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CLUB NOTES

For December 2024

December is always a great time to come together in the planetarium, have some refreshments, and watch our annual Holiday program, "Season of Light". This has been a favorite show for many years and I'm sure our new members will truly enjoy it. Refreshments are always included and can also be donated by members and guests.

Also, please welcome and congratulate our new officers, Karl Rikjse, President, and Barry Schoenfeiner, Vice President. Incumbents George Miller, Treasurer, and Jim Reier, Secretary will continue their fine work. I look forward to seeing you on December 12.

Peter Burkey
President, SAAA

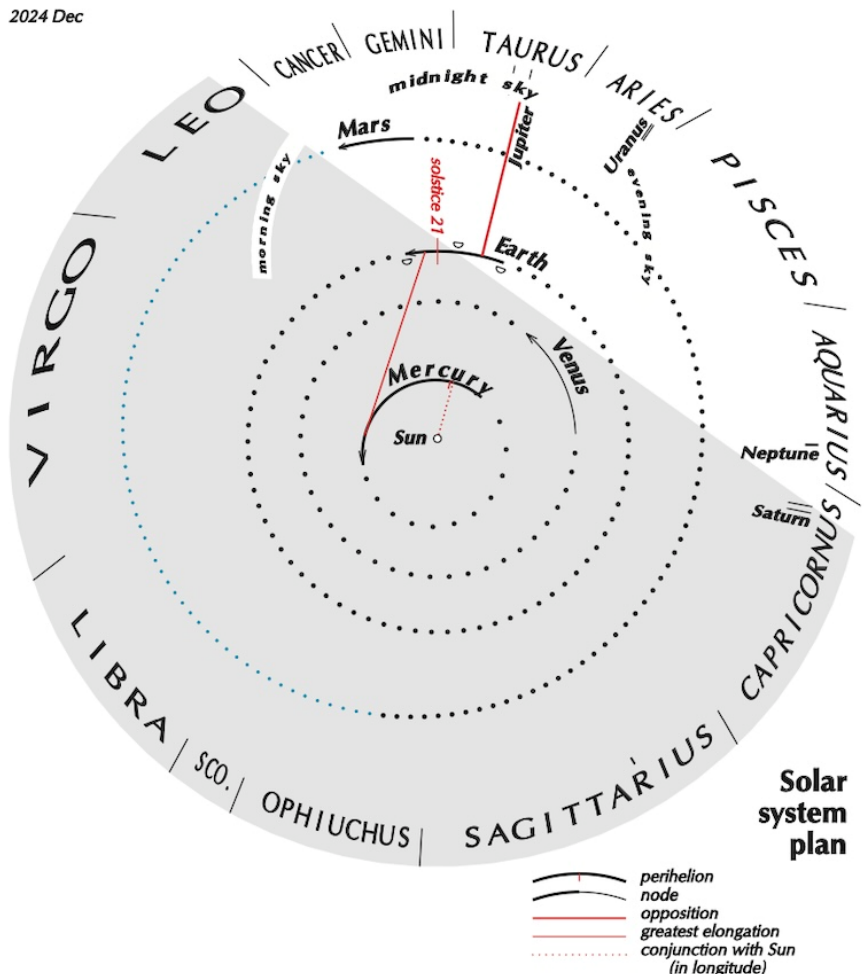


Winter's Sky

2024 Dec

from EarthSky.org

Jupiter will reach opposition at 21 UTC (4 p.m. CDT) on December 7, 2024. That's when Jupiter will be most opposite the sun in our sky. At midnight your local time as seen from around the globe, Jupiter will be shining at its highest in the sky, more or less where the sun was at your local noon. At that time, the sun will be below your feet. It'll all happen as Earth flies between the sun and Jupiter. Jupiter will be closest to Earth at 10 UTC (5 a.m. CDT) on December 6, 2024. At that time, its distance will be 380 million miles/ 611 million km/ 34 light-minutes from Earth.



Calendar and Upcoming Events

Public Observing

When Weather Permitting Every FRI evening 7PM.

Where Hemlock Crossing Public Observatory, 8115 W Olive Rd, West Olive, MI 49460, USA

Description The observatory is open from our start time until 11 PM (weather and clear sky permitting, see note after October 14th). There are no entry fees. Please be aware that the park gate closes automatically at 10 PM sharp, therefore visitors must arrive before 10 PM to enter the park. You will be able to leave as you wish.

Visible night sky objects: planets, the Moon, deep sky objects like galaxies, star clusters and planetary nebulae.



Next Club Meeting December 12th

Join us on December 12th for our annual Christmas Party and “Seasons of Light” video!

Remember, members may request a private tour of our planetarium in Hemlock Crossing Park. Please arrange with the keyholder (see page 7 for this month’s keyholder schedule).

Have you missed a copy, or lost one, or just want to browse old issues of Astronomical League’s *Reflector*? **Astronomical League’s quarterly *Reflector* magazine:**
<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>

December 2024

SUN Dec 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
					● 7pm Public C	
8	9	10	11	12 ● 7pm Club Me	13 ● 7pm Public C	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 ● 7pm Public C	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 ● 7pm Public C	28
29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3 ● 7pm Public C	4 ● 7pm Europa

For More Information on Any Event
 Please go to www.holland-saaa.org

What's Up in the Sky: November

By Peter Burkey

With few bright stars to the south, fall and winter constellations still rising in the east, and summer constellations fading in the west, it's a good thing the Moon and several planets will add to the sights worth viewing this month.

Recently I viewed the Summer Triangle and the stars and constellations associated with it. Remember that this is an example of an *asterism*, a group of stars that are either part of a larger constellation, such as the Big Dipper is part of Ursa Major, or made up of stars from different constellations, such as the Summer Triangle. Another prominent asterism is the Great Square of Pegasus, which is easily recognized high in the south, appearing to rest on its southernmost side. This group of stars can be used to find the Andromeda galaxy. Starting at the top left star in the Square, hop up two stars, turn right and hop two more equally-spaced stars. At the end of the second pair you should be able to spot a fuzzy blur which is clearly not a star. This is the Andromeda Galaxy, the only object in the sky visible to the naked eye (under dark skies) that is not part of our own Milky Way Galaxy.

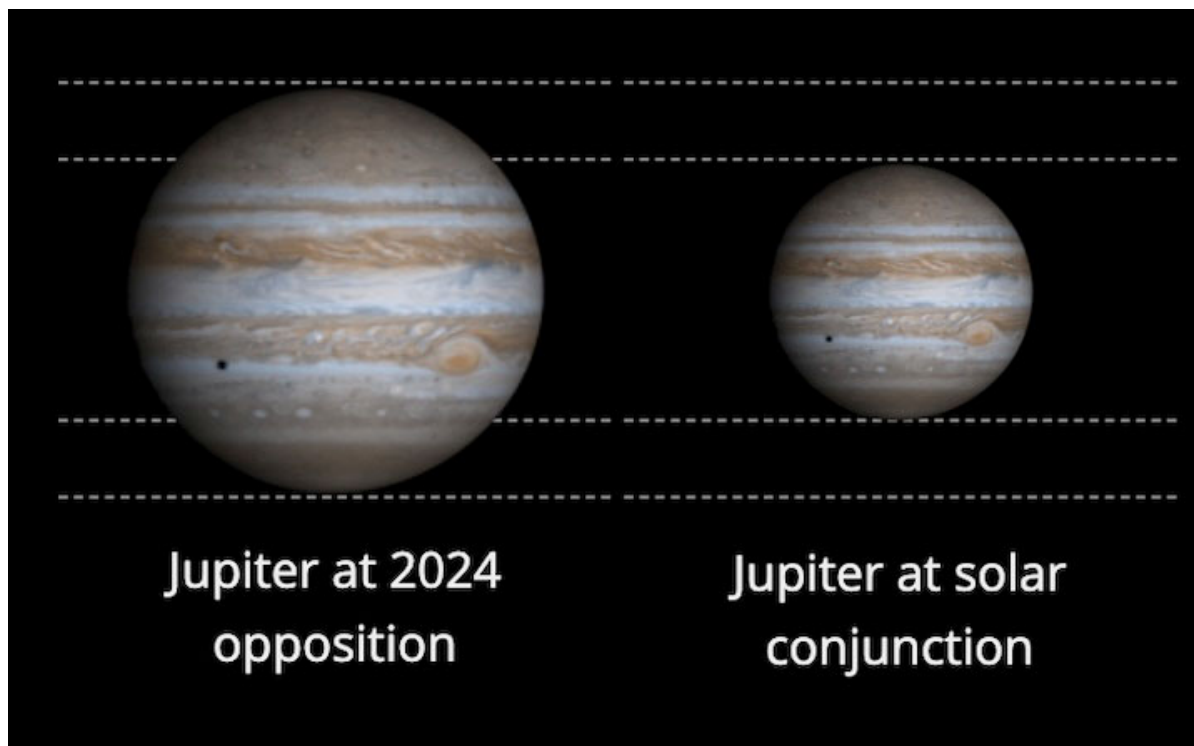
Jupiter in the Night Sky

Photos on pages 5 and 6 courtesy of Mike Cortright. Image below, EarthSky.org

December 6, 2024: Jupiter at perigee, or closest to Earth for 2024.

December 7, 2024: Jupiter at opposition, or opposite the sun as seen from Earth.

February 4, 2025: Jupiter will end retrograde motion, a sign that the best time to observe Jupiter is ending. However, the planet will remain somewhere in the night sky through **April 2025**. Then it'll emerge in the morning sky in July 2025.





Kids Corner

Space Place: <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/> A place where kids and grown-ups have fun with space and technology.

NASA Climate Kids: It's all about climate.
<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/>



SciJinks: It's all about weather! <https://scijinks.gov/>

This Month in Club History

December 1990

For All Mankind

Between December 1968 and November 1972, nine manned flights journeyed to the moon. Twenty-four men made the journey, the first human beings to leave planet Earth for another world. *For All Mankind* is the film they brought back. The experience they shared was a dream for generations and the work of a great nation. It lives as human history and embraces all of us. This film distills the millions of feet of motion picture film taken during NASA'S nine lunar flights into a composite depiction of a single Apollo mission. Critics have been unanimously enthusiastic in their praise for this film. It is well worth your time - take your family or a friend to see it at the Knickerbocker theater where it will be showing from January 2-10, 1991.

2024 Lecture Schedule

There is no Lecture in December, but make plans to join Mike Cortright Saturday, January 4th at 7PM, at Hemlock Crossing County Park Nature Center for a presentation on the Europa Mission.

In October 2024 the Europa Clipper mission launched and begin its near 6-year journey to Jupiter's moon Europa. In this program we will take a closer look at Jupiter and its moons and what we have learned in the last decade from Junomission, which has provided us with huge amounts of science related to Jupiter and its moons. It is also focused on the purpose of the Europa mission and exploration of the water/ice moon and potential for development and support of life.

This Month in Astronomy History

- Dec. 3: Pioneer 10 spacecraft makes closest approach to Jupiter - 1973
- Dec. 11: First auction of Soviet space hardware and artifacts - 1993
- Dec. 14: Gene Cernan, Apollo 17 astronaut, is last human to walk on Moon - 1972
- Dec. 20: Founding of Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory - 1904
- Dec. 24: Apollo 8 astronauts give us inspirational moment from lunar orbit - 1968
- Dec. 25: Isaac Newton born - 1642

November's Jupiter!

Photos by Mike Cortright

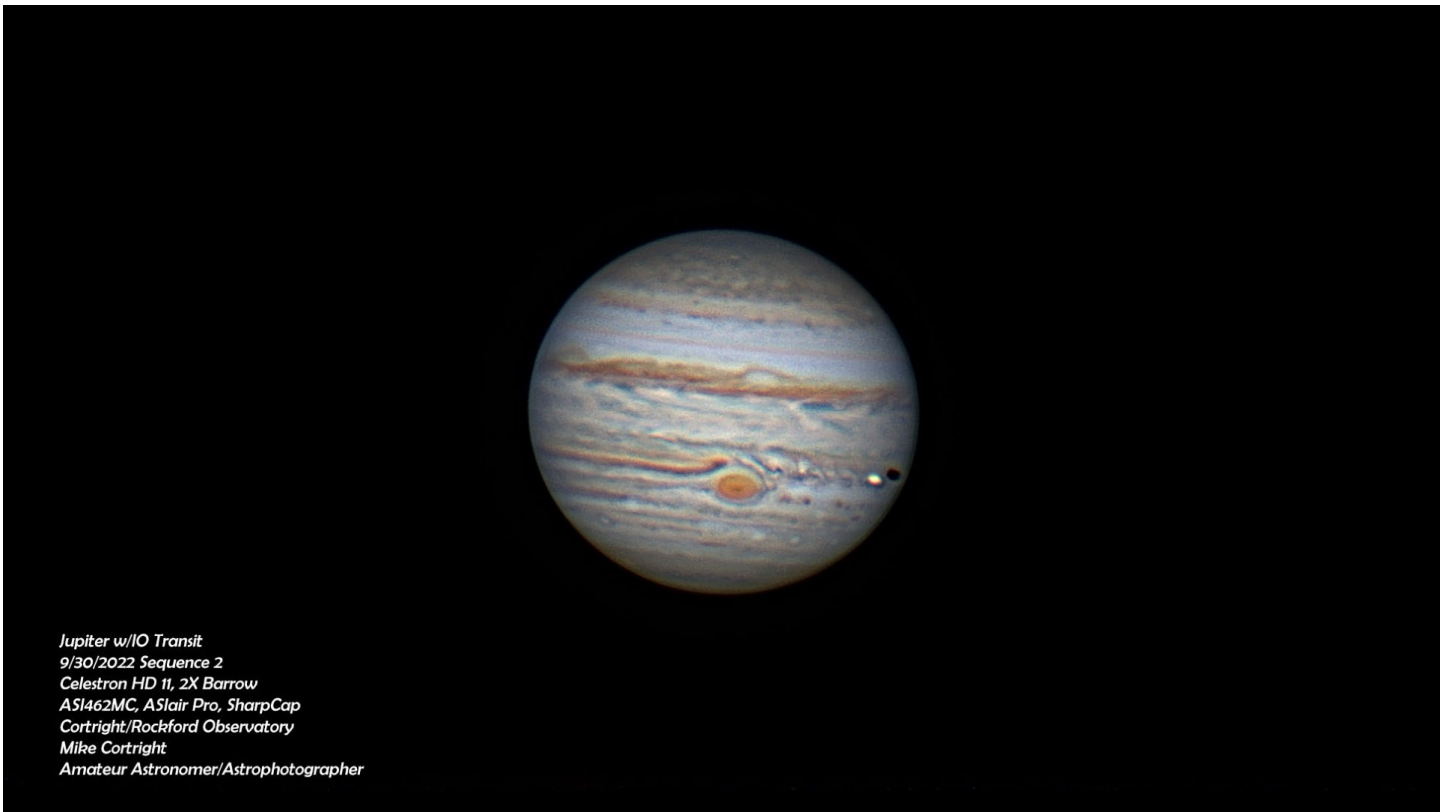
More photos on page 6. Thank you so much for these great photos, Mike!



*Jupiter w/IO Transit
9/30/2022 Sequence 4
Celestron HD 11, 2X Barrow
ASI462MC, ASlair Pro, SharpCap
Cortright/Rockford Observatory
Mike Cortright
Amateur Astronomer/Astrophotographer*

Member Sky Photos

More of Jupiter from Mike Cortright



Selling Equipment?

If you want to sell your telescope or other astronomy equipment, we will provide space here, on this page of our newsletter.

Any member interested in selling their astronomy equipment to other members they can do this via the Newsletter. SAAA will not be otherwise involved or responsible for any bidding/selling transactions. The member should list the asking price, a picture and phone number to be reached at in order to be contacted directly. Please send to Barb/Editor (barbwbrown@hotmail.com) before seven (7) days before the end of any month.



Membership Link—Makes a Great Christmas Gift!

But, Put on Your To-Do List for January as a Great Gift for Yourself!

<https://www.holland-saaa.org/membership-info>

Keyholder Schedule

for the Observatory for Member's Information

Date	Member Name	Cell	Home
Dec 1-14	Harold Reitsema	NONE	720-988-4178

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*Editor is appointed by the SAAA board. Email: barbwbrown@hotmail.com
Previous Issues of our newsletters are found on our website at: Holland-saaa.org*

*Not sure received your copy of Reflector, or, looking for a past issue?
Digital copies of the Astronomical League's quarterly Reflector magazine can be found at:*

<https://www.astroleague.org/reflector/>