



Howard Astronomical League Monthly Meeting

August 21st, 2025

Tonight's Agenda, August 21st, 2025

- ⇒ • Introductions
- Announcements
 - New Monthly Meeting Schedule! (2nd Thursday of the Month)
 - 2025 Star Parties, Recent & Upcoming Events
 - Astronomical League Observing Program Award Recipient – Greg Duncan
 - Book of the Month – Krystal Rolon
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Special Announcement



Starting Next Month and going forward henceforth...

**HAL's Monthly Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each Month.
They will still be held at 7 PM at the Robinson Nature Center in Columbia.**

This change is being made to accommodate the schedule at the Robinson Nature Center, which, according to our MOU, allows HAL to use their facilities one evening a month in exchange for our volunteer work at their events

If you would like to volunteer at their planetarium or as an astronomy docent, please reach out to Joel Goodman

**Our Next Monthly Meeting Will be Held Thursday the 11th of September,
Followed by the 9th of October, etc.**

2025 Schedule of Star Parties

March

March 8 – Public –
March 29 - Members

April

April 5 - Public (Jupiter/Europa shadow transit)
April 26 – Members -

May

May 3 – Public-
May 24 - Members
May 31 - Member Mentorship Night

June

June 7 – Public
June 21 - Members

July

July 5 - Public (Mercury near greatest eastern elongation)
July 26 – Members

August

August 2 – Public
August 23 - Members

September

September 13 - Public (No moon) Hosts: David Stein, Phil Whitebloom,
Chris Todd
September 20 - Members (Saturn at opposition) Host: Richard Ren

October

October 4 - Public (International Observe the Moon Night, Moon 93.7% full)
October 18 - Members

November

November 1 - Public
November 15 - Members

Recent/Upcoming Events

- Public Star Party Held 8/2/25
 - About 17 telescopes and approx. 120 people attended throughout the evening.
 - Thanks once again to Krystal who set up her Activities Tent and had one of her high school students helping out
 - Also, thanks to Dale (within HALO), David Stein with his Seestar, our hosts Jose Urias & Ken Everhart as well as all the folks who came out and set up their scopes
- Impromptus Held on 8/11 & 8/12
 - Special thank you to Ernie Morse for accommodating several visitors who showed up for the meteor shower unannounced on the 12th
- Next Friday, August 29th, Star Party at the Howard County Nature Conservancy
- September 20th, Astronomy Festival on the Mall
 - Conflicts with our members star party, but a very worthy event
- Solar Science and Engineering Celebration at Glenelg, Oct. 18th



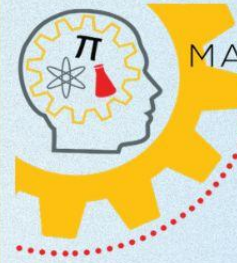
Regional Star Party info...

<https://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-resources/annual-stargazing-events/>

Solar Science and Engineering Celebration

Fun Facts!

- Howard Astronomical Leagues is a participating organization!
- The event is free and open to the public.
- Several "solar viewing" stations will be around campus.
- Join us to celebrate STEM with engineering challenges and demonstrations for K-12.

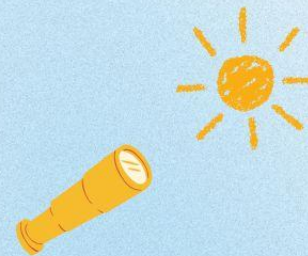


MARYLAND **STEM** FESTIVAL
BRINGING STEM TO YOU

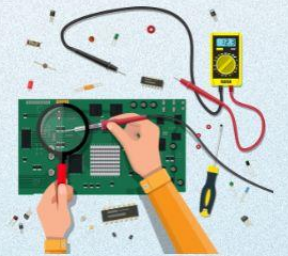
Solar Science and Engineering Celebration!

Glenelg Country School

October 18, 2025 | 12 - 4 PM



Solar
Telescopes!



Engineering
Activities!

Astronomical League Observing Program Recipient

Congratulations to Greg Duncan who recently received the Double Star Observing Award from the Astronomical League!

He visually observed 100 of the finest double and multiple-star systems in the heavens and documented his observations with date/time, sky conditions, etc.

<https://www.astroleague.org/double-star-observing-program/>

Observing Programs and Awards (alphabetical)

Active Galactic Nuclei Observing Program
Advanced Observer Award
Alternate Constellations Observing Program
Arp Peculiar Galaxies Northern Observing Program
Asterism Observing Program
Astronomy Before the Telescope Observing Program
Pin Astronomy Before the Telescope Observing Program
Bennett Observing Program Pin Bennett Observing Program
Bennett – Imaging Observing Program
Beyond Polaris Observing Program
Binocular Master Observer Award
Binocular Variable Star Observing Program
Caldwell Observing Program
Caldwell – Imaging Observing Program
Citizen Science
Constellation Hunter Program - Northern
Pin Constellation Hunter Program - Southern
Pin Constellation Hunter Observing Programs – Northern and Southern Skies
Dark Sky Advocate Observing Award
Double Star Observing Program
Extragalactic Objects Observing Program
Flat Galaxy Observing Program
Foundations of Imaging Observing Program
Galileo and Galileo Binocular Observing Programs
Galileo's TOES – Phase 2, Observing Certificates
Herschel 400 and Herschel 400 (Southern) Observing Programs
Herschel Society (Astronomical League)
Library Telescope Observing Program Pin Library Telescope Award
Lunar Observing Program
Lunar Evolution Observing Program
Master Imager Award
Master Observer – Silver Award
Master Observer – Platinum Award
Messier Observing Program
Messier – Imaging Observing Program
Multiple Star Observing Program
Nova Observing Program
Occultation Observing Program
Outreach Observing Award
Planetary Transit Special Observing Award
Sketching Observing Program
Solar Eclipse Observing Challenges
Solar System Observing Program
Southern Sky Telescopic Observing Program
Spectroscopy Observing Program
Sunspotters Observing Program
no pin Triple-Crown Master Observer Certificate
Universe Sampler Observing Program
Variable Star Observing Program
Advanced Binocular Double Star Observing Program
AL Observing Challenge Certificates
ALCon Observing Challenge Certificates
Analemma Observing Program
Arp Peculiar Galaxies Southern Observing Program
Asteroid Observing Program
Bambury 600 Observing Certificate
Binocular Double Star Observing Program
Binocular Messier Observing Program
Bright Nebula Observing Program
Carbon Star Observing Program
Comet Observing Program
Dark Nebulae Observing Program
Deep Sky Binocular Observing Program
Earth Orbiting Satellite Observing Program
For Your Eyes Only Observing Certificate
Galaxy Groups and Clusters Observing Program
Galileo's TOES Observing Certificate
Globular Cluster Observing Program
Herschel II Observing Program
Hydrogen Alpha Solar Observing Program
Bennet Observing Program Pin Jupiter Observing Program
Local Galaxy Group and Neighborhood Observing Program
Pin Local Galaxy Group and Neighborhood Observing Program
Lunar II Observing Program
Mars Observing Program
Master Observer Award
Master Observer – Gold Award
Mentor Award
Meteor Observing Program
NASA Observation Challenge Certificates
Observer Award
Open Cluster Observing Program
Planetary Nebula Observing Program
Radio Astronomy Observing Program
Sky Puppy Observing Program
Solar Neighborhood Observing Program
Southern Skies Binocular Observing Program
Space Weather Observing Program
Stellar Evolution Observing Program
Target NEO Observing Program
Two in the View Observing Program
Urban Observing Program
Youth Astronomer Observing Program

Book of the Month

Title:

- Chasing Space: An Astronaut's Story of Grit, Grace, and Second Chances

Author:

- Leland Melvin

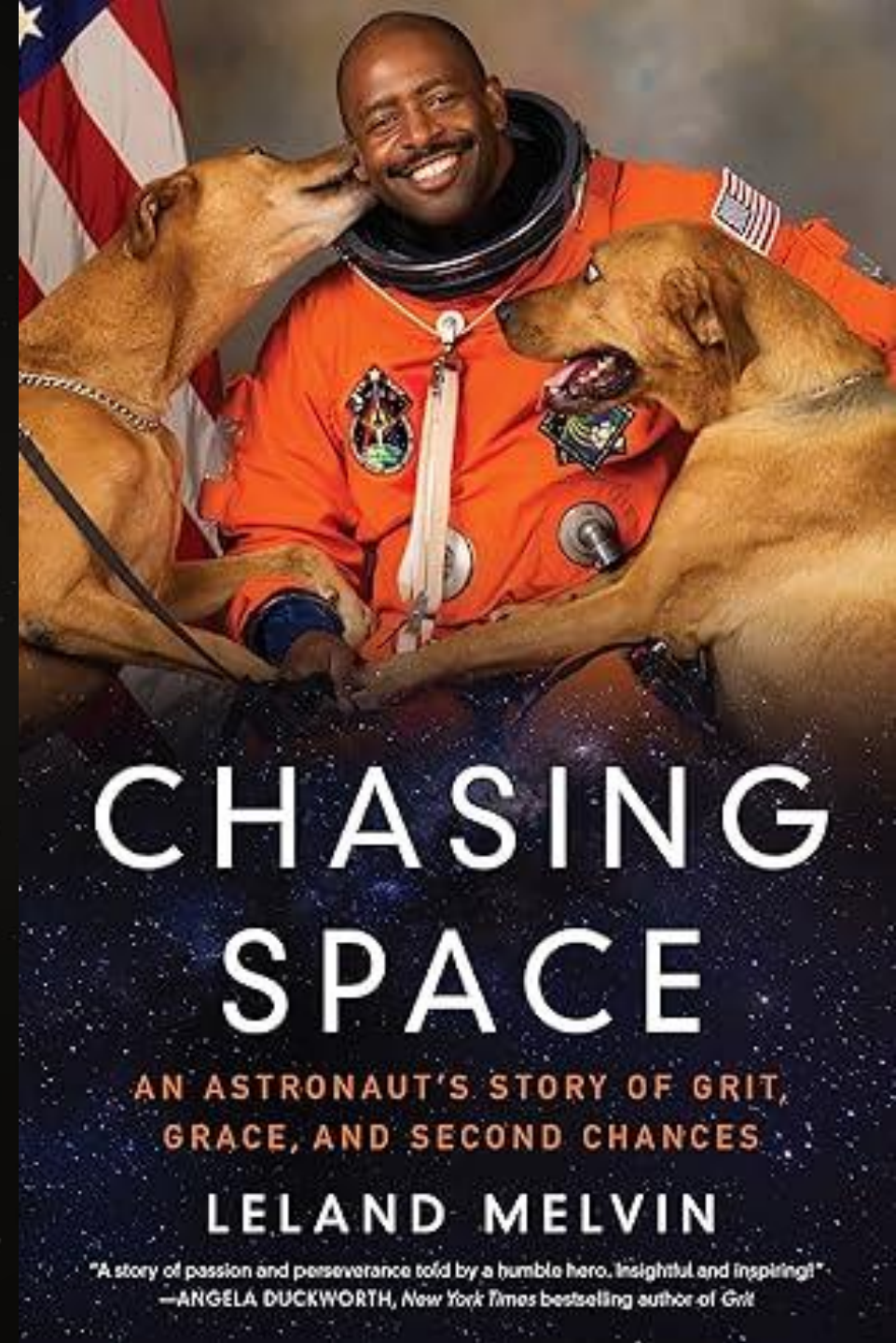
Length:

- 241 pages

Audience Level:

- Beginner Friendly
- Intermediate
- Experienced

August 2025



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Topic: NASA Balloon Program Operations

Andrew Hamilton - Deputy Chief, NASA Balloon Program Office

Andrew Hamilton is the Deputy Chief for the NASA Balloon Program having previously served as the Acting Chief of the program. Mr. Hamilton started his career with NASA at Johnson Space Center serving as an Astronaut Instructor for the Space Shuttle program as well as a Space Shuttle Flight Controller. Transferring to Wallops Flight Facility in 2012, he served as a Range Safety Officer before joining the balloon program in 2021.

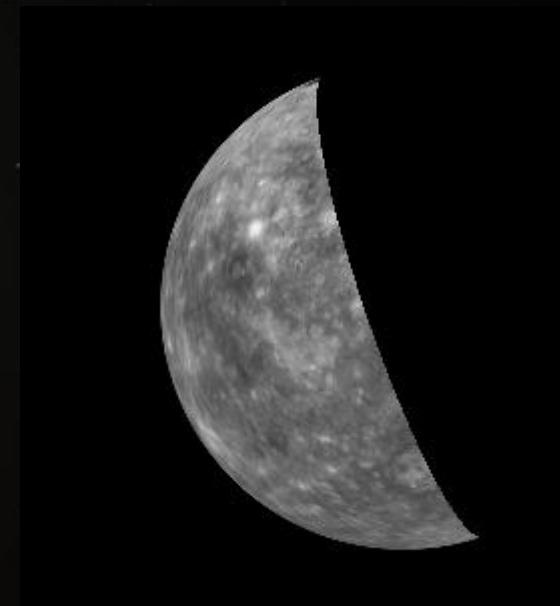
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Shallow Sky Highlights for Aug-Sept 2025

- **Mercury**

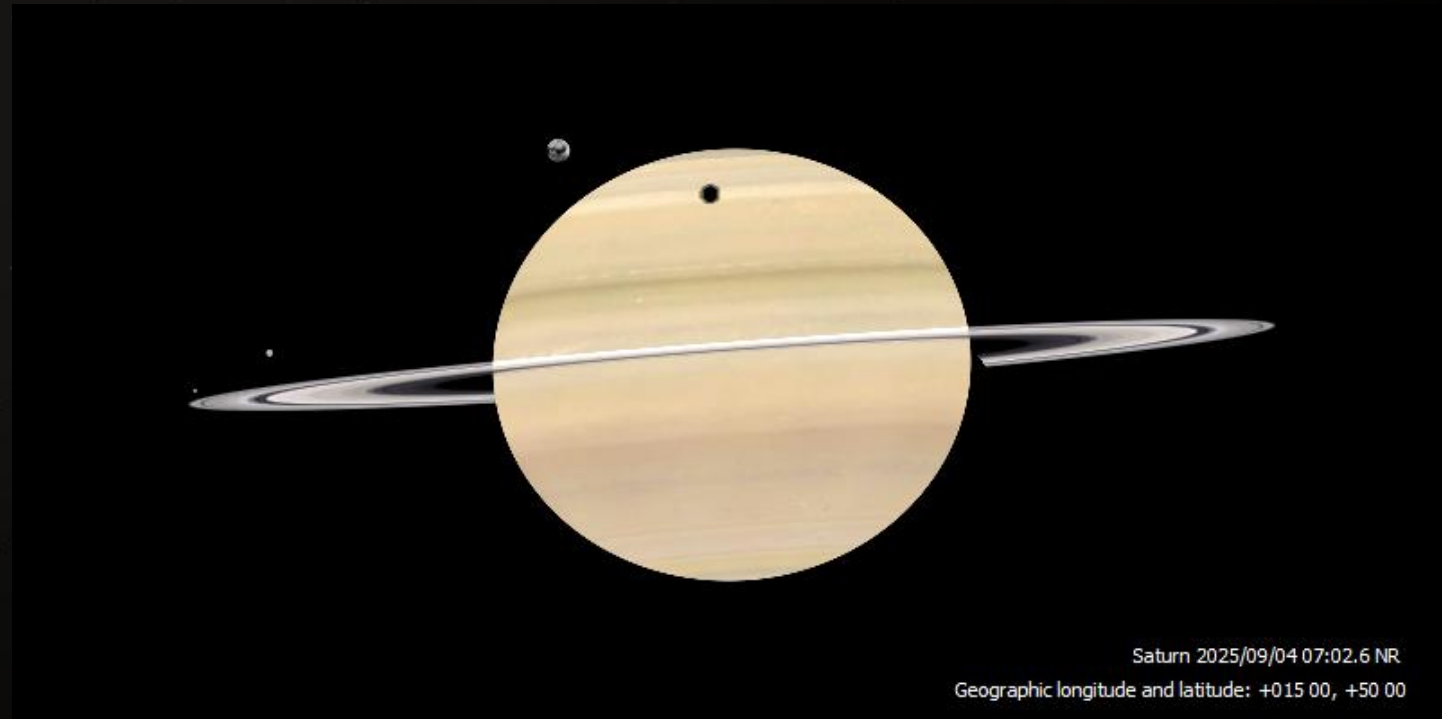
- Mercury had its greatest western elongation this morning. Morning (pre-dawn) elongations in the fall are some of the best opportunities to catch the elusive planet.
- It should still be placed well through the weekend.
- If you don't have a clear eastern horizon but have a well-aligned GoTo scope you can try catching it in the daylight.
- https://www.youtube.com/live/HNJRm36olgQ?si=sO_TnElrydP8WxHB



Shallow Sky Highlights for Aug-Sept 2025

- **Saturn**

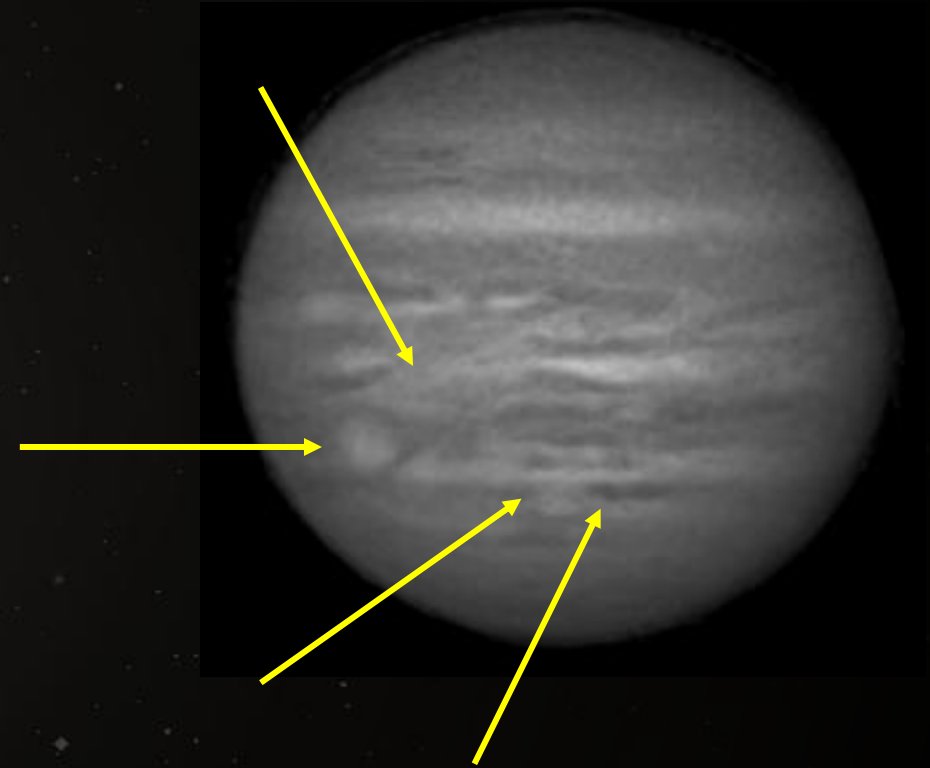
- Reaches opposition on the night of Sept 21st
- As noted last month, for the next few months the rings will appear more and more edgewise to us.
- Titan transit season almost over!
Next chance is September 4th starting 1:30 a.m. for about 3hrs



Shallow Sky Highlights for Aug-Sept 2025

- **Jupiter**

- Will reach quadrature Sept 12th (On the meridian at sunrise)
- Has the NTB reformed?
- What does the GRS look like?



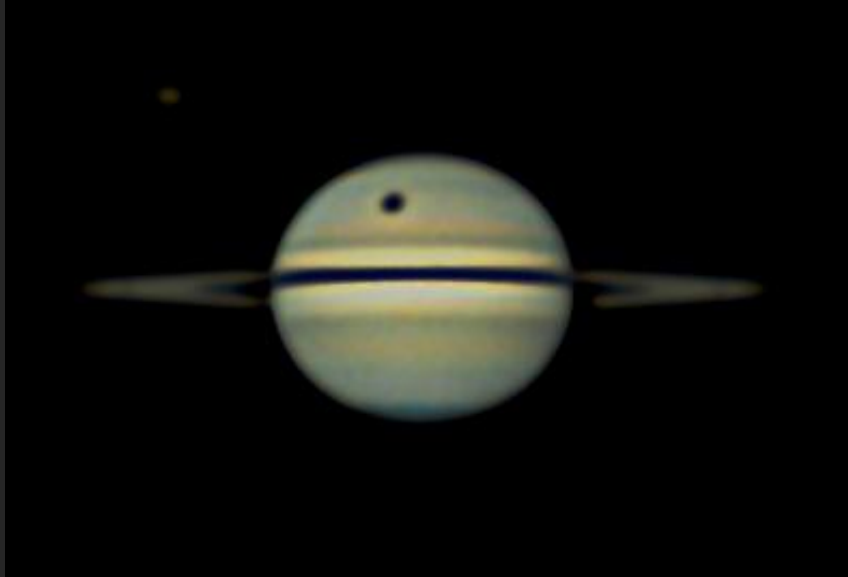
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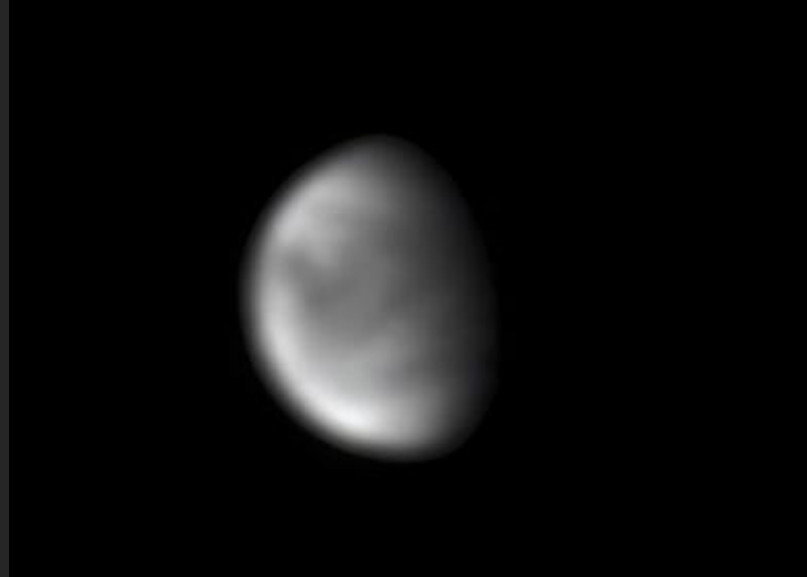


**Saturn with
Titan Shadow Transit**



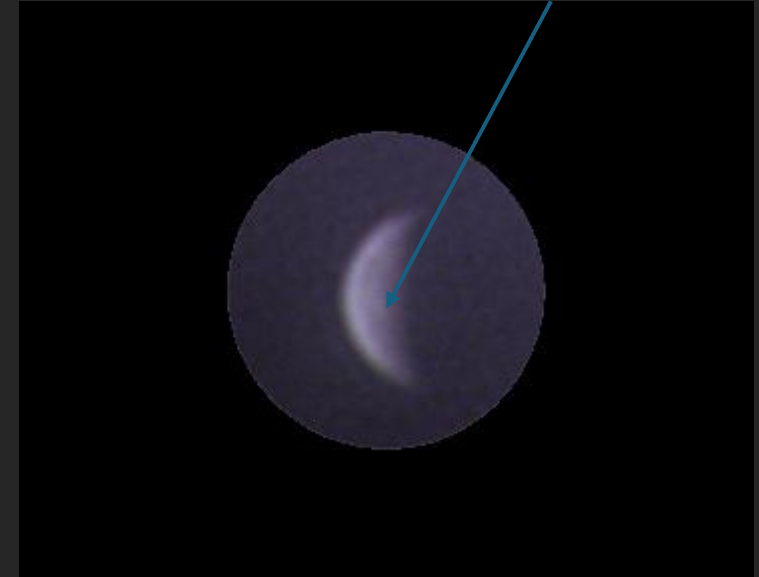
**2025-08-03 04:17 a.m.
White Light**

Venus – High Level Clouds



**2025-08-10 08:37 a.m.
UV**

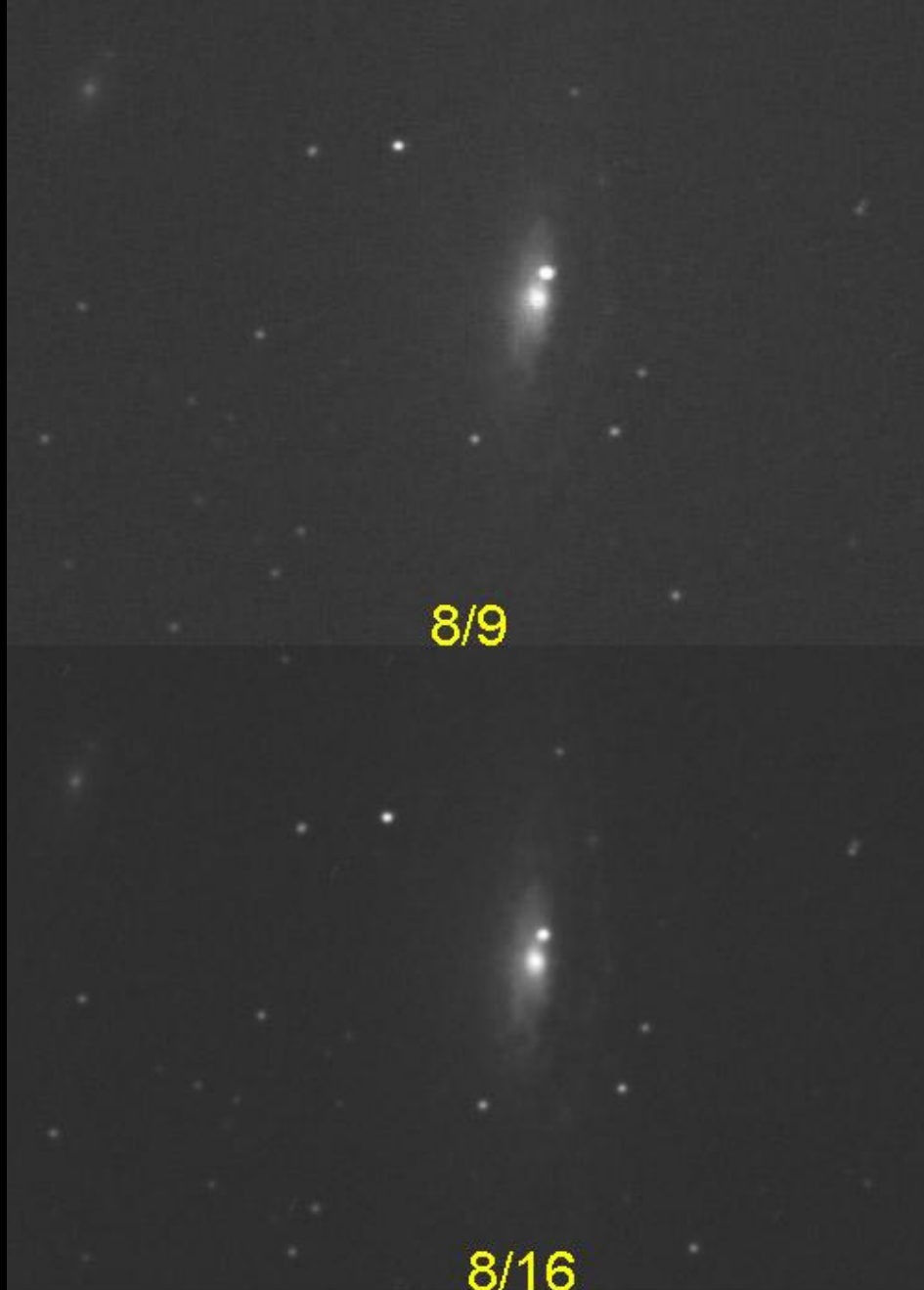
**Mercury
(Albedo Feature?)**



**2025-08-10 09:02 a.m.
R + IR**

**10" f/6 Newtonian
ASI178 Color Camera**

*Jim Tomney
Towson, MD*



SN2025rbs and NGC7331





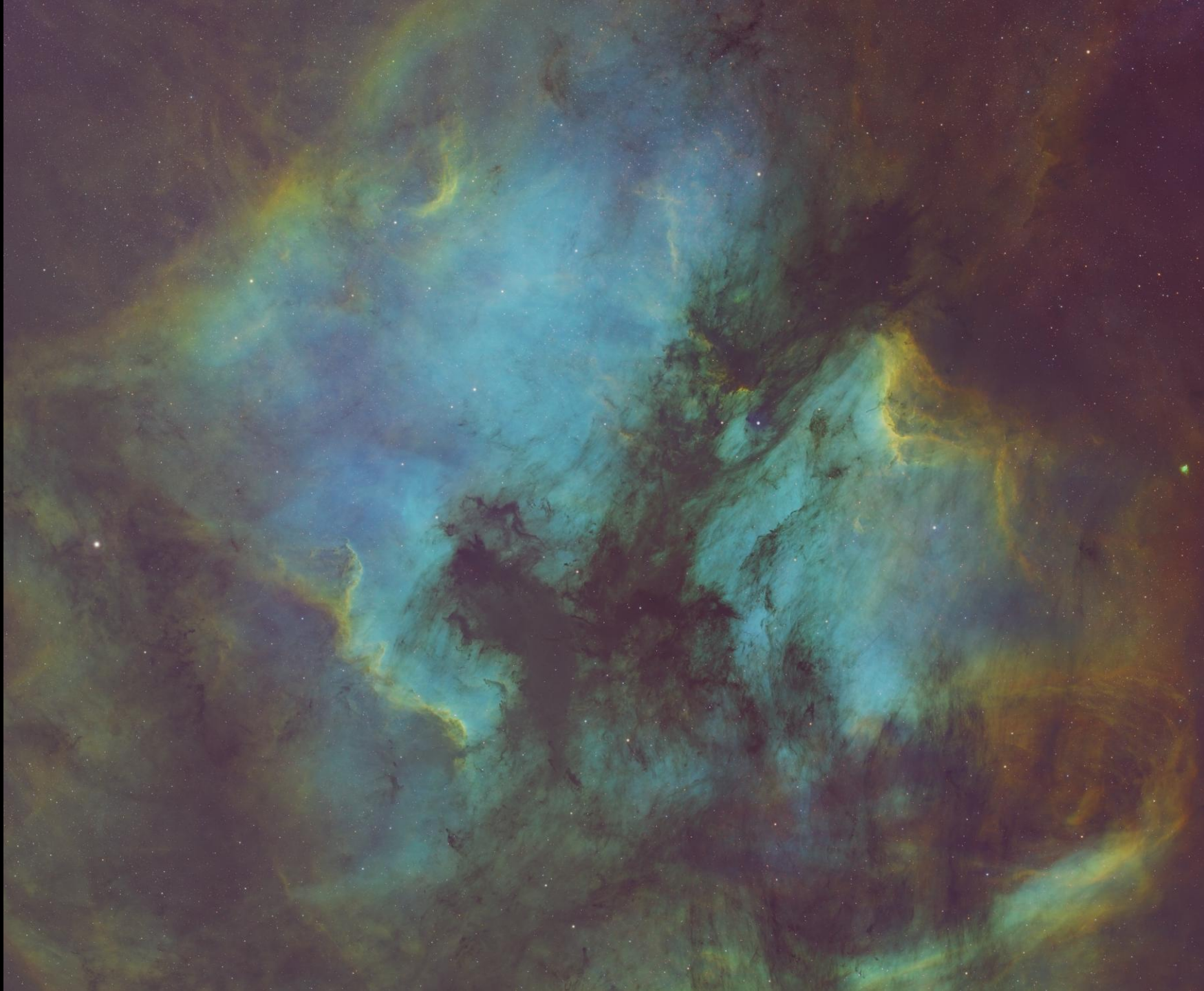
the Cygnus Loop
C-14 with Hyperstar and Optolong Extreme filter

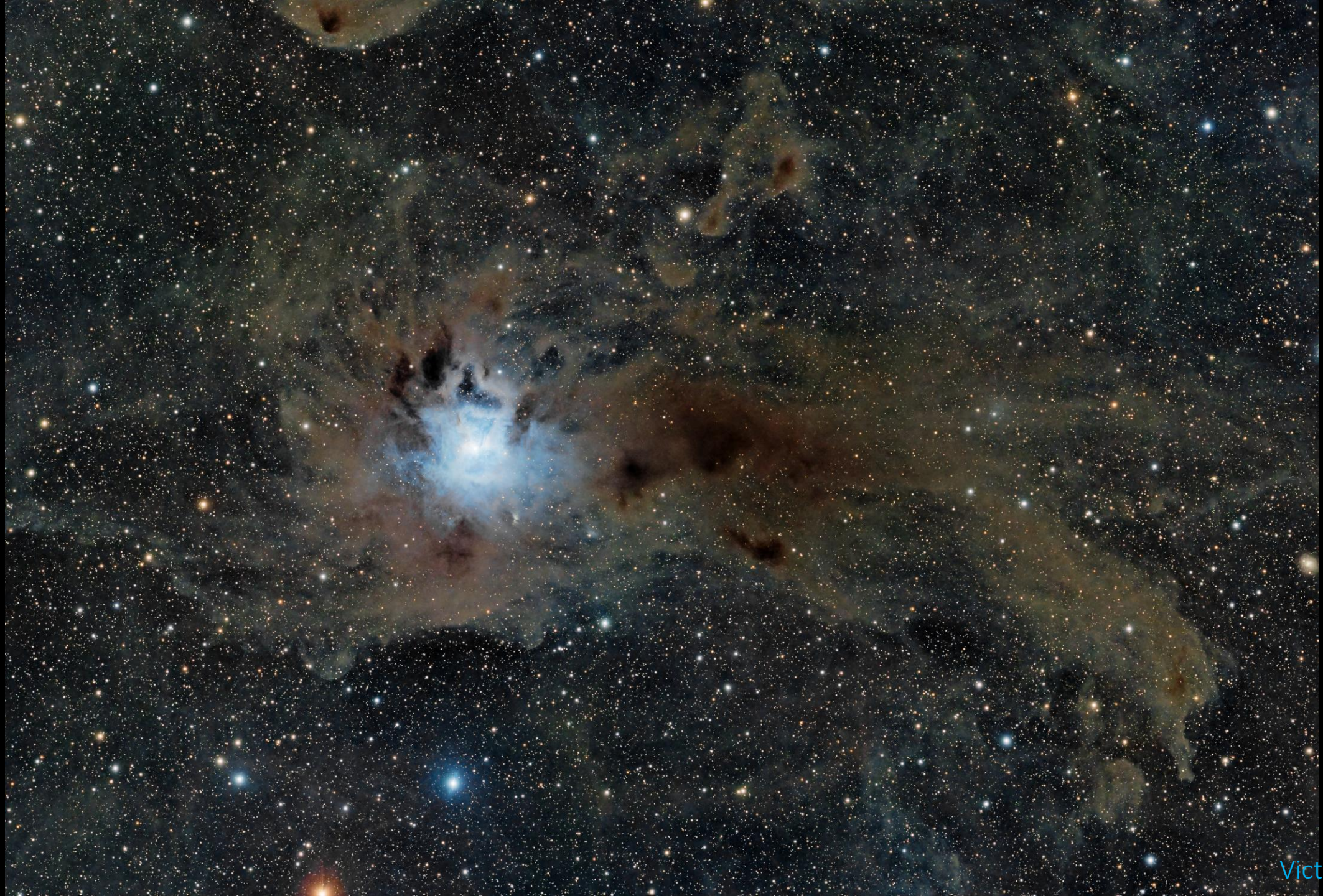
10x30 sec each
13 sets



NGC6357 the Lobster Nebula
C-14 with Hyperstar and Optolong Extreme filter











Copernicus Quadrangle

- Region: Copernicus Quadrangle (0° – 60° W, 0° – 30° N)
- Copernicus Crater: 93 km wide, 3.8 km deep, ~3.8 Ga, terraced walls, 1,200 m central peaks
- Ejecta Rays: Bright rays extending ~800 km across lunar surface
- Montes Carpatus: Rugged mountain range bordering Mare Imbrium
- Reinhold Crater: ~48 km diameter, located southwest of Copernicus
- Surroundings: Mare Insularum, Mare Cognitum, impact melt, breccias,
- Kepler Crater: ~31 km diameter, ~2.6 km deep, ~1 Ga age, with bright rays extending up to 300 km across Oceanus Procellarum

Phil Whitebloom
August 17, 2025

Thank you