



FEBRUARY 2018

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

R AQUARII

This composite image shows Chandra X-ray data (cyan) along with optical data (red, green, blue) of the “symbiotic” system R Aquarii (R Aqr). This system contains a white dwarf star in orbit with a pulsating red giant. Occasionally, the white dwarf pulls enough material from the red giant onto its surface to generate a thermonuclear explosion. Since shortly after Chandra launched in 1999, astronomers have been using the X-ray telescope to monitor the behavior of R Aqr, giving them a better understanding of the behavior of this volatile stellar pair. The image is about 4.2 x 3.4 arcminutes.

Credit: X-ray: NASA/CXC/SAO/R. Montez et al.; Optical: Adam Block/Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter/U Arizona.