



# July 2018 Sky Events – the Planets

## A Crescent Moon Meets Mercury then Venus

On the evening of **Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**, a thin crescent **Moon** accompanies **Mercury** in the fading glow of sunset. On the following night, **Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>**, **Venus** shines with its own crescent lunar companion.

On **Saturday**, around **9:30 p.m. EDT** with an unobstructed view low to the western horizon, try your luck detecting the crescent Moon. Use this lunar guidepost to spot elusive Mercury just below. The task will benefit greatly from the aid of binoculars.

**Sunday** evening's pairing of brilliant Venus and a larger crescent Moon will be much less challenging, requiring no optical aid other than your keen eyes!

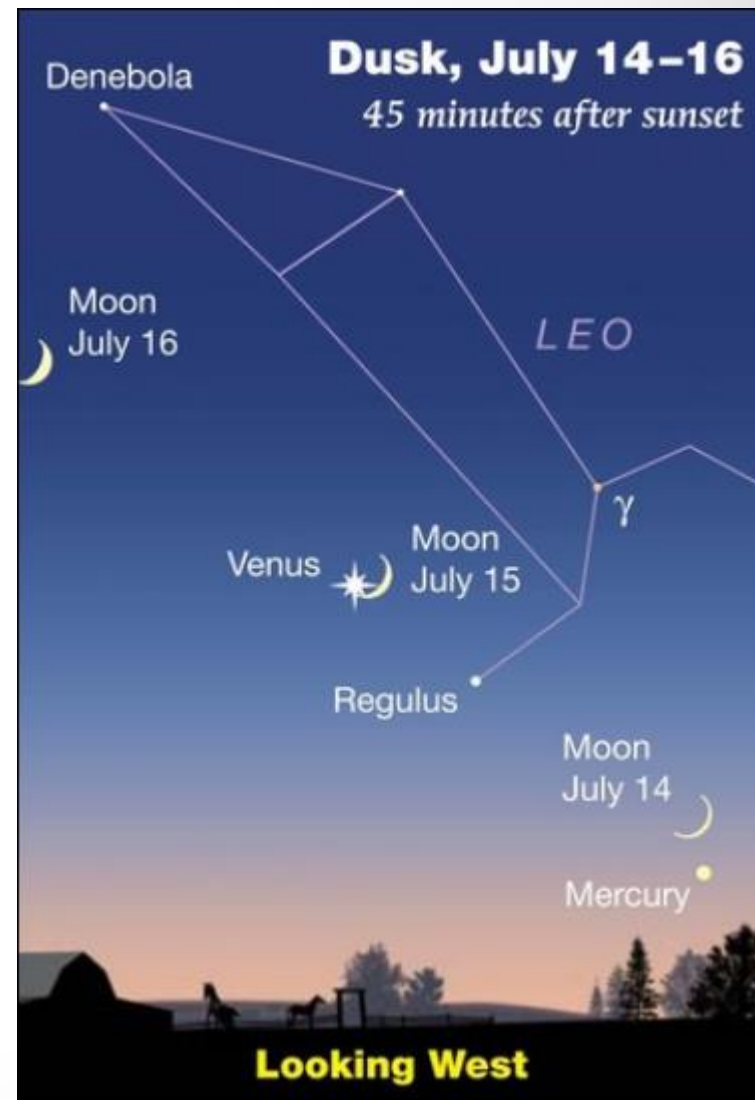


Image courtesy of Sky & Telescope