

What's Up

2/20/15

- Venus & Mars: 0.4° apart tomorrow!
- Jupiter
- Auriga
 - Leaping Minnow
 - 5 Open Clusters



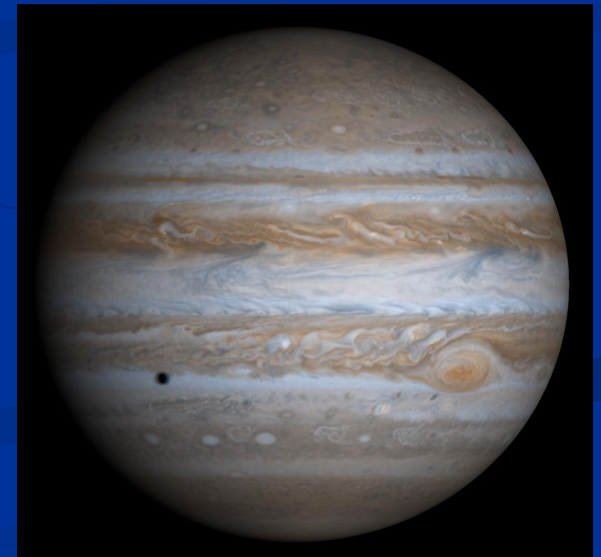
Jupiter

- Passed opposition on 2/6/15. Still nearly at its largest.

Date	Elongation	Magnitude	Diameter
2/28/15	156 Ev	-2.5	44.6''
3/31/15	123 Ev	-2.3	41.6''

- Upcoming favorable shadow transits (PST/PDT):

Date	Moon	Ingress	Egress
2/22/15	Io	10:39 PM	12:56 AM
2/24/15	Io	5:07 PM	7:25 PM
	Europa	10:12 PM	1:07 AM
3/2/15	Ganymede	5:05 PM	8:44 PM
3/3/15	Io	7:02 PM	9:19 PM
3/9/15	Ganymede	10:05 PM	1:43 AM
3/10/15	Io	9:56 PM	12:14 AM



Auriga

- Now directly overhead
- Pentagon & “kids” visible from suburban skies (mags 0 to 3.6)
- “Leaping Minnow” a good test for dark skies (mags 4.5 to 5.4 for 4 brightest)



Auriga Open Clusters

- The Big 3: M36, M37 & M38
- M36 : Smallest of the three with the brightest member stars
- M37: Very rich cluster of faint stars, one slightly brighter orange star in center
- M38: Rich cluster displaying radial pattern, nicknamed “Starfish Cluster” or “Pi Cluster”

	Mag	Size	Stars	Age
M36	6.2	12'	60	25 M
M37	6.0	24'	>150	300 M
M38	7.0	21'	100	220 M



Auriga Open Clusters

- Two challenge objects: NGC 1907 and 1857
- NGC 1907: Small, faint and compact cluster near M38. Very attractive in 8" scope. Resembles a globular without a core.
- NGC 1857: Dark sky object. Bright (mag 7.5) orange K5 star in center. Other members very faint (12+ mag).
 - Per Steve Gottlieb: "50-60 stars resolved surrounding mag 7.5 SAO 57903 near the center. This is a very pleasing cluster and is rich in mag 13/14 stars."

	Mag	Size	Stars	Age
1907	8.2	6'	40	500 M
1857	7.0	6'	40	180 M