

2020_28

Dates: 07/12 – 07/18

JUPITER AND SATURN: OPPOSITION EDITION

YOU'RE IN FOR A SHOW THIS WEEK STAR NERDS! I'M TRACE AND THIS WEEK BOTH JUPITER AND SATURN WILL BE IN OPPOSITION.

OPPOSITION IS ASTRONOMY-SPEAK FOR THE EARTH PASSING DIRECTLY BETWEEN AN OUTER PLANET AND THE SUN -- PUT ANOTHER WAY, IF YOU DRAW A LINE FROM JUPITER TO THE SUN, WE FALL RIGHT IN-BETWEEN. PLANETS IN OPPOSITION ARE AT THEIR CLOSEST TO US AND THEIR BRIGHTEST.

TO FIND JUPITER LOOK SOUTH AROUND ELEVEN PM THIS WEEK AND YOU'LL SEE TWO BRIGHT SPOTS, THE BRIGHTER IS JUPITER. AT OPPOSITION IT WILL BE SIX-HUNDRED FORTY ONE MILLION KILOMETERS AWAY, AND BRIGHT AS CAN BE. IF YOU'VE GOT STRONG BINOCULARS YOU'LL GET QUITE THE SHOW! SATURN WILL BE BRIGHT TOO, BUT it DOESN'T OFFICIALLY REACH OPPOSITION UNTIL JULY 20.

EVEN LOOKING AT OUR LARGEST PLANETS WITH THE SMALLEST TELESCOPE WILL BLOW YOU AWAY. KEEP LOOKING UP!