

## February 2012 Calendar of Events

*by Elizabeth Brown*

The 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a fun evening as you'll find tiny Mercury within 5° of the crescent Moon, while the Galilean Moon Europa, transits the face of Jupiter. Beautiful Venus puts on a brilliant show at magnitude -4 throughout the month. On the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>, it joins a crescent Moon with mighty Jupiter close by to the upper left and Mercury on the lower horizon. Comet fans can still observe two nice comets all month as Comet Levy travels against the backdrop of the southern stars of the Milky Way in Lepus and Canis Major, while Comet Garradd brightens to magnitude 7 as it travels through Hercules. Mars and Saturn are the morning planets, with Mars growing in magnitude throughout the month and reaches opposition during the first week of March.

Full Moon – Feb 7

Last Quarter – Feb 14

New Moon – Feb 21

First Quarter Moon – Feb 29

Thur, Feb 2

Groundhog Day

Sat, Feb 4

Clyde Tombaugh's 106<sup>th</sup> bday (1906)

Tue, Feb 7

Full (Snow) Moon

Sun, Feb 12

Lincoln's bday

Tue, Feb 14

Valentine's Day. Last Quarter Moon

Sat, Feb 18

Clyde Tombaugh discovers Pluto (1930)

Mon, Feb 20

50<sup>th</sup> Anniv (1962) Friendship 7 launch, John Glenn. President's Day. George Washington's bday

Tue, Feb 21

New Moon. Mardi Gras

Wed, Feb 22

Ash Wed

Sat, Feb 25

ASKC General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Royall Hall, UMKC

Wed, Feb 29

First Quarter Moon. Leap Day.