

Howard Astronomical League

Member Meeting – June 11, 2026



Next HAL Meeting
Dr. J. Vanderlei Martins
HARP2
Satellite



Thursday June 11 at 7 pm

Attend at Robinson Nature Center
OR via Zoom (link at howardastro.org)

Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Book of the Month
- Events & Outreach Notes
- Presentation:

Advancing Earth Observation:

The HARP2 Sensor on NASA's PACE Satellite

Dr. J. Vanderlei Martins, Earth and Space Institute - UMBC

- Seestar Transfer
- What's Up in Space
- Shallow Skies
- Member Astrophotos

Welcome!



Book of the Month

Title:

- Echoes of the Ancient Skies

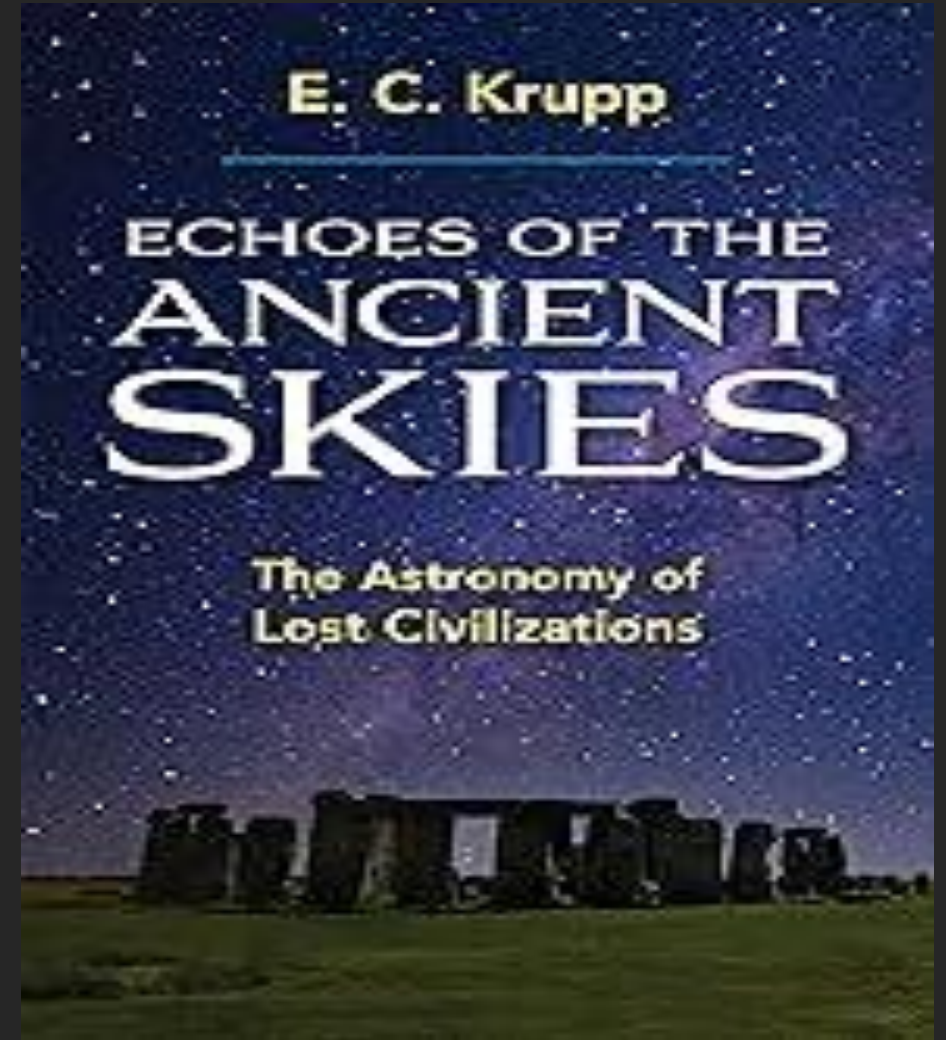
Author:

- E.C. Krupp (2003)

Length: 386 pages

Audience Level:



- Beginner Friendly
- Intermediate
- Experienced



June 2026

HAL Impromptu Star Parties — Highlights

The Members Make HAL Awesome!

-  A big thank you to Ernie Morse. His commitment (unlocking gates, coordinating sessions, and staying late to close up) allowed 19 members to enjoy nearly 13 hours of excellent observing over the past month. 
- José giving Mike a crash course in astrophotography - helping him set up a donated Askar refractor and guiding him to his very first image of M101

Several members tested new telescopes, cameras, and accessories.



Up Next

- Member Star Party: Jun 13th
- Public Star Party: May 20th
- TBD: Mentoring Star Party!



- **Dates & Host:** August 12–15, 2026 • Cincinnati Astronomical Society & Astronomical League
- **Program Highlights:** National convention with lectures, workshops, observing sessions, and vendor exhibits
- **Special Events:** Tours of local astronomy facilities • Saturday night awards banquet • Networking with League members nationwide
- **Audience:** Amateur astronomers, educators, vendors, and outreach leaders from across the U.S.

2026 ALPO

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



JULY 10/11



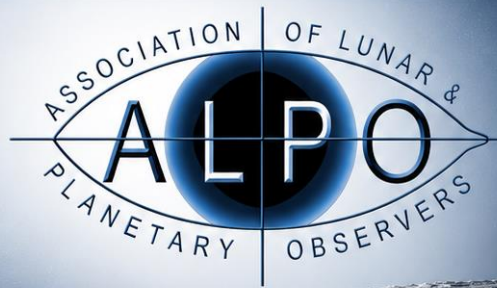
LEARN



SHARE



EXPLORE



WATCH IT ON
THE **ALPO**
YOUTUBE
CHANNEL!



TOGETHER, ADVANCING LUNAR & PLANETARY SCIENCE

- **Dates:** July 10 & 11 from 1–4 p.m. ET
- **Program Highlights:** National online convention with talks focused on Solar, Lunar, and planetary astronomy
- **Keynote Speaker:** Dr. David A. Kring, a planetary scientist renowned for his research on impact cratering and lunar geology will present “*Exploring the Moon in the Age of Artemis*,” highlighting the latest developments in lunar exploration and Artemis-era missions.
- **Audience:** Amateur astronomers who enjoy observing and learning about the Solar System
- Registration: <https://alpo-astronomy.org>



Next HAL Meeting

Dr. J. Vanderlei Martins

HARP2
Satellite



Dr. J. Vanderlei Martins

- Director, Earth & Space Institute (UMBC)
- NASA collaborator for 20+ years
- Principal Investigator: HARP / HARP2
- HARP2 on NASA's PACE satellite
- Specializes in aerosols, clouds, polarimetry
- Contributor to MODIS, Glory, PACE missions

Thursday June 11 at 7 pm



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Seestar S50 Program

<https://howardastro.org/seestar-loaner-program/>

Jeff Pleines => Aileen Judd

Seestar S50 架

NGC 457

JimT / 76° W, 39° N / 2025-12-21, 19:59

63min



What's Up in Space

StreamTime LIVE | Baltimore, MD, USA BAL4K | 2026-06-11 04:17:37 EDT

4.54 Mbps +36.29° -0.81° 13.2x

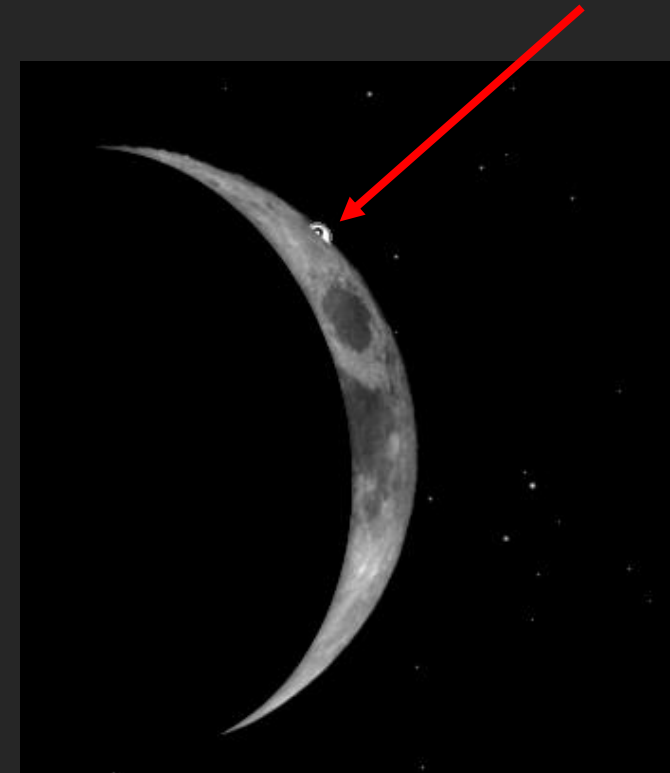


Shallow Skies for June-July 2026

- **Mercury** reaches greatest Eastern (evening) elongation June 15th. Moon adjacent June 17th.
- **Venus** is easily seen in west, sporting a gibbous phase and increasing size. Moon adjacent June 18th.
- **Mars** is in the pre-dawn sky, tiny and just emerging from the Sun's glare
- **Jupiter** will soon be lost to Sun's glare
- **Saturn** is in the pre-dawn sky and the rings are better displayed than last year. As dawn begins (~4:30 am) it is about 25° high (June 15th), 35° by July 4th

Lunar Occultation of Venus – June 19th!

- ***On the afternoon of June 17th, the Moon will occult (cover) Venus***
 - ***An uncommon occurrence***
 - ***Disappearance at ~ 3:46 pm (start earlier!)***
 - ***72° high***
 - ***Place Sun behind building, trees, etc.***
 - ***Binoculars, small telescope, or even naked eye***
 - ***Reappearance at ~ 5:11 pm at about PA 310°***



M13 Challenge

In the evening once it's dark (~9:30 p.m.)

- Look overhead for bright, orangish star (Arcturus)
- Look to NE for another bright, white star (Vega)
- Draw a line between the two, target the area about $\frac{2}{3}$ way from Arcturus to Vega. Scan the area with binoculars or small telescope



Member Astrophotos, Sketches, & Artwork



M13

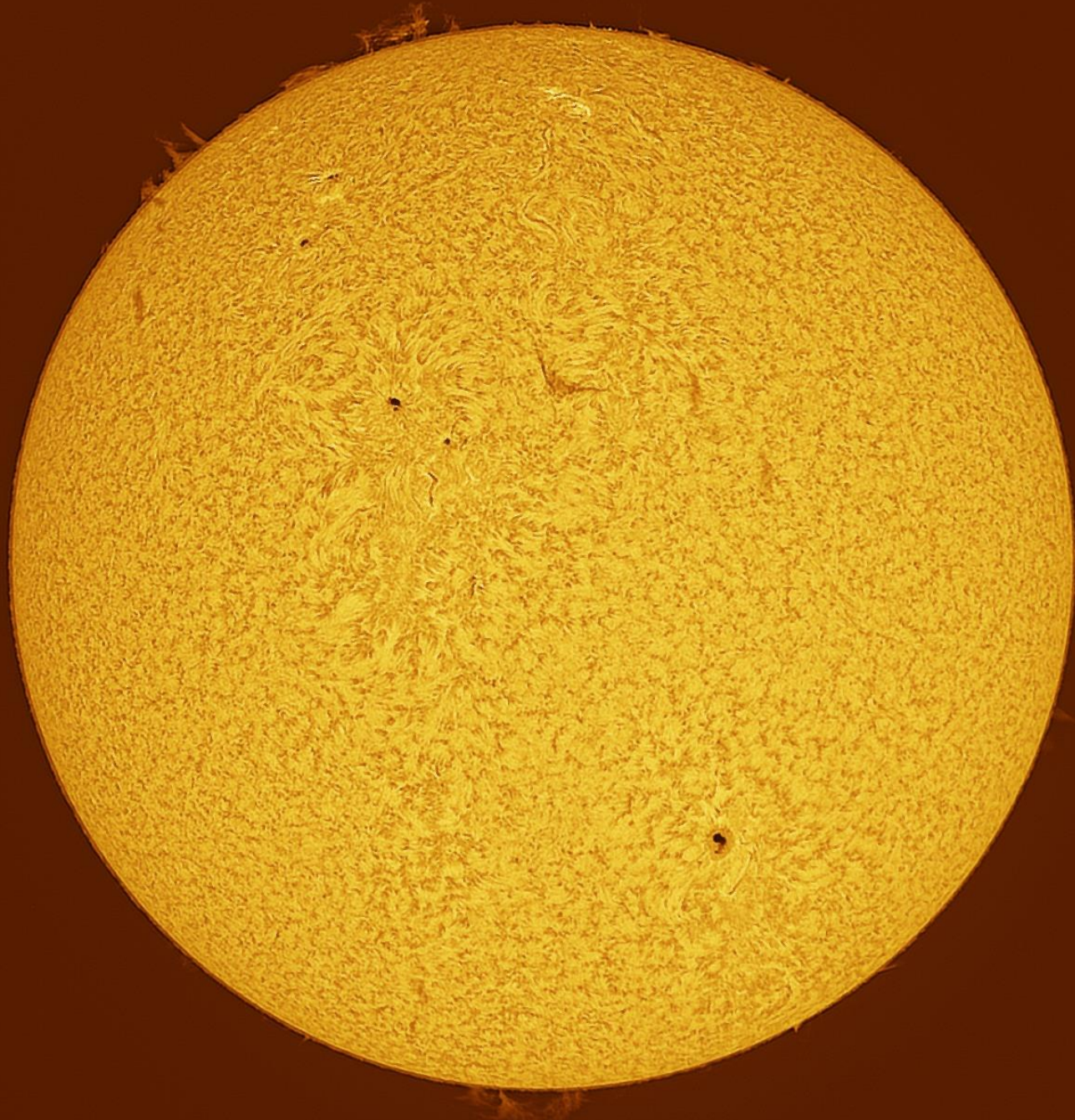


Jose Urias

M 101



Jose Urias



M 81

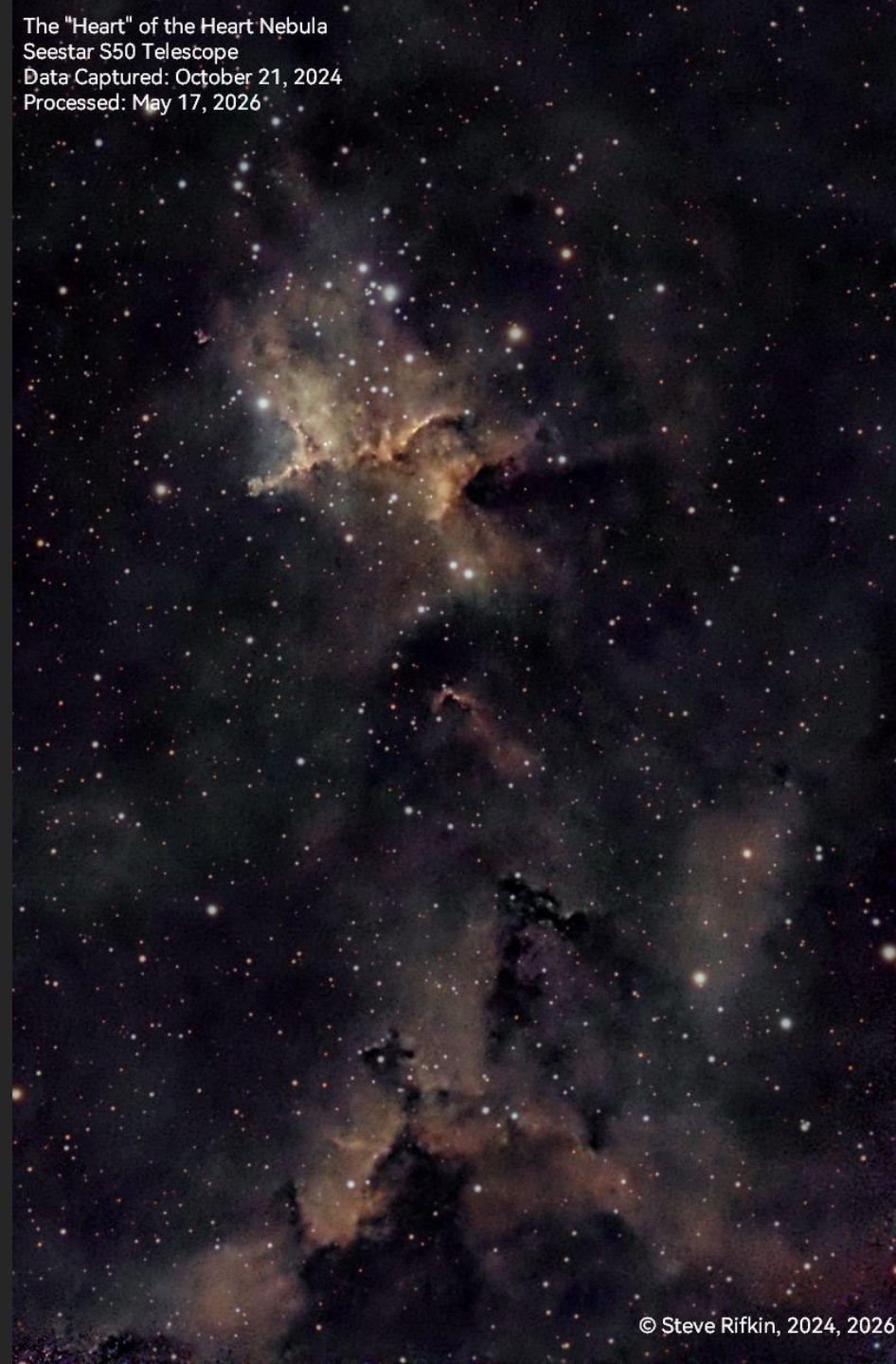
M81
April 7,8,20, 2026
Alpha Ridge Park

8-inch RC
LRGB (156x2min,[52,52,52x3min])
13h exposure time

ASI294MM-P, 2x2
Gain 120 (1.0e/ADU)
Wayne Baggett

Wayne Baggett

The "Heart" of the Heart Nebula
Seestar S50 Telescope
Data Captured: October 21, 2024
Processed: May 17, 2026

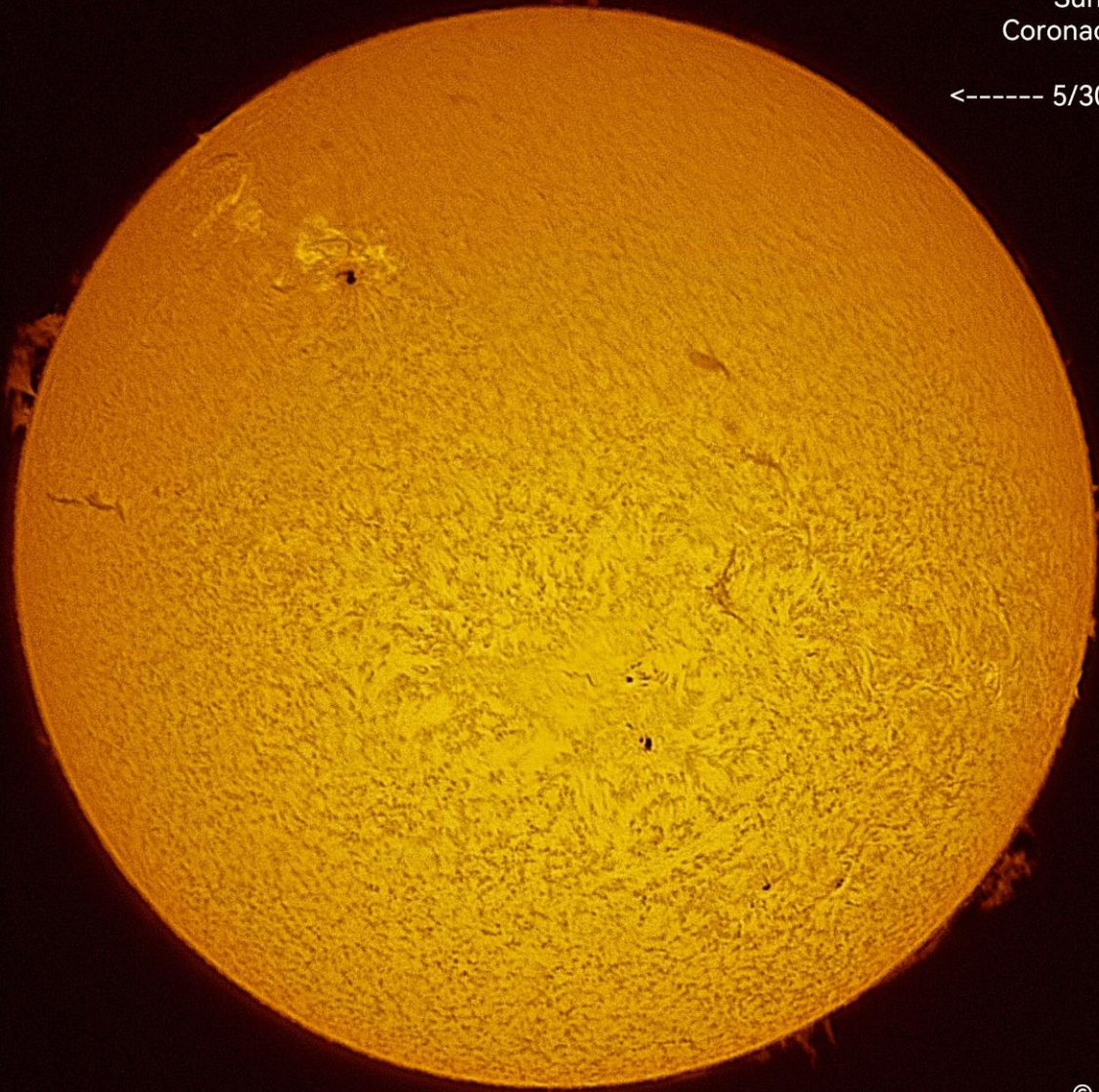


© Steve Rifkin, 2024, 2026

Sun - Surface
Coronado PST Telescope

<----- 5/30/26

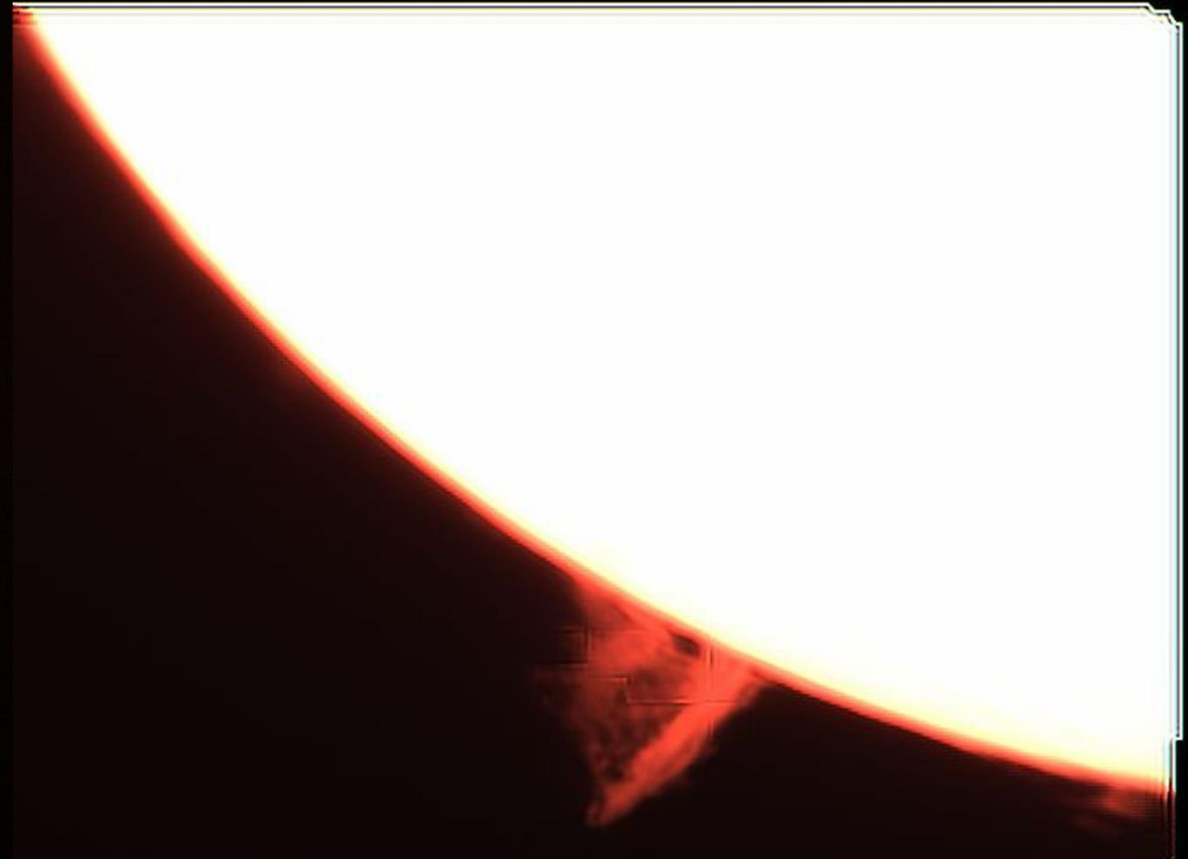
6/5/26 ----->



Sun - Surface
(Partial View)
Coronado PST
Telescope
6/5/26



Sun - Surface & Prominences
Coronado PST Telescope
May 28, 2026



© Steve Rifkin, 2026

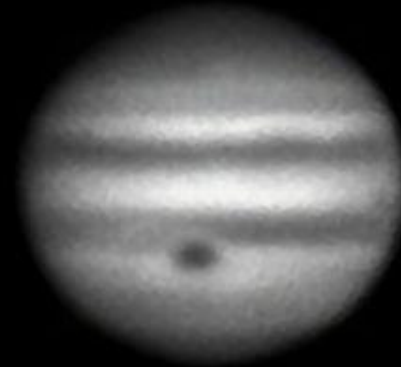
Jupiter
May 10, 2026

WL



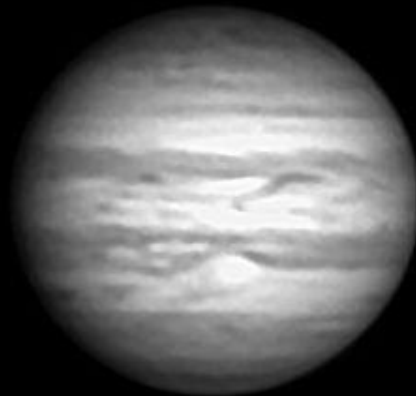
01:09.0 UT

UV



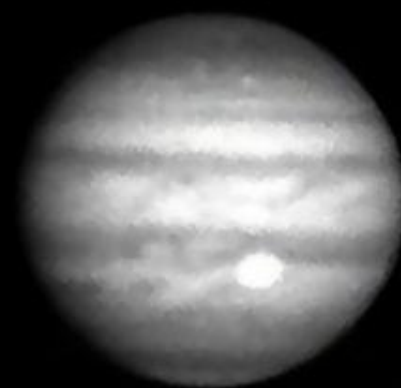
01:30.3 UT

IR



01:52.5 UT

CH4



02:04.8 UT

Jim Tomney



STATS

Scope: SV503 80ED
F/L: 2240 mm
Camera: 585MC Pro
Filter: DayStar Quark
Subs: 750x0.04s
D/B/F: N/N/N
Capture: SharpCap
Process: AS4, IMPPG



STATS
Scope: S30 Pro
F/L: 160 mm
Camera: IMX585
Filter: LP Filter
Subs: 833x20s
D/B/F: N/N/N
Capture: SeeStar App
Processing: PixInsight

STATS

Scope: S30 Pro
F/L: 160 mm
Camera: IMX585
Filter: UV/IR Cut
Subs: 152x20s
D/B/F: N/N/N
Capture: SeeStar App
Processing: PixInsight



STATS

Scope: SV503 80ED
F/L: 560 mm
Camera: 585MC Pro
Filter: L-Quad, Enhc.
Subs: 940x60s
D/B/F: N/Y/Y
Capture: N.I.N.A
Processing: PixInsight



M51 LRGB
Pixinsight

- 300s subs
- 12.5 hrs total exposure time
- Bortle 8 Rockville

- TEC140 Refractor
- FLI16200 CCD
- Astrodon filters
- Paramount MX+ mount
- SkyX s/w



M51 LRGB
Pixinsight

- 600s subs
- 30 hrs total exposure time
- Bortle 2-3 DeepSkyWest in New Mexico
- TEC140 Refractor
- FLI16200 CCD
- Astrodon filters
- Paramount MX+ mount
- SkyX s/w



M27 LRGB
Pixinsight

- 300s subs
- 10 hrs total exposure time
- Bortle 8 Rockville

- TEC140 Refractor
- FLI16200 CCD
- Astrodon filters
- Paramount MX+ mount
- SkyX s/w



M13 LRGB Pixinsight

- 120s subs
- 3.5 hrs total exposure time
- Bortle 8 Rockville

- TEC140 Refractor
- FLI16200 CCD
- Astrodon filters
- Paramount MX+ mount
- SkyX s/w

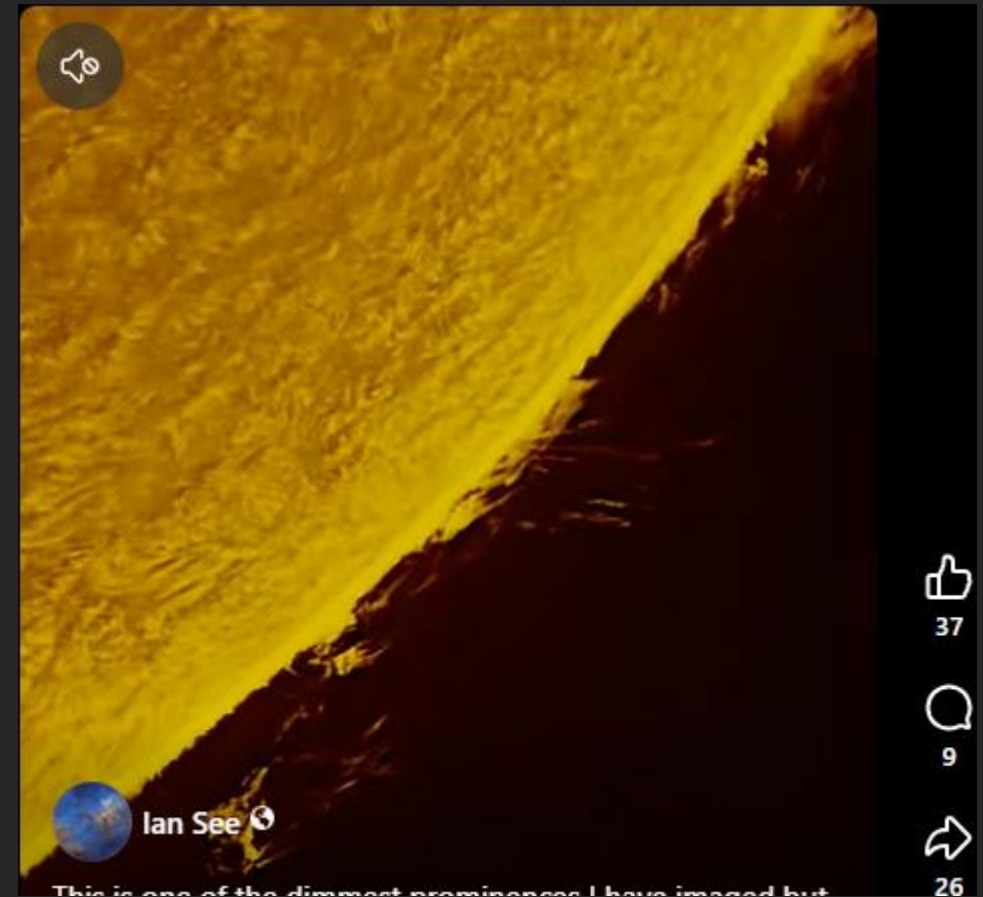
Solar Video Archive

This is one of the dimmest prominences I have imaged but it produced a fascinating timelapse.

This video represents 3 hours of time.

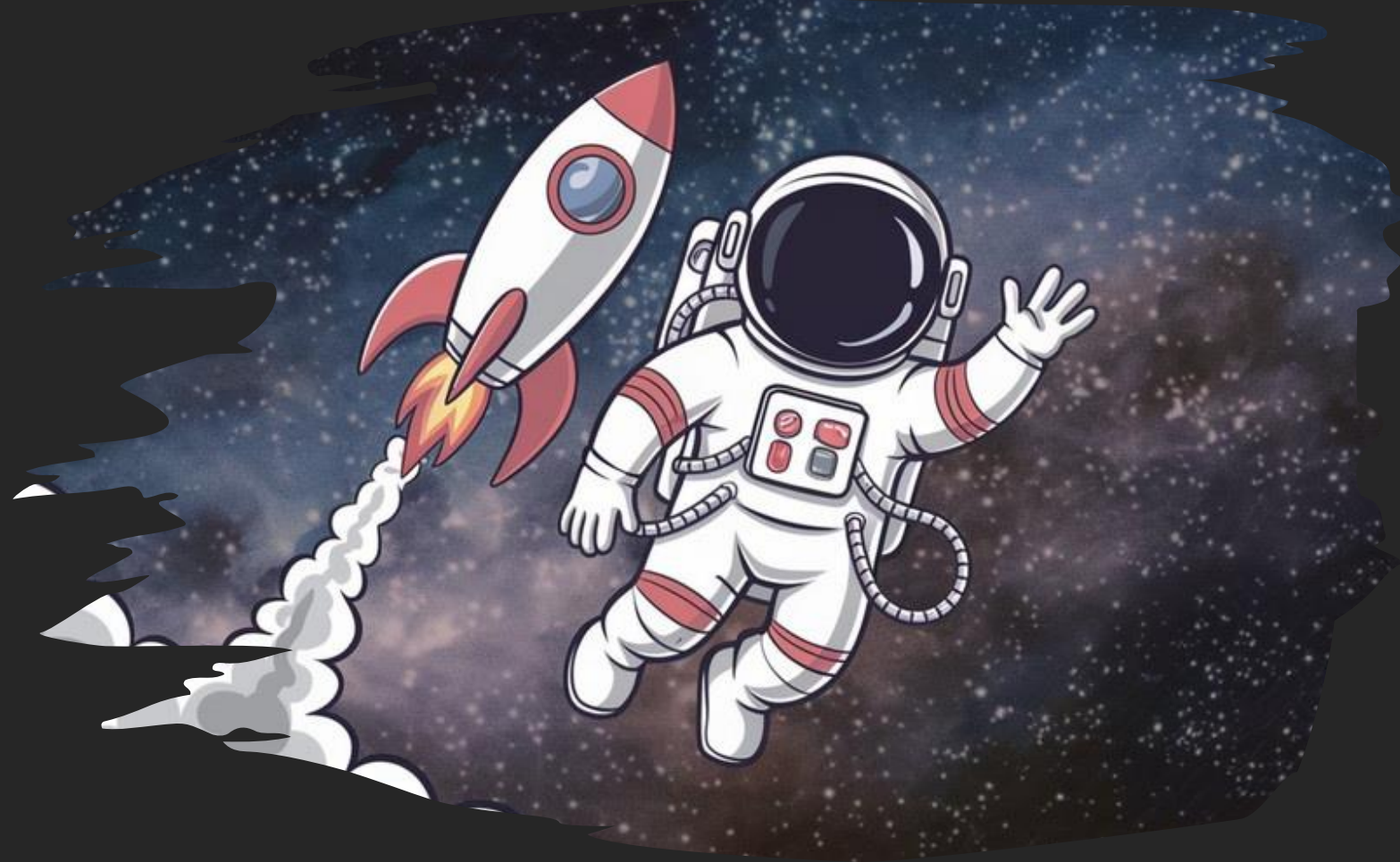
I took a 10 second video every 30 seconds. Each video was converted to a single image that was cleaned up and colorized. ~265 of these images were then aligned and put into a timelapse at 15 frames per second.

I use a Lunt152SS h-alpha telescope, ASI174MC camera, 2.5X Barlow, and Paramount MX+ mount.



<https://www.facebook.com/reel/315740784335078>

Thanks for Joining Us!



Be safe heading home – see you next month



HAL Planning Meeting: Jul 6, 2026

HAL Members Meeting: Jul 9, 2026