

## February 2014 Skies

| Date             | Event   |
|------------------|---|
| Saturday, Feb. 1 | Mercury is 4 degrees south of the Moon                      |
| Tuesday, Feb. 4  | Birthday of Clyde Tombaugh (1906), discoverer of Pluto      |
| Thursday, Feb. 6 | Anniversary of Alan Shepard's famous golf swing on the Moon |
| Friday, Feb. 14  | Hoku (Full Moon) at 01:00 HST                               |
| Sunday, Feb. 23  | Neptune in conjunction with the Sun                         |

## February 2014 Highlights

This February is relatively quiet this year in terms of activity in our island skies.

However there are several birthdays and celebrations of note, including the birthday of Clyde Tombaugh – the discoverer of Pluto. Clyde was born February 4th, 1906; and went to discover the former planet, Pluto. However since its discovery there has been much debate of the nature of Pluto and its place within the Solar System. To many a child's disappointment Pluto was 'demoted' from planet status to that of a 'minor planet,' in 2006.

February also marks the anniversary of the Columbia disaster. On February 1st, 2003, the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated on reentry into the Earth's atmosphere with the loss of all life on board.

This tragic event arguably hastened the retirement of the aging space shuttle and served as a sober reminder of the risks of space travel. The eventual retirement of the space shuttle began in 2011 and, for the first time, left the United States without access to space; thus relying on the Russian Federation for transport of astronauts and materials to the International Space Station.



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# February Sky Chart

