

Lunartics

Some Sky Notes for February 2023

Full Moon 4th February

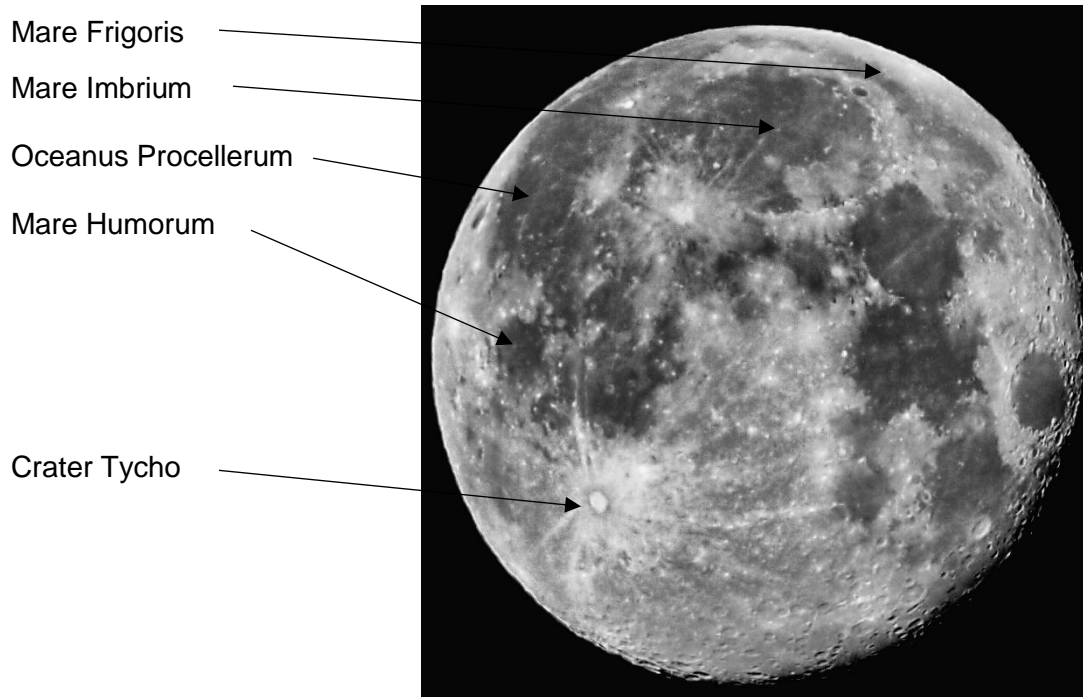


Photo taken through a 70 mm Refractor Telescope at Prime Focus with a X2 converter and with an Olympus EPL-1 camera attached. Some additional processing was done using Paint.Net software to bring out the darker areas.

Let's also have a look at the Northern sky.

Quite dominant to the north east is the sprawling constellation Perseus. The 2 bright fuzzy patches towards the 'W' looking constellation Cassiopeia is the 'Double Cluster' in Perseus, a collection of stars grouped together, a great view in Binoculars. In this part of the sky, you will find the Great Bear Ursa Major, within this constellation is the asterism we know as the 'Plough'. The 2 stars at the base of the plough bowl, if you join them with an imaginary line and extend it northwards, then you can come to the North Star 'Polaris'. Not a bright star as you would expect. But the brightest in that area.

Further over to the north east you will find the constellation Boötes 'The Herdsman'. Look for the Red Giant star Arcturus at his waist.

On the 15th February the planet Venus low down in the western sky is close (visually) to the planet Neptune. Although Venus is quite bright naked eye, you will need Binoculars to observe Neptune in the same field of view, also of course a good western horizon!

On the 23rd you will also see in the southwest, Jupiter, a thin crescent Moon and Venus to round off the month.

Ho Humm!