WHAT'S UP

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,000
Music.

2
00:00:04,000 --> 00:00:09,000
Jane Houston Jones: What's Up for February. Planetary pairs, just in time for Valentine's Day.

3
00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:16,000
Hello and welcome. I'm Jane Houston Jones from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

4
00:00:16,000 --> 00:00:20,000
If you wake up early mid-month, you'll see the moon glide by Saturn

5
00:00:20,000 --> 00:00:24,000
in the South-Southeast an hour before dawn.

6
00:00:24,000 --> 00:00:29,000
Keep looking over the next two mornings and you'll see the crescent moon bookend Mercury

7
00:00:29,000 --> 00:00:32,000
very close to the horizon.

8
00:00:32,000 --> 00:00:37,000
And those are not the only meetups between solar system bodies this month.

9
00:00:37,000 --> 00:00:41,000
Venus, traditional goddess of love, attracts Mars

10
00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:47,000
though their closest encounter happens a week after Valentine's Day, on the 21st.

11
00:00:47,000 --> 00:00:52,000
On the 21st, the two planets are just half a degree apart; that's the width of the moon.

12
00:00:52,000 --> 00:00:53,000
Sound: Whoosh.

13
00:00:53,000 --> 00:00:57,000

Jones: Even through modest modern telescopes, today's astronomers have a view

14
00:00:57,000 --> 00:01:00,000
that would have stunned Galileo.

15
00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:06,000
In 1609 Galileo learned of the invention of the telescope and began to make his own.

16
00:01:06,000 --> 00:01:13,000
Over the next months and years, he observed the moon, Venus, Mars, Saturn, several star clusters,

17
00:01:13,000 --> 00:01:17,000
sunspots on the sun, and Jupiter.

18
00:01:17,000 --> 00:01:20,000
This is the very best month to observe Jupiter!

19
00:01:20,000 --> 00:01:26,000
It reaches opposition on February 6 and is visible all month long.

20
00:01:26,000 --> 00:01:32,000
Jupiter's moons perform their ballet just as they did when Galileo observed them in 1610.

21
00:01:32,000 --> 00:01:37,000
Using modern telescopes, you'll be able to see the moons pass in front of and behind one another

22
00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:42,000
as they march across the planet, casting tiny shadows.

23
00:01:42,000 --> 00:01:47,000
It's also a great month the view the Main Belt asteroid Juno through telescopes.

24
00:01:47,000 --> 00:01:53,000
You'll find it near the pretty collection of stars known as the Beehive Cluster.

25
00:01:53,000 --> 00:02:00,000
You can learn more about the history of the solar system and discoveries at solarsystem dot nasa dot gov.

26
00:02:00,000 --> 00:02:05,000
And you can learn about all of NASA's missions at w w w dot nasa dot gov.