

## Our Night Sky for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

We find ourselves in the part of the year when several of the planets are close to the sun, Right now the best planet to look for is Jupiter high in our southern sky just between the twins of Gemini. Slow moving Jupiter will remain close to Gemini until summers short nights mean it will set before you see it at all. Jupiter's orbit takes it close to 12 years to travel once around the sun. Venus these days is close to the sun but a little behind, it sets about 20 minutes after the sun. By June Venus will also be in Gemini and in a close conjunction with Jupiter. Two easy to spot planets in our western sky at about 10:30 the first week in June.

Conjunctions are a real treat if you can catch them with binoculars or a small telescope. The movements of the planets is one of those things you know happens, but you never see, its like watching the hands of a clock move, you know it moves but you never see it. Venus and Jupiter during the first week in June will be a close conjunction, they should be visible in the same eyepiece view, and you may see some motion if you are patient. The real treat is if you have one planet being eclipsed by the other. So far, I haven't been able to find one this year, but I am still looking. This is when you can actually see the motion with your own eyes, one planet moving in front of the other. Like magic, in Our Night Sky.