



1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,000  
Music.

2  
00:00:02,000 --> 00:00:03,000  
Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for February.

3  
00:00:03,000 --> 00:00:08,000  
An asteroid flyby and comet and planet previews.

4  
00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:13,000  
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

5  
00:00:13,000 --> 00:00:19,000  
February is a great month to spot Mercury, the smallest and fastest-moving planet.

6  
00:00:19,000 --> 00:00:27,000  
It reaches its highest point above the sunset horizon on February 16, when it appears 18 degrees from the sun

7  
00:00:27,000 --> 00:00:33,000  
On February 6th through the 10th, catch Mercury and Mars less than 10 degrees above the horizon

8  
00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:35,000  
just after sunset.

9  
00:00:35,000 --> 00:00:41,000  
The moon joins the parade on the 11th as a faint crescent above the two planets.

10  
00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:50,000  
On February 15 a small asteroid named 2012 DA-14 will whiz by, 17,200 miles from Earth.

11  
00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:59,000  
It does not pose any threat to us. And it'll be a challenging object to see at magnitude 8.

12  
00:00:59,000 --> 00:01:04,000  
Its closest approach will be over eastern Europe, where it will be evening,

13  
00:01:04,000 --> 00:01:07,000

and Asia to Australia, where it will be dawn.

14

00:01:07,000 --> 00:01:12,000

U.S. observers may spot it -- through a telescope, with difficulty -- several hours later

15

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:17,000

at a very faint magnitude 11.1 at 7 p.m. Eastern

16

00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:21,000

and an even fainter magnitude 12.5 at 10 p.m. Pacific.

17

00:01:21,000 --> 00:01:26,000

You can find the latest information on the asteroid's closest approach

18

00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:32,000

on the NASA website: w w w dot NASA dot gov.

19

00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:39,000

Far easier to see, and more beautiful, the moon appears to Saturn's lower left at dawn on the third.

20

00:01:39,000 --> 00:01:44,000

And the moon and Jupiter appear close again on the 18th

21

00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:50,000

There are no bright comets this month. But comet Pan-STARRS will be visible in March

22

00:01:50,000 --> 00:01:57,000

near the Pisces-Cetus border, when it reaches magnitude 1 or zero or even brighter.

23

00:01:57,000 --> 00:02:01,000

If you're not already a member of your local astronomy club, this is the year to join.

24

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:06,000

You'll definitely see some faint comets through club telescopes at star parties

25

00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:08,000

and you'll learn the night sky.

26

00:02:08,000 --> 00:02:14,000

To learn about all of NASA's missions, visit [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov).