

# LUAstro NEWSLETTER

Hey everyone! On this week's newsletter, we have our events for this week, a guide on what to look at for this month of february and the promised photos of the new comet passing by!

## Next social

Our social for **today (01/02)** will be a presentation given by Jacob, our former president! He will talk about Messier objects. We will meet in **Fylde LT2** at **8pm**.

## Observing sessions

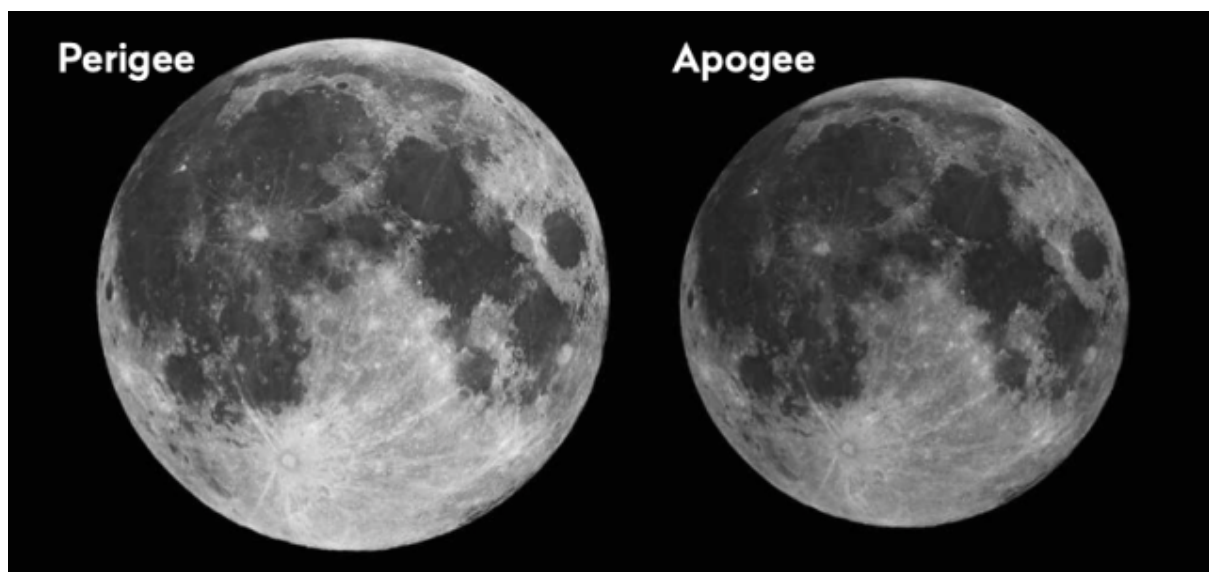
Weather this week is not looking ideal for observing but look out for Saturday! It is looking good after midnight right now but we will keep you updated if we plan on doing an observing session as the weather forecast changes throughout the week.

## What to observe in the night sky? *(Feb 2023)*

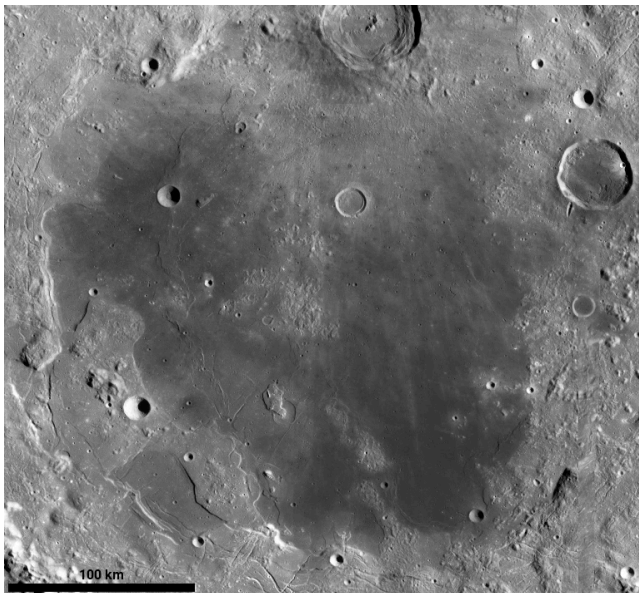
Today on Feb 1st, the comet C/2022E3 ZTF will be the closest from Earth which means it is when it is the brightest! Unfortunately the weather is not looking so good today but do not worry the comet will still be visible throughout February!

On Feb 11th and 12th it will be close to Mars on the Southwestern sky and on Feb 15th will be near Aldebaran still on the Southwestern sky on the constellation of Taurus.

On Feb 5th there is a full moon! It is near lunar apogee which means it is the furthest from Earth in its orbit so it will look dimmer and smaller than a regular full moon. It is also known as a "micromoon". In the following photo you can see the differences between an average full moon on the right and a "micromoon" on the left.



Speaking of the Moon, the Fra Mauro crater and other craters around it will be nicely visible from the morning of Feb 12th to the morning of Feb 14th seen on the first photo and on the 16th there will be a good view of the Mare Orientale seen on the second photo. To see them you need a small telescope like a reflector under 6 inches or a refractor under 4 inches.



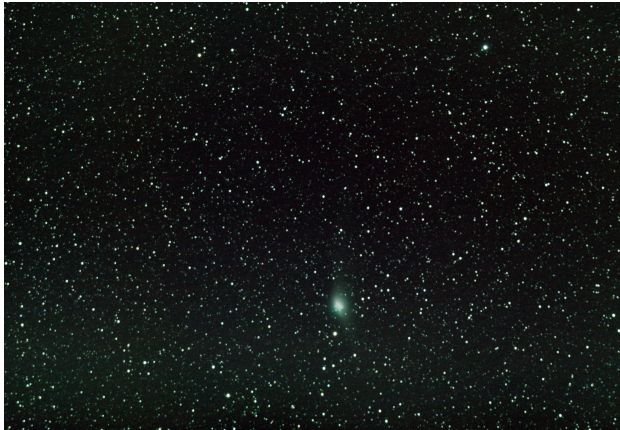
On Feb 16th there is a Saturn conjunction with the Sun but as it is closest to the Sun it will not be visible. However, throughout the month there are plenty of planets we can observe. On Feb 27th Mars is high in the Southern sky along with the Moon while Jupiter and Venus will be low in the Western horizon until appearing side by side in the sky on the 28th.

On the 26th you can see the Pleiades (M45) next to the Moon! You can catch the pair just as darkness falls on this day. Make sure to take some pictures so we can feature them here!

Information taken for our guide from [What to see in the night sky tonight, February 2023](#) by BBC Sky at Night magazine and [February 2023 Star Gazing Guide](#) by Guelph Physics on Youtube. Photos were also taken from the BBC magazine website. Click on the links to find out more!

## **Photo gallery**

For this week's photo gallery we have the photos our exec took of C/2022E3 ZTF! The first photo was taken by our current president Orlando and former president Jacob on the 25th January. The second photo was taken by Orlando the next day on the 26th.



Don't forget to send your photos our way through discord or instagram so they can be featured on our newsletter! We will be more than happy to share them!

## **Contacts**

If you wanna reach out, just message LUAstro on instagram or any of the exec on discord and don't forget to follow us on our socials and discord [here](#)! Clear skies everyone!

Best wishes,

MJ (LUAstro Secretary)