

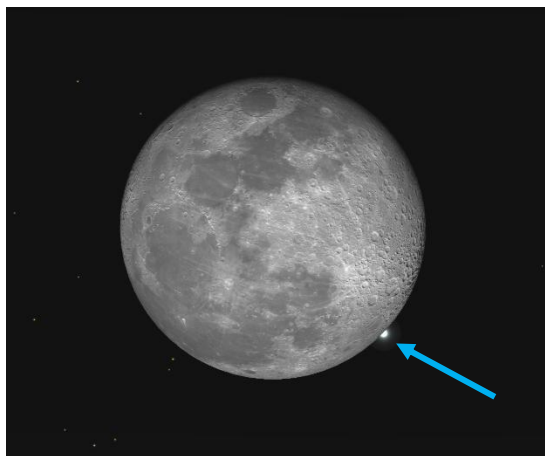
## Astronomy Club of Asheville

### **February 2026 Highlight**

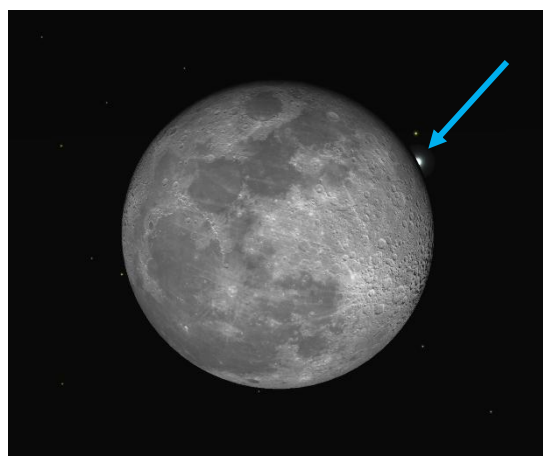
## **A Waning Gibbous Moon Hides the Bright Star Regulus**

From the Asheville region on the night of **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the Moon, one day past full, will occult (pass in front of) the blue-white star Regulus in the zodiacal constellation Leo, the Lion.

Here in the Asheville area, this occultation will begin low on the eastern horizon. The Moon will be only 21° above the horizon at first contact (8:55 p.m. EST), but some 28° degrees above the horizon at second contact -- some 38 minutes later. You will need an unobstructed view low to the eastern horizon to watch the beginning of this occultation. Using binoculars or a small telescope will increase your chances of observing Regulus as it disappears and reappears.



*Regulus' disappearance at 8:55 p.m.*



*Regulus' reappearance at 9:33 p.m.*

Approximate timings for this 38-minute Regulus occultation in the Asheville, NC region:

8:55 p.m. EST (Feb. 2)	1 <sup>st</sup> contact and the beginning of Regulus' <b>disappearance</b>
9:33 p.m. EST (Feb. 2)	2 <sup>nd</sup> contact and the beginning of Regulus' <b>reappearance</b>

**Regulus** is the brightest star in the constellation Leo and one of the brightest stars in our night sky. It is located along the “ecliptic” which marks the path of the Sun, Moon and planets across our sky. Hence, it is involved in numerous lunar conjunctions and occultations. Regulus is located some 78 light years behind the Moon, and it is some 140 times more luminous than our Sun!