



Howard Astronomical League Monthly Meeting

September 11th, 2025

Tonight's Agenda, September 11th, 2025

- ⇒ • Introductions
- Announcements
 - New Monthly Meeting Schedule! (2nd Thursday of the Month)
 - 2025 Star Parties, Recent & Upcoming Events
 - Grand Canyon Star Party 2025 Trip Report – Rich Russin
 - SeeStar Very Small Array Project Update – Matthew Peters
 - Book of the Month – Krystal Rolon
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Special Announcement



If you're here, you got the memo...

HAL's Monthly Meetings will continue to be held on the 2nd Thursday of each Month at 7 PM on Zoom 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

Our Next Monthly Meeting Will be Held Thursday the 9th of October, followed by the 13th of November, 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

- Star Party Event Held at the Howard Nature Conservancy on 8/29/25
 - About 10 telescopes and over 100 people attended throughout the evening.
 - Good exposure to a new set of people (related to recent uptick in new memberships?)
- Impromptus Held at Alpha Ridge on 8/11, 8/22 & 8/29
 - Thank you to Jose Urias & Ernie Morse for opening the park
 - Reminder, if you would like to be a keyholder, please reach out to a HAL board member to discuss the process
- Next Public Star party is coming up this Saturday, September 13th
- September 20th, Astronomy Festival on the Mall
 - Please see message on the howardastro googlegroup and respond to Victor if you plan to attend
- Solar Science & Engineering Celebration at Glenelg, Oct. 18th
 - Coordinate with Krystal Rolon if interested in participating

ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL ON THE NATIONAL MALL

<https://www.hofstra.edu/physics-astronomy/astronomy-festival.html>

HOME > PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY - HOME
> ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL ON THE NATIONAL MALL

Saturday, September 20, 2025; 5 - 11 p.m.

4th to 6th Street, SW., on the Mall, in front of the Air
and Space Museum; Metro: L'Enfant Plaza



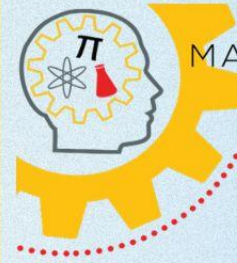
Celebrate the fall equinox with Telescope Views of the Sun, Saturn, Star Clusters, and Colorful Double Stars
at the Largest Astronomy Outreach Event in the USA.

Astronomers, astronomy educators, and students volunteer to provide free public science education.

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.

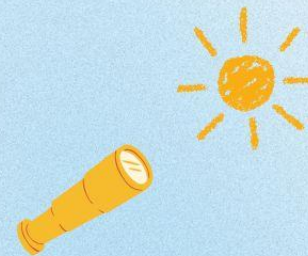


MARYLAND **STEM** FESTIVAL
BRINGING STEM TO YOU

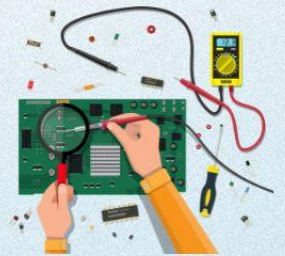
Solar Science and Engineering Celebration!

Glenelg Country School

October 18, 2025 | 12 - 4 PM



Solar
Telescopes!



Engineering
Activities!

Book of the Month

Title:

- The Sun

Author:

- Brendan Owens

Length:

- 117 pages

Audience Level:

- Beginner Friendly
- Intermediate
- Experienced



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Topic: LEMS-A3

Dr. Mehdi Benna - Planetary Scientist, NASA/GSFC

Dr. Mehdi Benna is a senior planetary scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and a research professor at UMBC. His expertise spans plasma physics, planetary magnetospheres, and the development of cutting-edge space instruments. If you've followed missions like MAVEN, LADEE, or the Mars Science Laboratory, you've already encountered the impact of his work.

Dr. Benna has led or contributed to more than a dozen space missions, including the Artemis III Lunar Environment Monitoring Station (our topic for this evening), the SEAL experiment investigating lunar surface interactions, and the MoSAlC spectrometer for the Geospace Dynamics Constellation. His research has been published in over 100 peer-reviewed articles and presented at more than 200 international conferences.

He's also the recipient of multiple NASA awards, including the Exceptional Achievement in Engineering Medal and several Group Achievement Awards for his contributions to Mars, Mercury, and lunar exploration.

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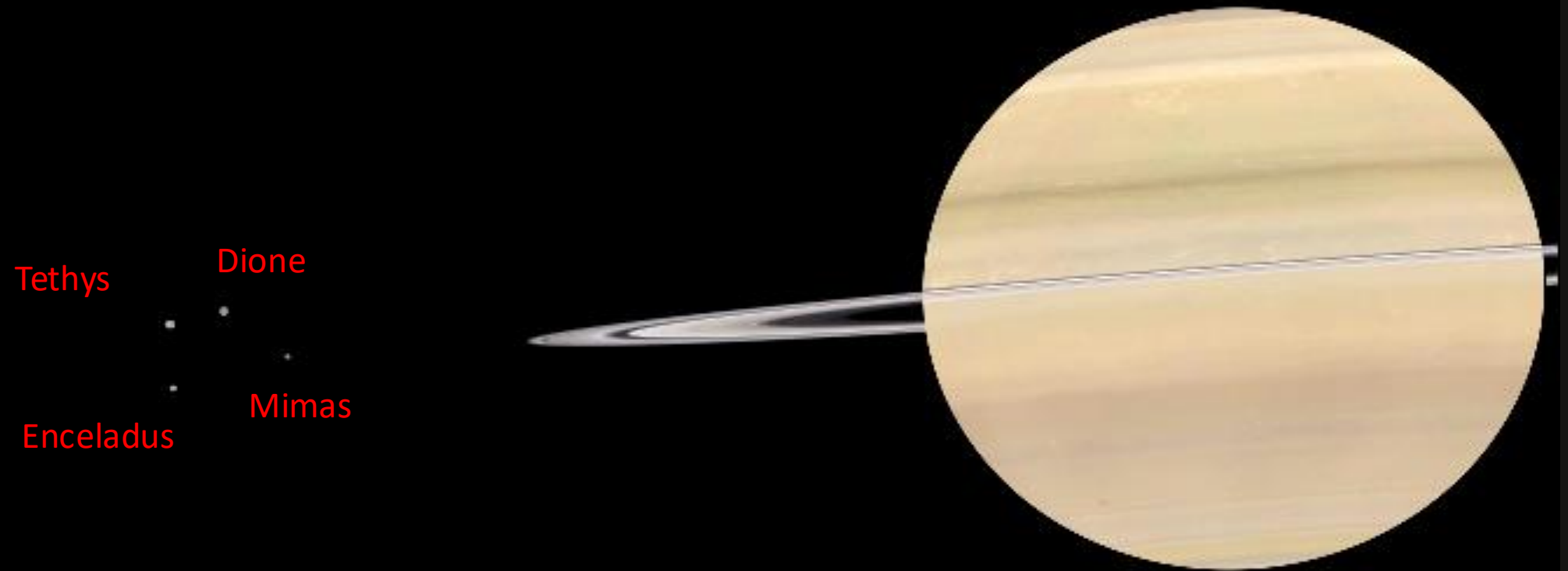
Saturn at Opposition

- *Saturn reaches opposition on the evening of September 21st where it will rise at sunset, set at sunrise.*
- *Rings are not open very wide, but this gives you an opportunity to view the globe*
- *There is also less glare from the rings so you can more easily see some of the fainter moons*



Saturn on August 7th by Christophe Pellier

Moon Alignment – Midnight Sept 21st



Saturn 2025/09/21 04:00.0 NR
Geographic longitude and latitude: +015 00, +50 00

Jupiter Well Placed as Morning Object

- Rising at about 1:30 am now
- The two equatorial bands are broad and pronounced.
- The STB is quite thick in some spots, nonexistent in other latitudes.
- GRS is reddish and about same appearance as last year.



Double Transit Window Opens

- We are entering “Double Transit” season on Jupiter where two of the Galilean moons cross in front of the planet at the same time
- Because Io, Europa, and Ganymede are in orbital resonance with Jupiter, double-shadow season recurs at 437.64-day (1.2-year) intervals.
- The October 4th event has additional interest in how the moons themselves seem to touch one another!

October Double-shadow Transits

Oct.	Shadows	UT Start	UT End
4	Io and Europa	6:49	8:17
6	Io and Ganymede	1:17	1:30
7	Io and Europa	19:46	21:34
11	Io and Europa	8:42	10:53

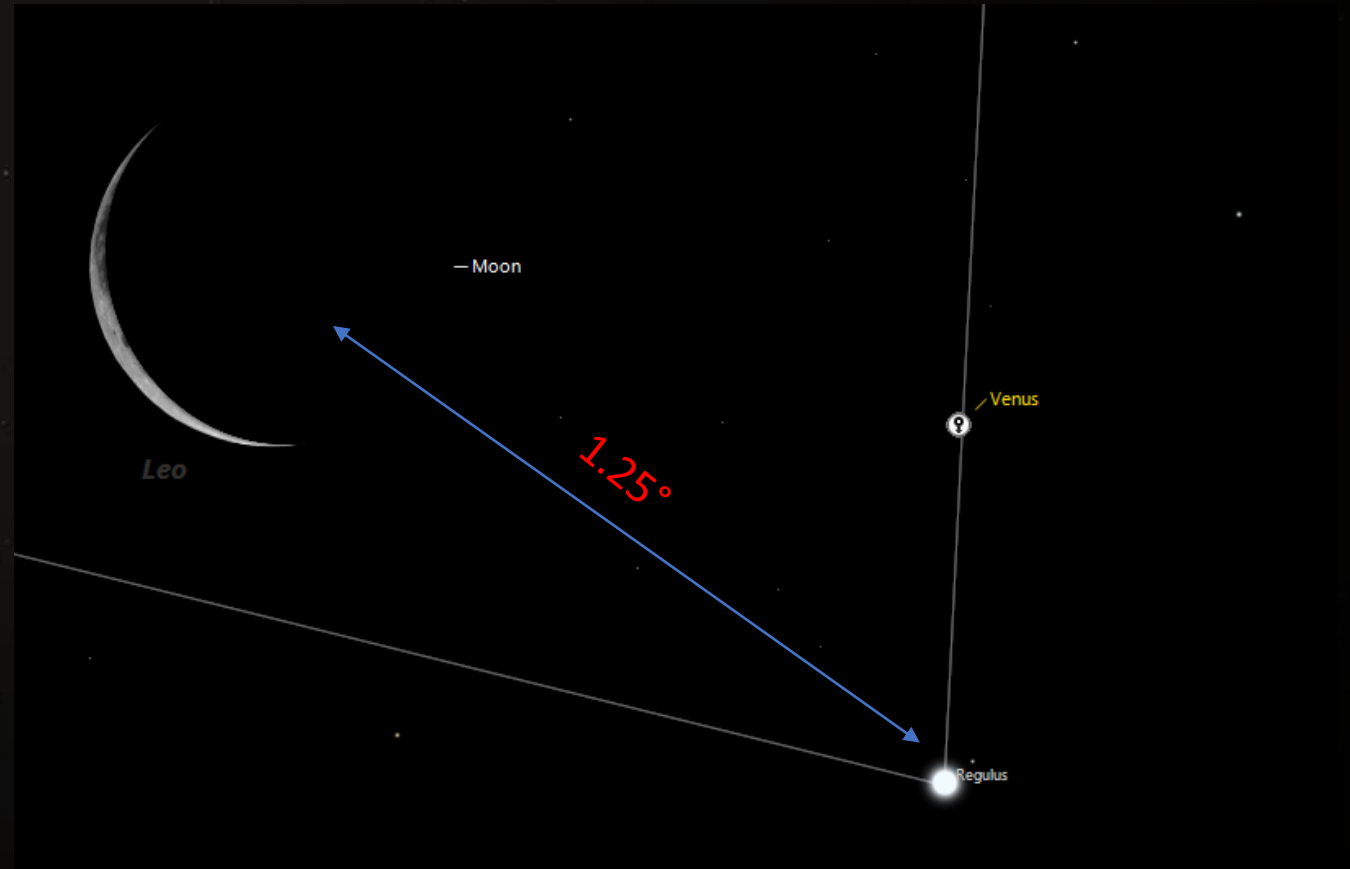
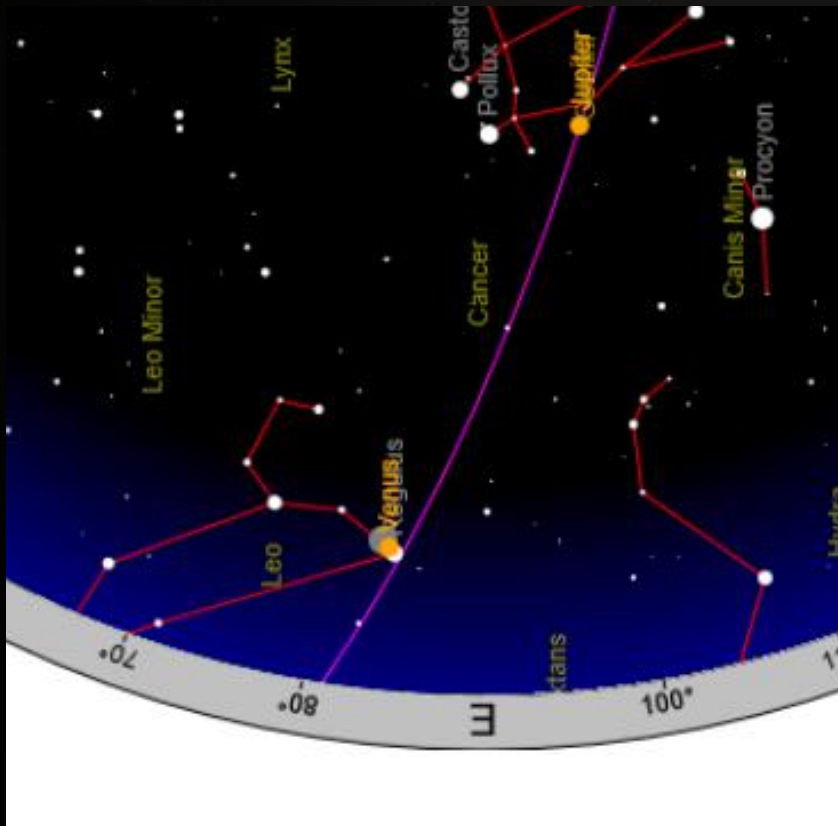
S&T October 2025



Jupiter 2025/10/04 07:59.1 NR
Geographic longitude and latitude: +015 00, +50 00

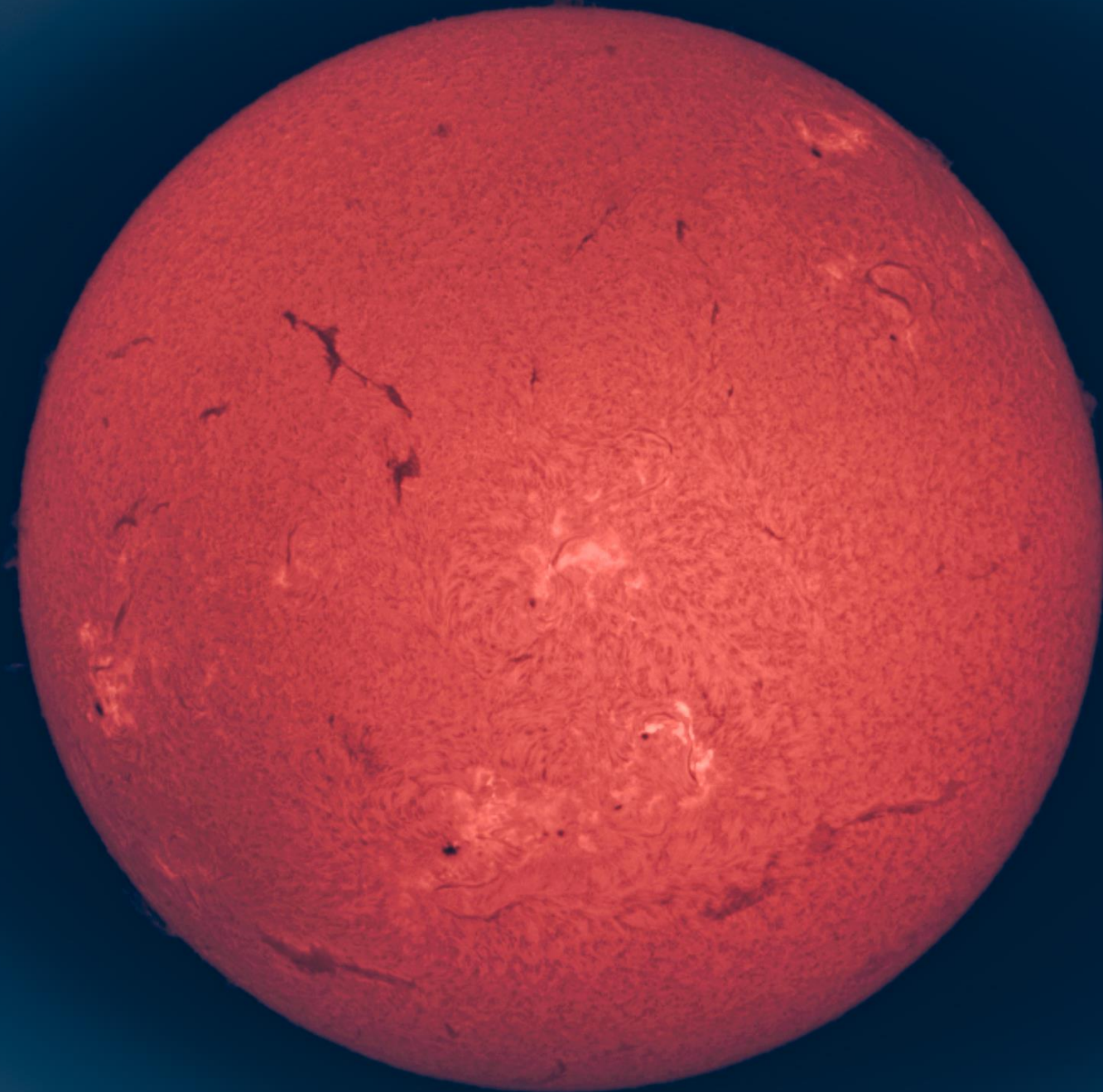
A Subline Appulse on September 19th

- Thin crescent Moon (with earthshine) joins Venus and Regulus
- Need a clear eastern horizon – the trio is only about 12° high at 5:45 am (just a few minutes before nautical twilight begins)
 - Sunrise at 6:52 am that day)



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Our Sun
August 31, 2025
by *Phil Whitebloom*



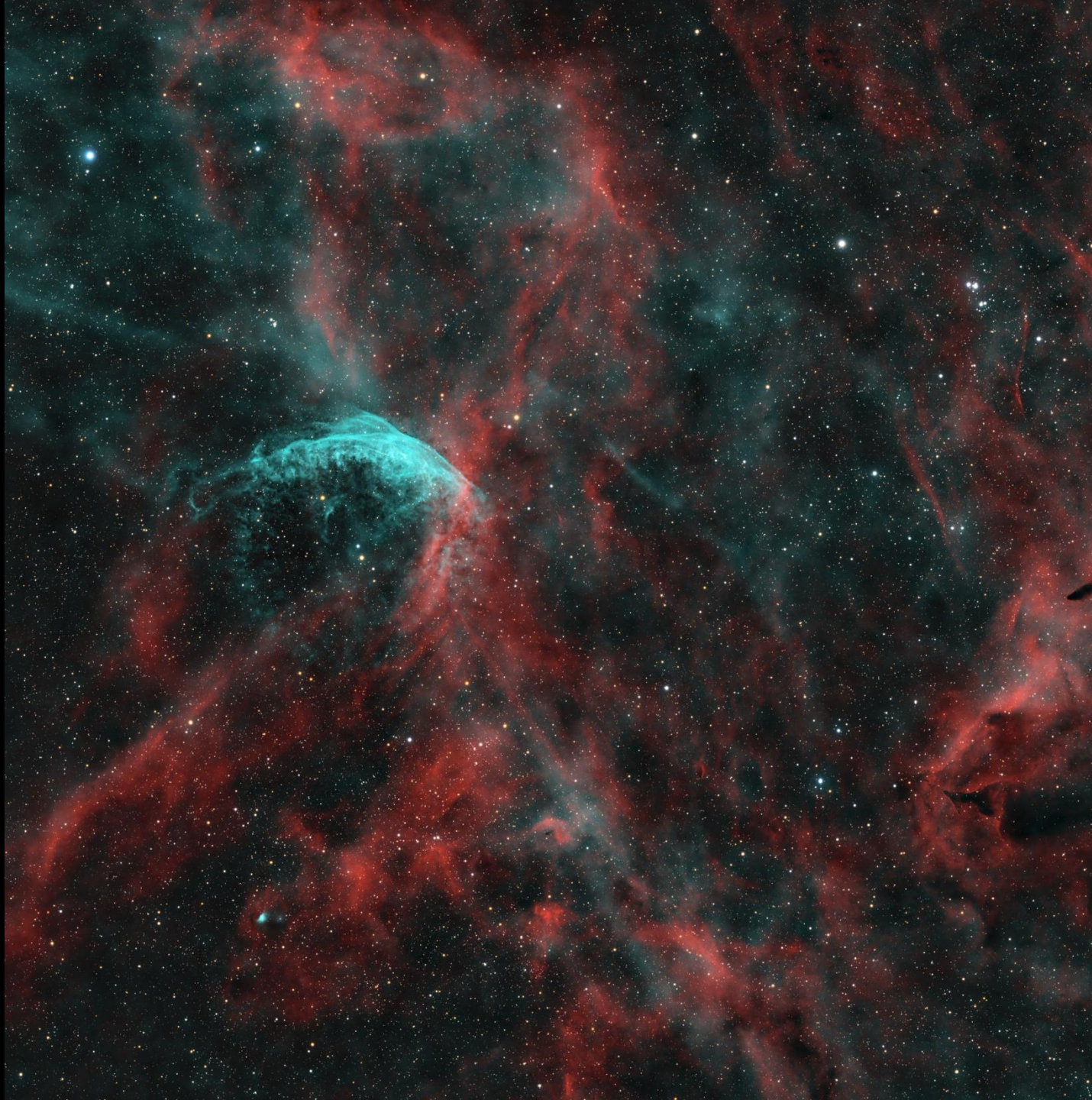
Rich Friedrich
2025 AHSP
M27
(Dumbell Nebula)
24 minutes
C8 EDGE HD &
ASI294MC



Rich Friedrich
2025 AHSP
NGC 7331
(Deer Lick Group)
39 minutes
C8 EDGE HD &
ASI294MC



John Nagy
8/30/2025
IC1396
(Elephant's Trunk)
5.6 hours
Esprit 100 & ASI2600MM
Sii, Ha, Oiii filters



John Nagy
8/22/2025
WR134
5.8 hours
Esprit 100 & ASI2600MM
Ha, Oiii filters

Mercury 2025-08-23 12:46.5 UT

CMI=280°

Seeing: 7/10 Trans:7/10



WinJUPOS
Simulation

25cm Newtonian f16,
2.5x TV Barlow
R+IR (Baader 685)
ASI178MC at 118 fps

Jim Tomney
Towson, MD US

 Seestar S50 

76° W, 39° N / 2025.07.29 21:20

Moon



 Seestar S50 

Marriottsville / 2025.08.13 00:02

M 101

61min



Messier 17 "The Omega Nebula"

By: Ken Everhart
August 23, 2025 (UTC)
Cherry Springs State Park,
Pennsylvania

Telescope: CarbonStar 150
Camera: Zwo ASI1600MM
Processing: Pixinsight
Photoshop Elements

Red:	10	X	60 Secs.
Green:	10	X	60 Secs.
Blue:	10	X	60 Secs.
H-Alpha:	10	X	300 Secs.
OIII:	10	X	300 Secs.
OIII:	10	X	300 Secs.

Total: 2 Hours 10 Minutes

C/2025 N1 (Atlas)

23 August 2025
00h 40m UTC

Cherry Springs
State Park,
Pennsylvania

Seeing: 3-Average
Altitude: 27°

Phase Angle: 96°
Constellation:
Libra

Distance:
242,718,000 Miles



Telescope:
Meade LX-850 14"

Camera:
ZWO ASI2600MM

Lum 120 Secs. 100 Gain

Processing:
Pixinsight
Photoshop.



"The NGC 7331 Group"

By: Ken Everhart
August 22, 2025 (UTC)
Cherry Springs State Park,
Pennsylvania

Telescope: Meade LX-850 14"
Camera: Zwo ASI2600MM
Processing: Pixinsight
Photoshop Elements

Red:	10	X	120 Secs.
Green:	10	X	120 Secs.
Blue:	10	X	120 Secs.
Total:			1 Hour

Thank you