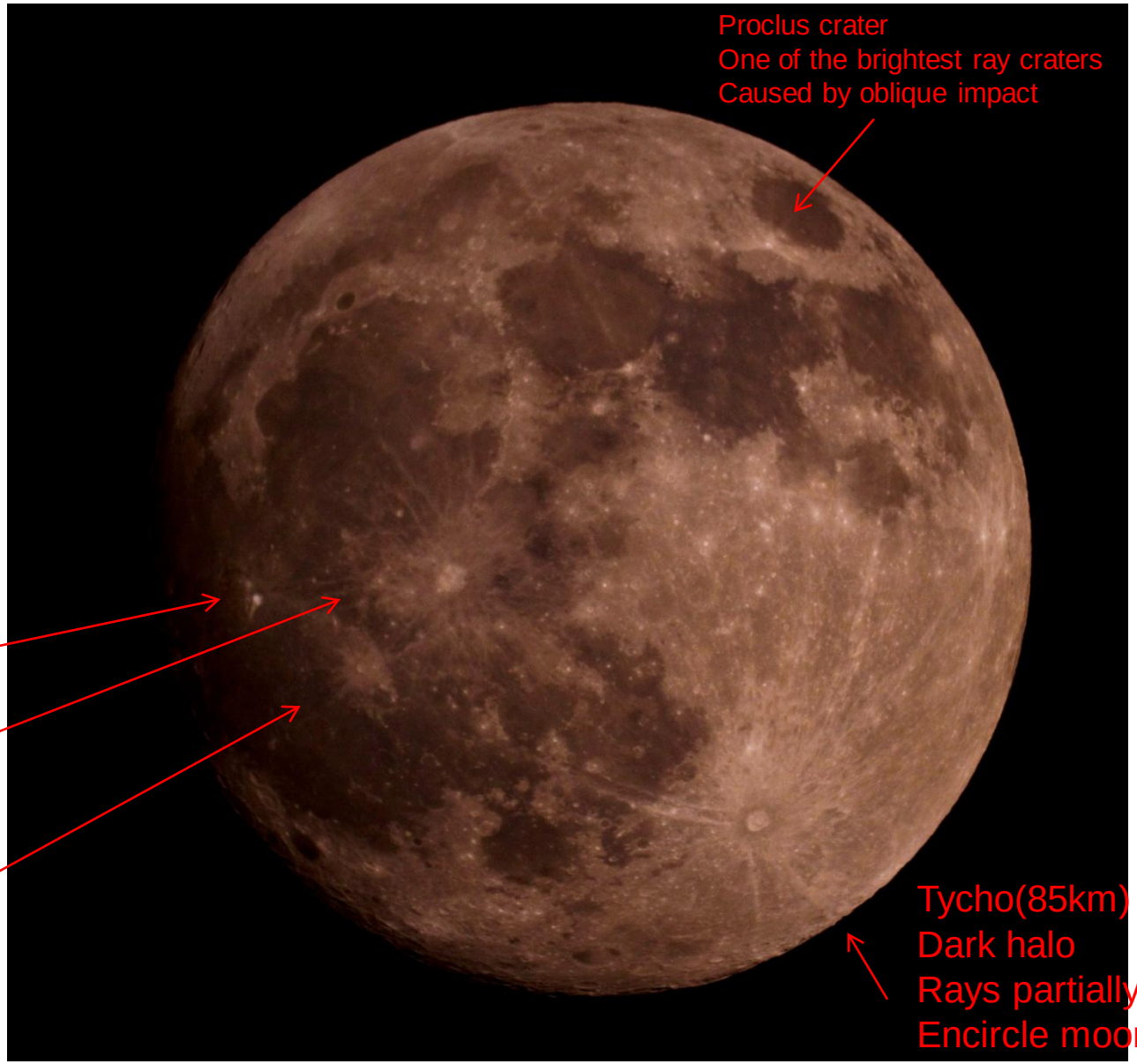
Radial streaks of fine ejecta
Surrounding impact crater

Often extend for several
Crater diameters across
Lunar surface

Accompanied by secondary
Impact craters

Rays have higher albedo
Than surrounding surface

Weathering (cosmic rays/
Micrometeorites)+ lava flows
-reduce Ray visibility



Aristarchus crater(130 km rays)

Copernicus crater(93km)-
Rays extend over 700 km
Across lunar surface

Kepler crater (31km)
Bright ray system
(mini version of Copernicus)

Solar System Sky notes (Feb 2011)

Mercury

Very close to sun all month–not really visible – max alt of 1 deg (Feb 1st)

Venus

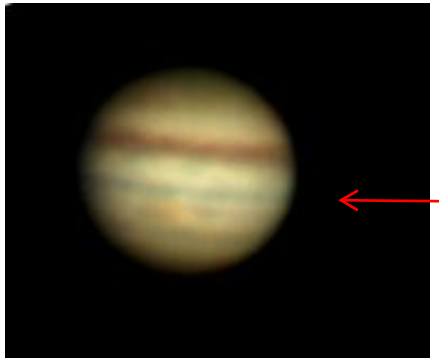
Much lower in eastern sky this month – best visibility – Feb 1st – alt only 7deg at 06:00am
Phase about 60%(mid month) magn drops from -4.2 to -4.0 (end of Feb)

Mars

Not visible this month

Jupiter

Setting by 8:30pm (mid Feb) – magn -2,0 , 33" size – SEB is now forming – still much fainter than NEB



(SLOOH 14" SCT image) Jan 15th 2010

SEB faintly shown in SLOOH image

Saturn

Rises by 10pm(mid month)
-Rings tilted by 10deg
- Magn +1.19 Size 40"

Better visibility of Cassini division