

# WEEKLY SKY REPORT

February 1 – February 7, 2026

## OBSERVATORIES

The Chabot Space and Science Center ([chabot.space.org](http://chabot.space.org)) has some fun programs to brighten up your days—and nights. There are some great planetarium shows such as Lunaverse about our lovely moon and Starstruck exploring our mother star. Also, on February 6 there is a program on Afrofuturism: “a movement in literature, music, art and more featuring futuristic and science fiction themes that incorporate elements of Black history and culture!”

## ROCKET LAUNCHES

NASA is preparing to launch Artemis 2 this next week. This is the mission that will bring four astronauts to where no one has gone since Apollo 17 in 1972. The crew of the 10-day mission is composed of NASA's Victor Glover, the pilot, Christina Koch, and commander Reid Wiseman, along with Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen. They represent the first person of color, the first woman, and the first non-American to journey to the moon. It will be the debut of the Space Launch System (SLS) and also the Orion spacecraft, as far as carrying crew. The mission will include some historic mementos: a 1" square swatch of fabric from the Wright brother's first powered flight and an American flag that was to fly on the canceled Apollo 18 mission to the moon. This will also be the farthest humans have ever traveled from Earth. Splashdown will be off the coast of San Diego.

**DELAYED!:** Earliest Launch: ~~February 6, 6:41pm~~ February 8

## PLANETS

Saturn is easy to spot over as it hangs over the southern sky right after sunset. It is the brightest object in that part of the sky. It will be visible in our night sky until March, so now is a great time to put a hold on our library telescope! Jupiter is a good ways over the Berkeley hills as it gets dark.

## Telescopes @ Berkeley Public Library!

We have a Orion StarBlast Astro Reflector Telescope that you can borrow for 1 week. Place a hold on it and then pick it up from your branch when it is ready. It is fairly easy to carry at 13 lbs., and stands about 2 feet tall.

Here's what you get:

"A great compact grab-and-go telescope designed for entry-level and intermediate astronomy enthusiasts. Substantial 4.5" aperture and fast f/4 focal ratio provides bright, detailed views of solar system targets like the Moon and planets, as well as wide-field celestial objects like nebulas and star clusters."

We also have a couple of pairs of binoculars to check out!



Much of the information for this report comes from the wonderful web site, Heavens Above. You can enter your home city location and bookmark it for easy access: <http://www.heavens-above.com>. Other stellar sources include: <http://www.space.com> and <http://www.nasa.gov>. And check [spacex.com](http://spacex.com) for launches.

## Binoculars @ Berkeley Public Library!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Cal Falcons program, we have 9 Vortex-Raptor binocular kits that you can put on hold and pick up at the location of your choice.

Here's what you get:

Porro prism performance in a mid-size, wide-angle design, the Raptors deliver a bright, crisp image with excellent color fidelity - even in low light conditions. With a wide range of interpupillary distance, they can easily be adjusted to fit anyone in the family, making them ideal for serious, hard-core youth hunters. The kit comes with a copy of The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western America and a pocket guide to local birds of the SF Bay Area. But it is also great for looking at planets, the moon and the stars!

