

## STAR GAZERS

SG 1808 – 1M

FEBRUARY 19-25, 2018

“Take The Venus-Mercury Challenge”

DEAN:

Challenge: find the two closest planets to the Sun.

JAMES: We’re talking Mercury and Venus.

(STOP DROP)

JAMES:

We have our sky set up for 6 pm on February 25th facing west. Just after sunset you may see the brightest planet in the night sky, Venus, pop into view as the sky darkens.

DEAN:

Seeing Mercury, on the other hand, is the real challenge in February. It is way dimmer than Venus and tends to get lost in the haze above the horizon.

But as the weeks roll on, Mercury will become easier to spot. Here is the sky, same time of night on February 26... 27... 28... and March 1st.

JAMES:

Venus appears higher in the sky and you see that little dot next to it? That is the elusive planet Mercury. On March 2nd they’ll be closer still and on March 3rd... They’ll be in conjunction!

DEAN:

So take the Venus-Mercury challenge and see when you can first spot the two planets.

BOTH: Keep looking up!

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