

Astronomy Club of Asheville
February 2026 Sky Events

The Moon Visits Jupiter in Gemini

On the nights of **February 26-28**, the waxing gibbous Moon can be seen gliding through the zodiac constellation Gemini, the Twins. As the Moon moves eastward along the ecliptic (the apparent path of the Sun, Moon, and planets across our skies), it overtakes the planet Jupiter in Gemini, low in the west-northwest about 4:00 a.m. EST on Feb. 27th.

These late February nights are a great time to observe Jupiter and its 4 large Galilean in a small telescope.

Even with the bright moonlight, you will likely notice the two prominent twin stars of the constellation Gemini – Castor and Pollux. Pollux is an orange-giant star that outshines its white-colored twin Castor. Pollux is a very close 34 light years away from Earth, about 17 light years closer than Castor.

Castor is a multiple star system consisting of 6 stars. Three of those components are easily visible in a small telescope – 2 large white primaries and a small faint red dwarf.

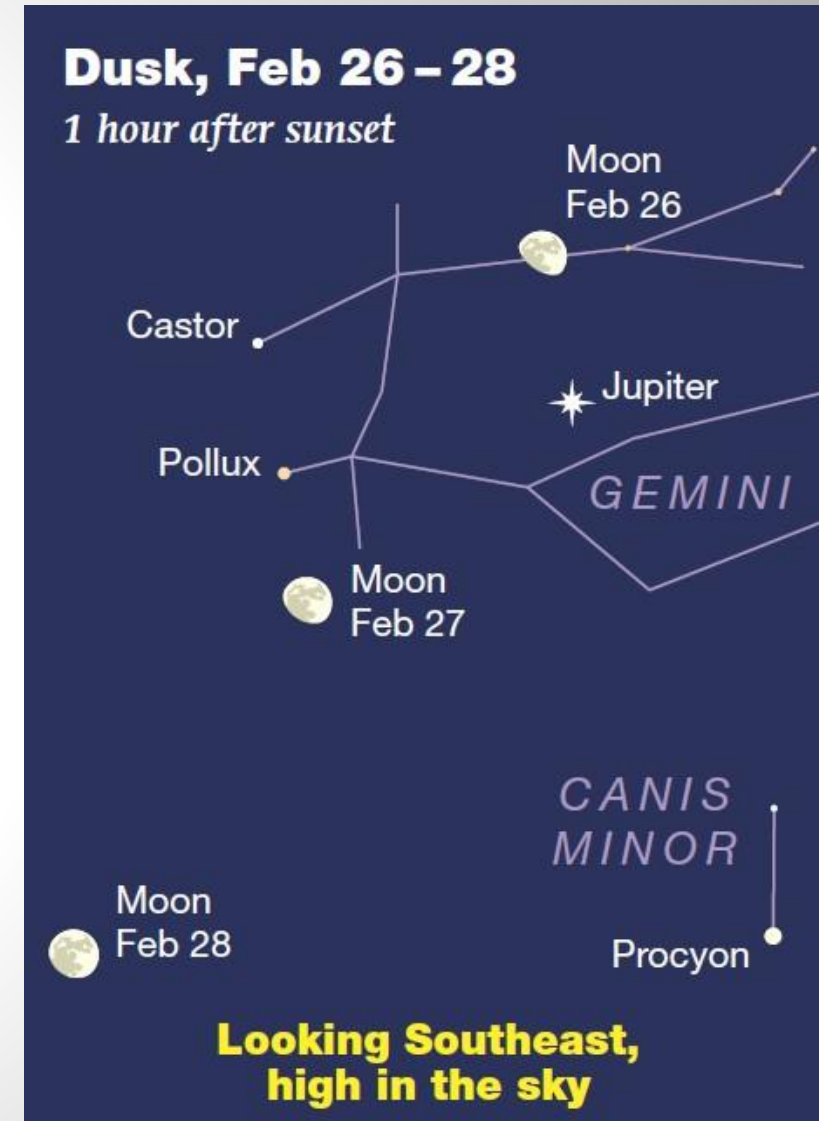


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