

The Moon Joins the Pleiades and Mars

On the nights of **February 26-27**, the waxing, first quarter Moon glides past the Pleiades star cluster and then the planet Mars in the constellation Taurus – the Bull.

On these nights, that February moon is located about 243 thousand miles away -- just over one light second of travel. Mars is positioned some 105 million miles away – about 9 light minutes of travel. And, the Seven Sisters (Pleiades star cluster) is a very distant 2.5 quadrillion miles away (25 followed by 14 zeroes) or 420 light years of travel. This means that light, traveling at the phenomenal speed of 186,000 miles per second, still takes 420 years to reach our eyes from the young stars of the Pleiades. And the Pleiades star cluster is a relatively close object, located in our neighborhood of the Milky Way galaxy!

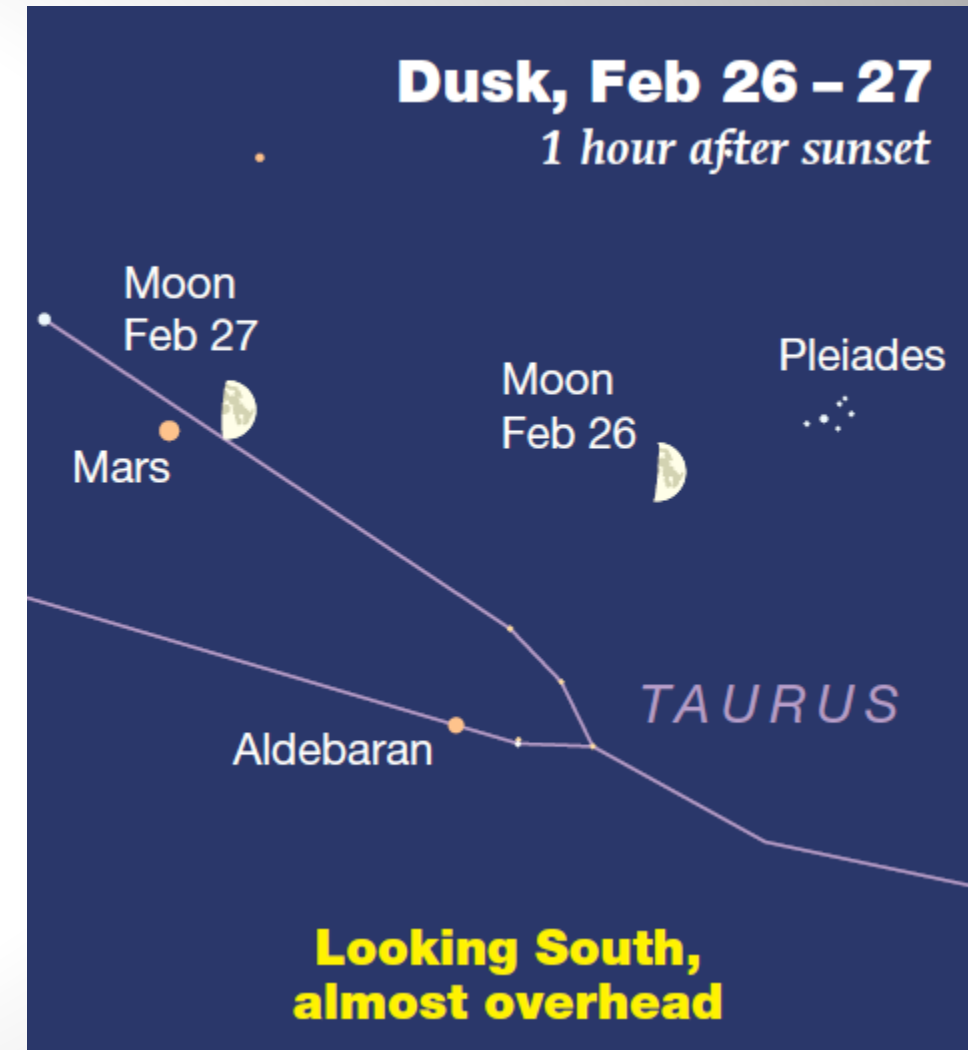


Illustration courtesy of [SKY & TELESCOPE](#)