

# DUBAI ASTRONOMY GROUP

*Newsletter*

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### THE SKY THIS WEEK FROM AUGUST 16 TO 25

Jupiter gleams on August evenings as it passes near a 10th-magnitude globular star cluster. At the opposite end of the night, Mercury shines brightly in morning twilight.

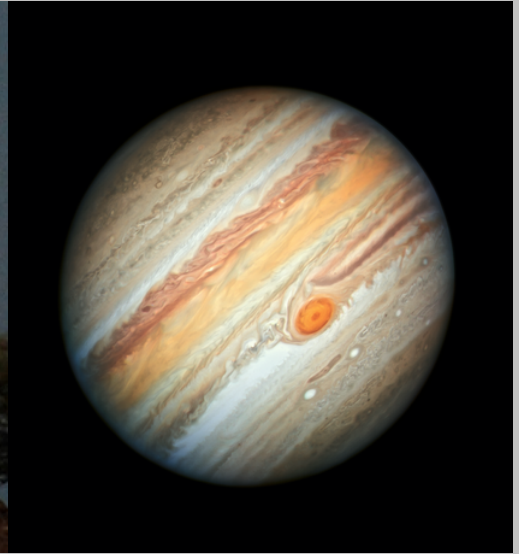
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### WHAT IS THE MOON ILLUSION?

It's nearly full moon. So you might see an extra-large-looking moon low in the sky, one evening soon. Why does the moon look so big? It's because of the "moon illusion," a trick your brain is playing.

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### HUBBLE'S NEW PORTRAIT OF JUPITER

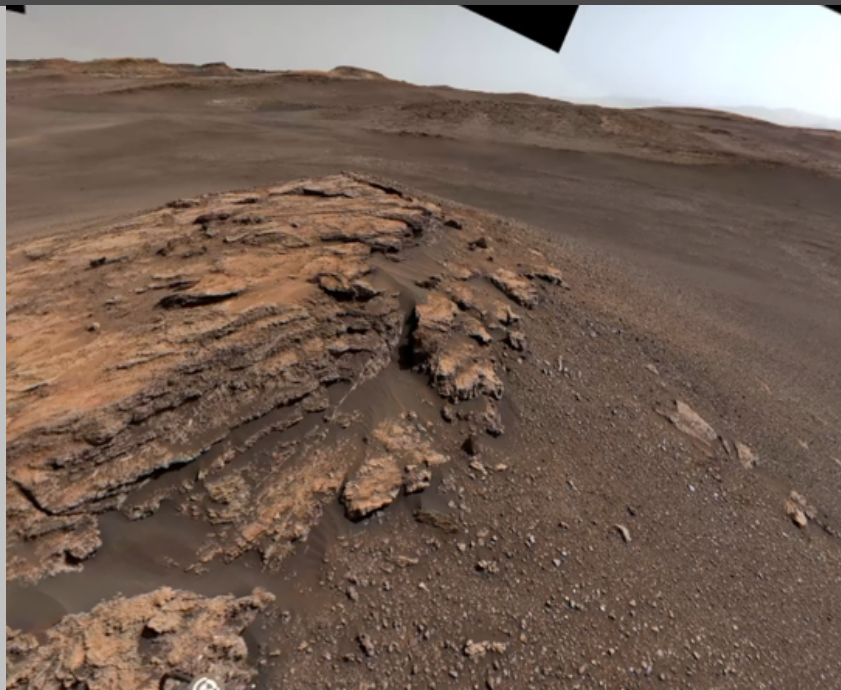
This new Hubble Space Telescope portrait of Jupiter reveals a smaller-than-usual Great Red Spot and an intense color palette in Jupiter's swirling clouds. NASA said, "The colors, and their changes, provide important clues to ongoing processes in Jupiter's atmosphere."

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### LOOK AROUND FROM MARS ROVER'S POINT OF VIEW

Here's what the Curiosity rover is seeing after 7 years on Mars. Curiosity captured this 360-degree interactive panorama on June 18.

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# ASTRONOMY PICTURE OF THE WEEK



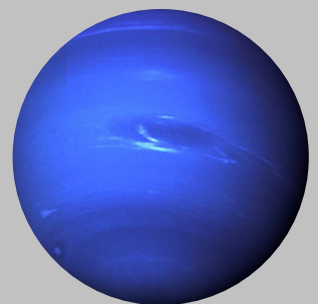
**The Perseids and the Plough**  
**Image Credit & Copyright: Jeff Dai (TWAN)**

Explanation: Despite interfering moonlight, many denizens of planet Earth were able to watch this year's Perseid meteor shower. This pastoral scene includes local skygazers admiring the shower's brief, heavenly flashes in predawn hours near peak activity on August 13 from Nalati Grassland in Xinjiang, China. A composite, the image registers seven frames taken during a two hour span recording Perseid meteor streaks against a starry sky. Centered along the horizon is the Plough, the north's most famous asterism, though some might see the familiar celestial kitchen utensil known as the Big Dipper. Perhaps the year's most easily enjoyed meteor shower, Perseid meteors are produced as Earth itself sweeps through dust from periodic comet Swift-Tuttle. The dust particles are vaporized at altitudes of 100 kilometers or so as they plow through the atmosphere at 60 kilometers per second.

## SEPTEMBER CELESTIAL EVENTS

### **September 9 - Neptune at Opposition.**

The blue giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Neptune. Due to its extreme distance from Earth, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.



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