



PERSPECTIVE

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

PERSPECTIVE

"You can get claustrophobia and agoraphobia – a fear of wide, open spaces – simultaneously on a spacewalk."

Chris Hadfield

1959-

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Venus

Venus, the second planet from the Sun is, from our perspective, is still the brightest object in the early evening sky. It's visible during early twilight but quickly withdraws below the horizon, relinquishing the sky to Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars. Just under 20 degrees above the horizon at 8 p.m., Venus is moving from its gibbous phase to its crescent phase.

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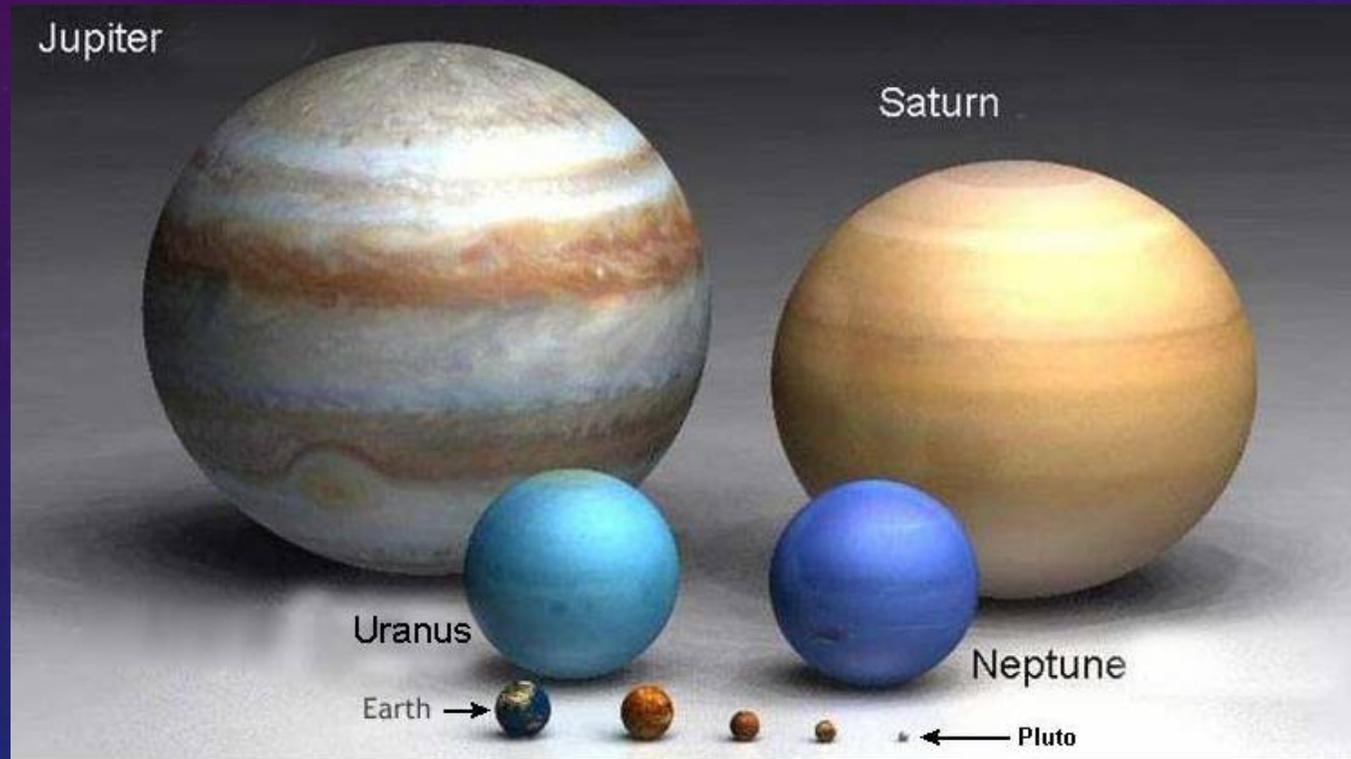


Image Credit: Imagineeringzine.com

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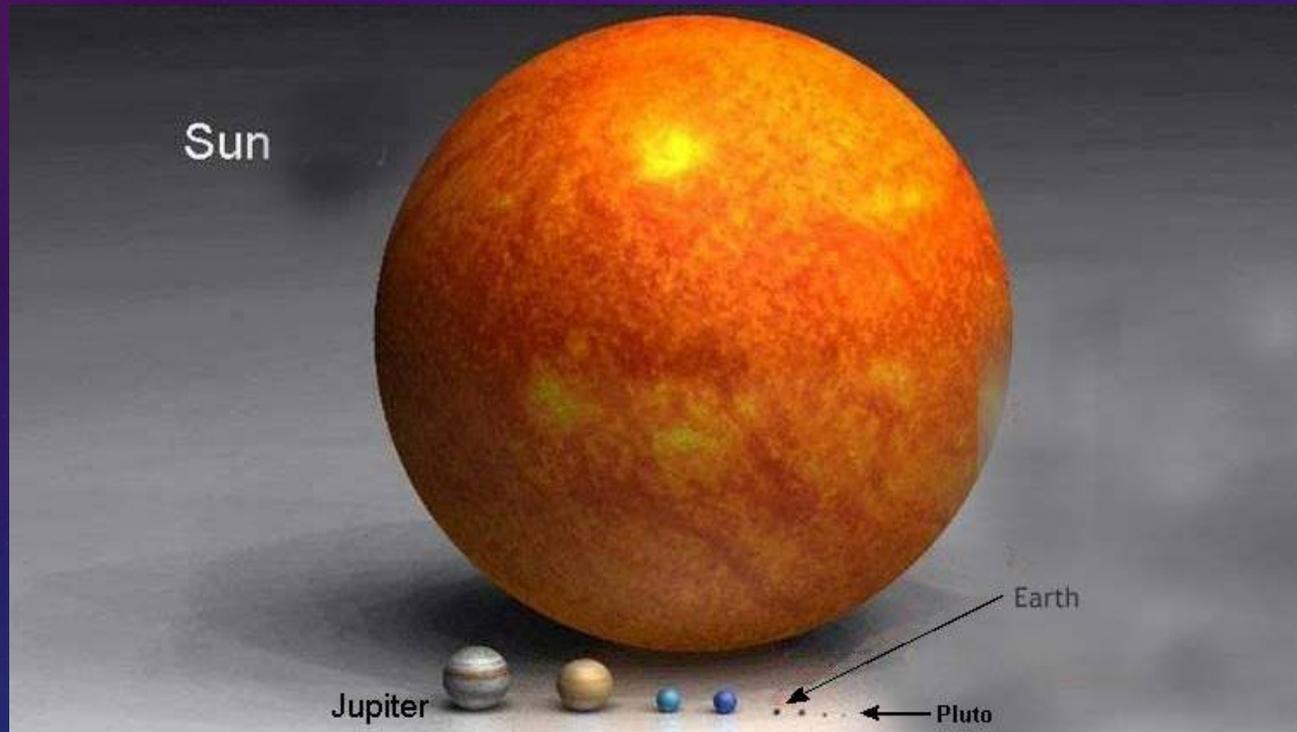


Image Credit: Imagineeringzine.com

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Submit your Venus images and observations to venus@alpo-astronomy.org
For more information, check out <http://www.alpo-astronomy.org/venusblog>

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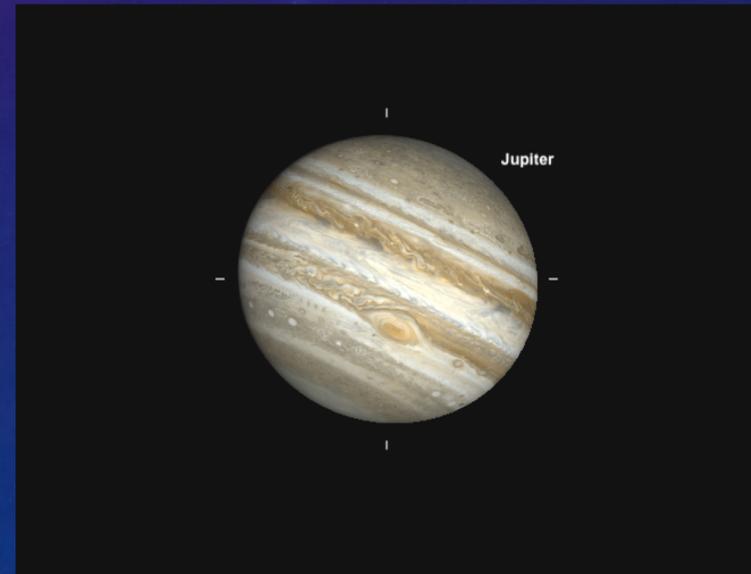
Jupiter

The gas giant that acts as a vacuum cleaner of sorts is closer to the horizon as the Sun sets. Not in a particularly favorable position, there are still imaging and observing opportunities. The Great Red Spot will be nicely composed for imaging and observing at 9:00 p.m. tonight.

Image credit: Sky Safari, Simulation Curriculum Corporation

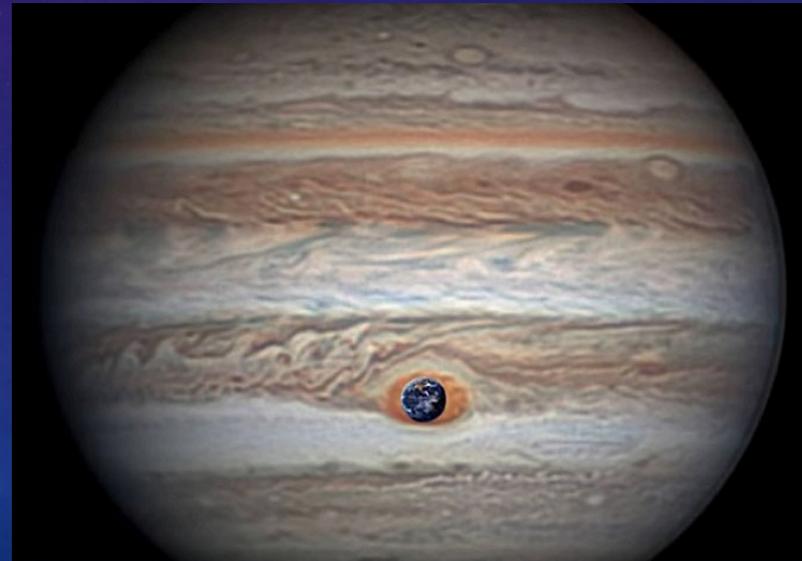
Observing Opportunity!

The moon will pass 4 degrees North of Jupiter the evening of September 13th!



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If you were wondering just how big Jupiter's Great Red Spot is, here's an image to give you some perspective. If you were to cut the globe and lay it flat, it would cover an area roughly the size of the Great Red Spot. Image Credit: NASA



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Submit your Jupiter images and observations to jupiter@alpo-astronomy.org. For more information, visit <http://www.alpo-astronomy.org/jupiterblog>

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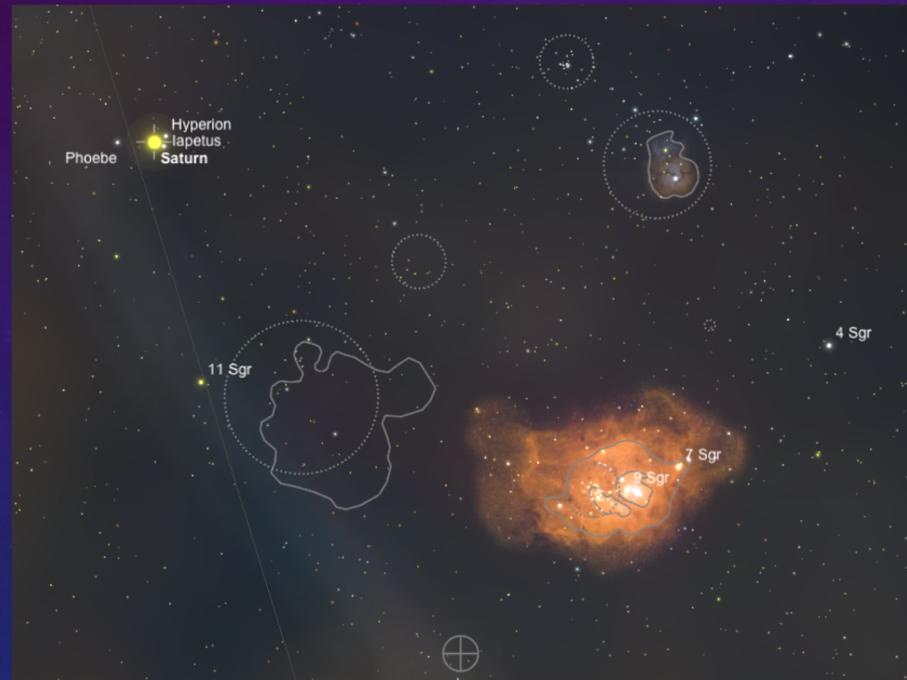
Saturn

The ringed planet always draws a crowd at outreach events. If you have a telescope, even a modest one, set it up in your front yard and invite your neighbors over. At 9 p.m. tonight, Saturn will be well positioned next to the Lagoon and Trifid Nebulae.

Image Credit: Steve Siedentop



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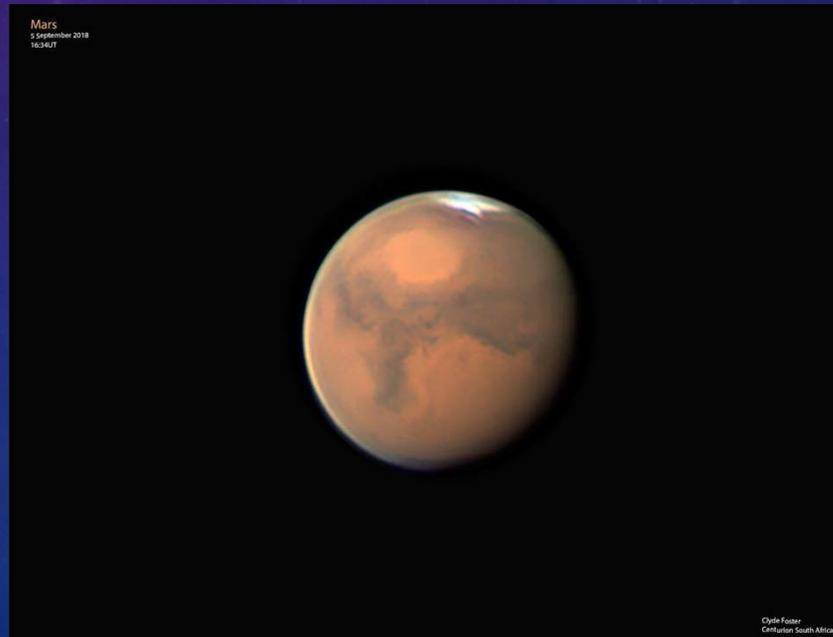
Submit your Saturn images and observations to saturn@alpo-astronomy.org. For more information, visit <http://www.alpo-astronomy.org/saturnblog>

THE NEIGHBORHOOD

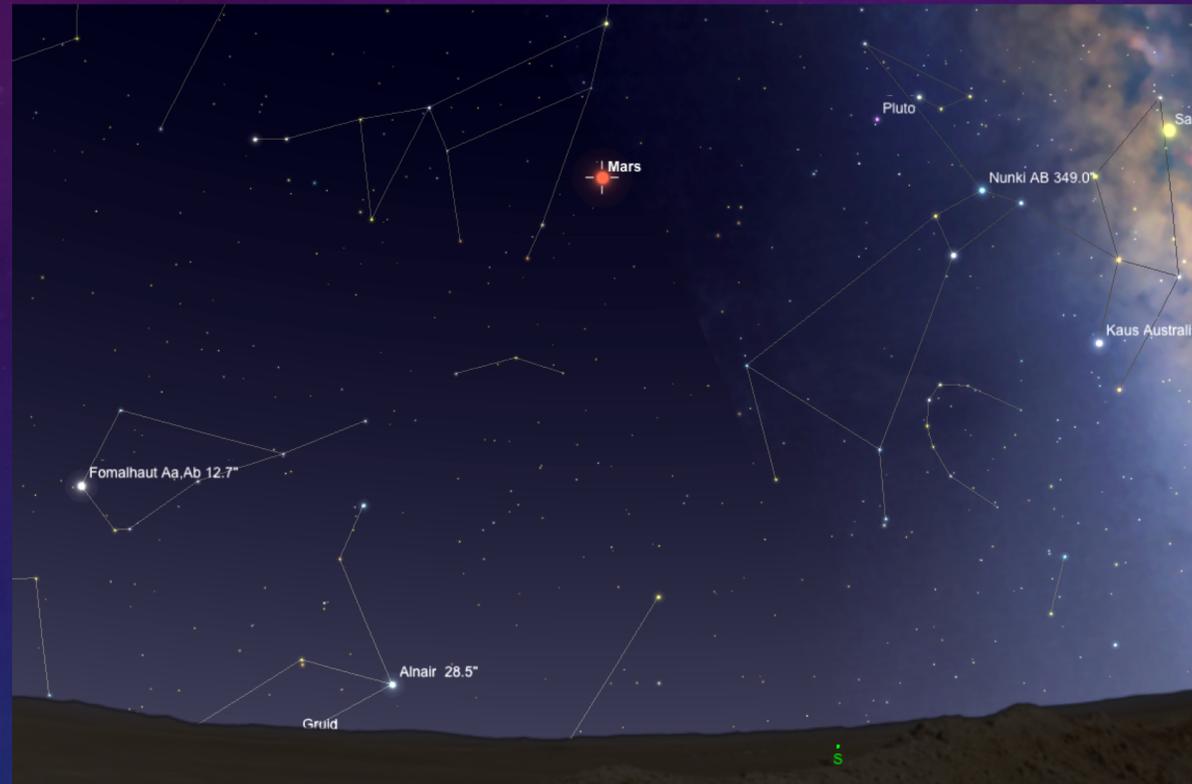
Mars

The global dust storm that obscured Mars during the best opposition for the next 35 years has mostly subsided. Mars rises later in the evening and is well positioned for imaging and observing.

Image credit: Clyde Foster



THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Submit your Mars images and observations to mars@alpo-astronomy.org. For more information, visit <http://www.alpo-astronomy.org/marsblog>

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Comet 21P/Giacobini-Zinner

- Periodic comet discovered by Michel Giacobini from Nice, France December 20, 1900
- Later "rediscovered" by Ernst Zinner from Bamberg, Germany on October 23, 1913.
- Produces the Draconids meteor shower
- Will be .39 AU from Earth on September 11, 2018
- Will pass through Messier 35 between 3:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. September 15, 2018.

DEEP SKY

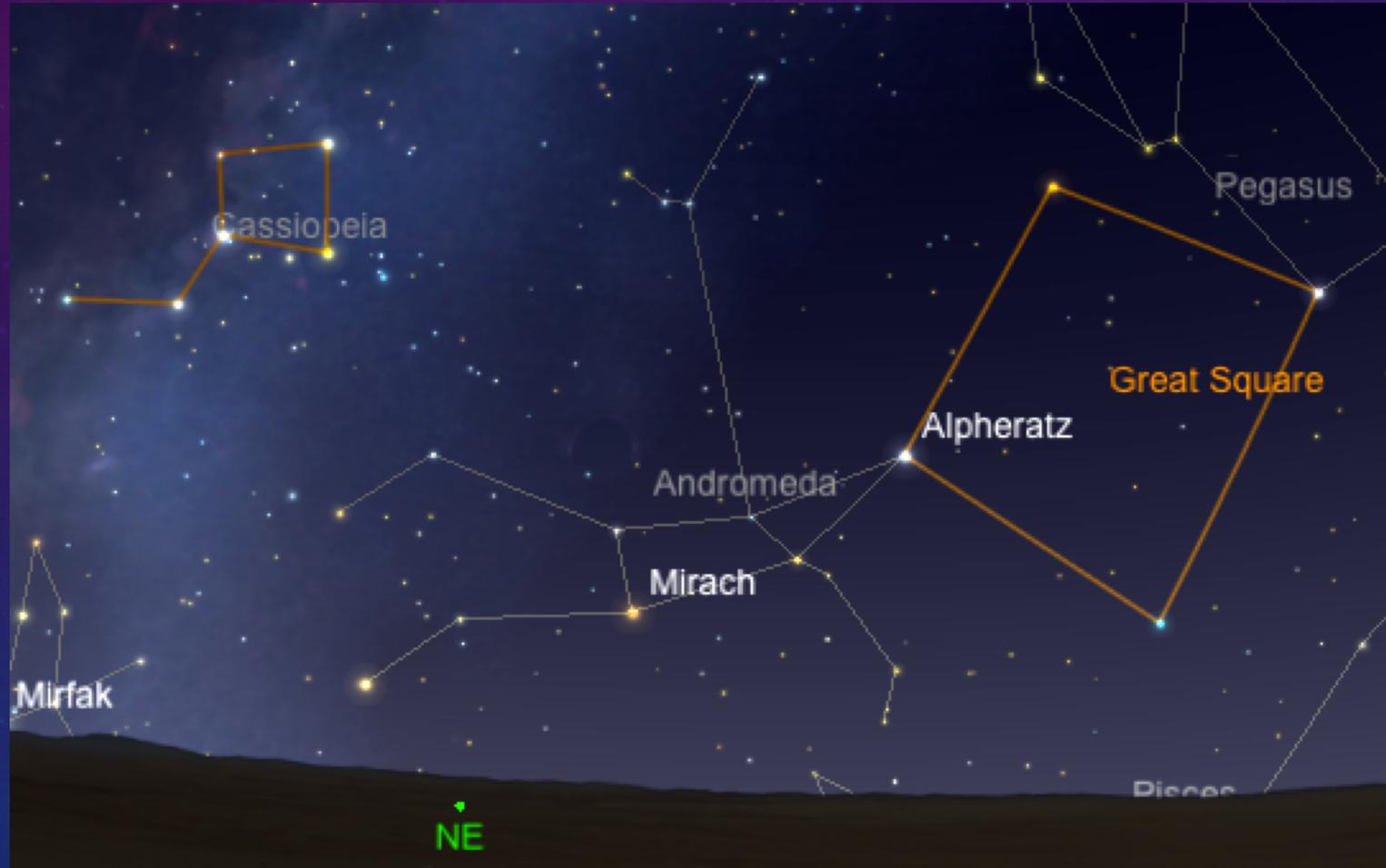
Andromeda – The Chained Maiden

- Easily found by looking for The Great Square of Pegasus to the East.
- Home to a number of stars with confirmed exoplanets!
- Also home to a handful of double stars, variable stars, galaxies, open clusters, a globular cluster, and a planetary nebula.
- With the exception of Orion, probably the most referenced constellation name in modern culture. Notable modern references include The Andromeda Strain, Andromeda the TV series, Battlestar Galactica, as well as the subject of poetry, song, and christened sailing vessels.

DEEP SKY



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Interesting Objects in Sagittarius

Designation	Type	Common Name	RA	DEC	Notes
Messier 31	Spiral Galaxy	Andromeda Galaxy	00h33m47s	+39°40'46"	40+ Companion Galaxies in orbit. Multiple cataloged star clusters. Oddly patterned dust lanes suggest a violent past.
NGC 891	Edge-on Galaxy	NGC 891	02h23m44s	+42°25'48"	Aligned dust tendrils suggesting it may have "bars." Active star formation. Many GC candidates.
NGC 7662	Planetary Nebula	Blue Snowball	23h26m47s	+42°38'12"	No reliable distance estimates because of the variable central star.
NGC 404	Dwarf Lenticular Galaxy	Ghost of Mirach	01h10m29s	+35°48'54"	Challenging to observe because of its proximity to Mirach. A lot of unusual

DEEP SKY

Stars with Exoplanets

Star	Details
Upsilon Andromedae	Mag 4, double star, four known exoplanets
Kappa Andromedae	Mag 4, variable double star, one confirmed exoplanet
14 Andromedae	Mag 5, possible variable star, one confirmed exoplanet
HD 5608	Mag 5, one confirmed transiting exoplanet
HD 8673	Mag 6, double Star, Substellar companion...may be a brown dwarf or a planet
V428 Andromedae	Mag 5, red giant, 45 times the size of the Sun, two possible exoplanets

PERSPECTIVE

This month, we have a yet another chance to observe objects within our solar system as well as those light years away. Some of these deep sky objects are visually exciting and some are not. However, their contemplative value is undeniable. For example, consider the Kappa Andromedae. Now consider what life would be like if our sun were Kappa Andromedae which is an eruptive variable double star system with a companion 2447 AU's away. If we could withstand the radiated energy from the primary star which is twice the size of the sun, how many sun spots would appear to travel across the surface and how fast would they move? What effect would the gravitational fields of two suns have on us? Things to contemplate while you observe and image...

Science fiction is an enjoyable departure from our every day lives. But, the reality is that when you dig in to the facts about the universe around you, reality is so much more incredible than any science fiction show or book could ever be. Hopefully, this gives you some perspective.

RESOURCES

- Sky Safari, Simulation Curriculum Corporation
- Annals of the Deep Sky Volume 1, Jeff Kanipe and Dennis Webb, Willmann-Bell, 2015
- Webb Society Deepy Sky Observer's Handbook, Volume 1, Double Stars 2nd Edition, Kenneth Glyn Jones