

## The Planets Venus & Mercury Gather with Regulus at Dusk

Just after sunset on **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the innermost planets Mercury and Venus will appear to join the bright star Regulus in the constellation Leo – the Lion. You will need an unobstructed view low to the western horizon to have any chance of catching this alignment.

Just past their June “superior conjunctions”, the two planets are emerging from the far side of the Sun into our evening skies this month. Venus, the most reflective planet in our solar system and the brightest planet visible in our skies, should be the easiest of the trio of objects to locate. Because they hover a mere  $4^{\circ}$  off the horizon just 30 minutes after sunset, using binoculars will increase your chances of spotting both the planets and the star Regulus.

