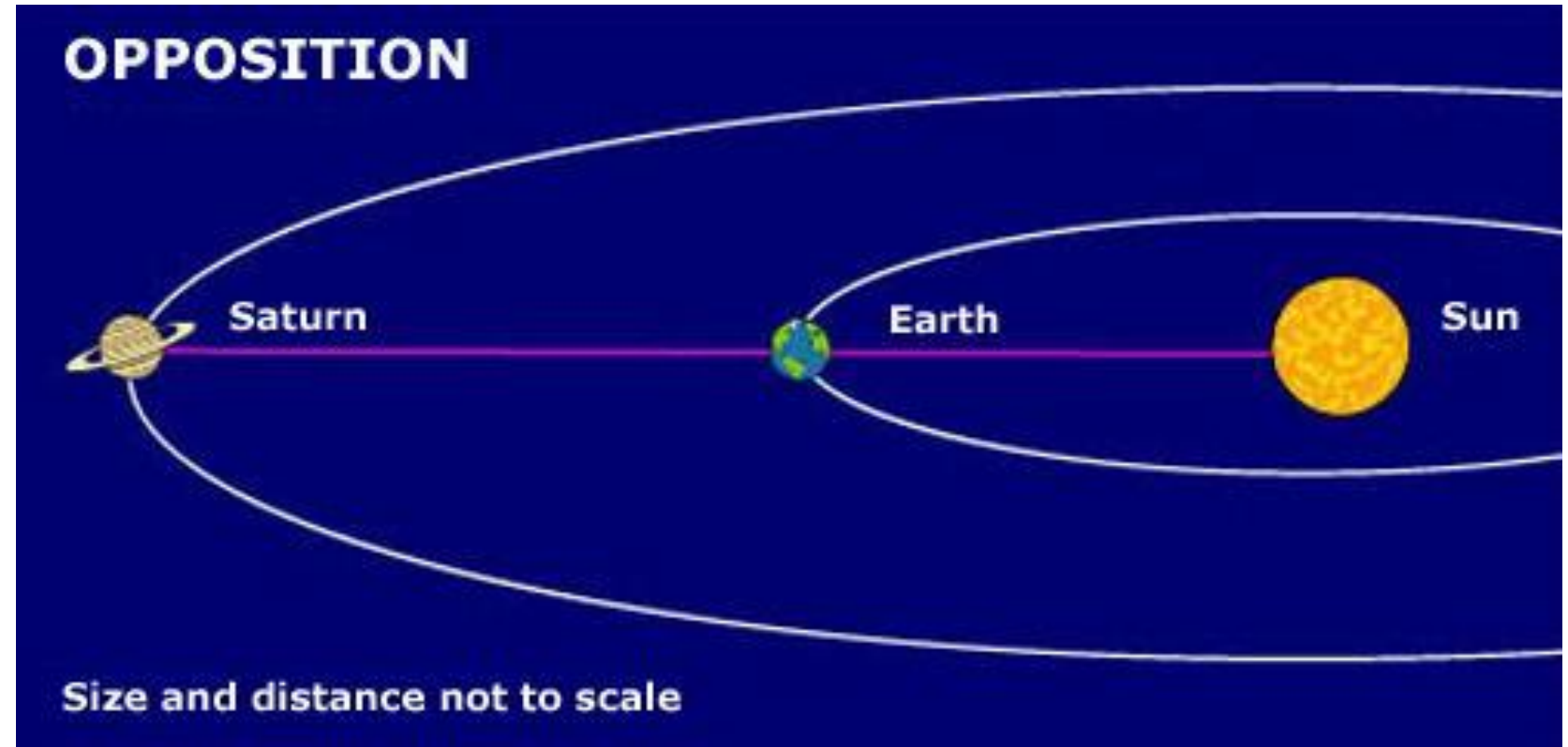


# July 2019 Sky Events

## Gas Giant Saturn Closest to Earth this Month

The gas giant **Saturn**, our solar system's "lord of the rings", **reaches opposition** (opposite the Earth from the Sun and closest for the year) on the night of July 9<sup>th</sup>. At opposition Saturn will be a bright magnitude of +0.1!

Saturn at "opposition": opposite the Earth from the Sun and closest for the year.



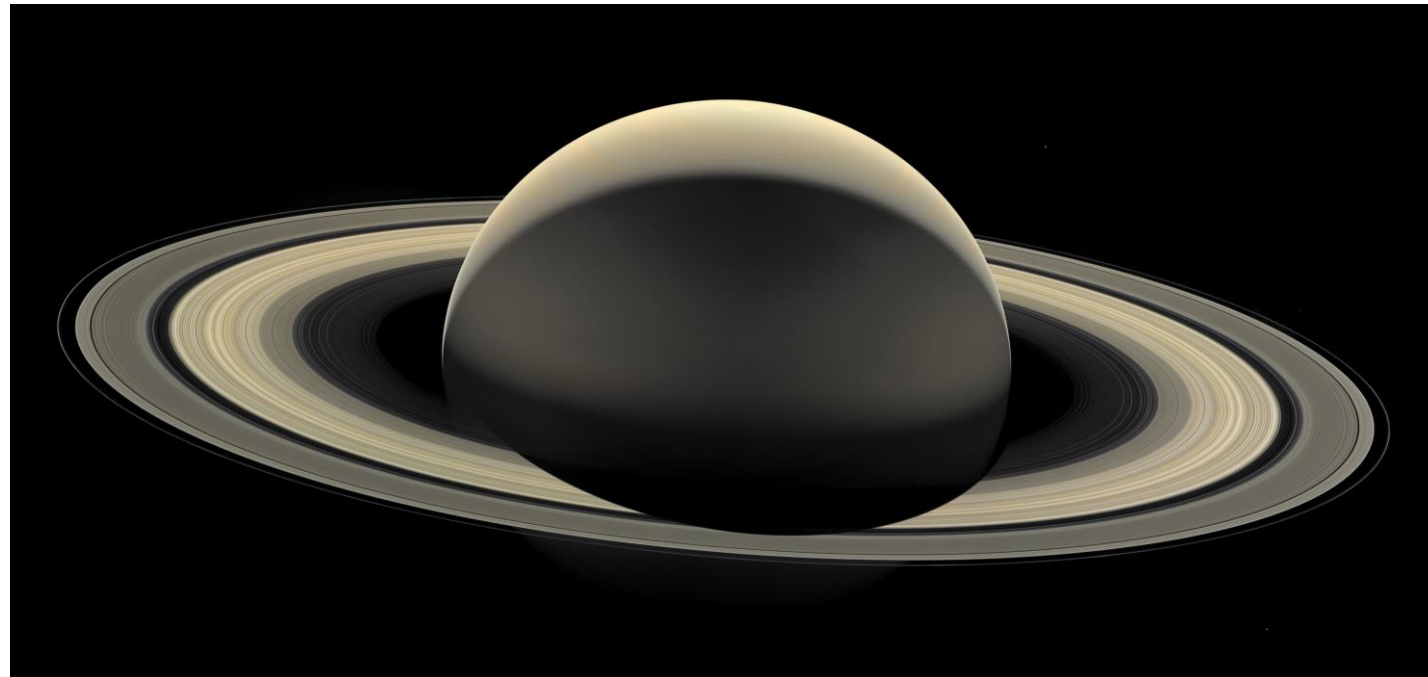
## Gas Giant Saturn Closest to Earth this Month

During July, Saturn, in the constellation Sagittarius the Archer, will be joined by much brighter Jupiter, in the neighboring constellation of Ophiuchus the Serpent Holder.

Saturn is a fast rotator - with only a 10.7 hour day - but its year takes 29.46 Earth years. Its disk is about 75,000 miles in diameter, but its ring system is some 170,000 miles in diameter, with an average thickness of only 10 meters!

Besides easily observing Saturn's spectacular ring system, modest amateur telescopes typically see up to 6 of Saturn's 62 moons, including its largest and most famous moon – Titan.

NASA's Cassini Spacecraft image



Astronomy Club of Asheville  
**July 2019 Sky Events**

**Gas Giant Saturn Closest to Earth this Month**

The view from Asheville, NC  
on July 9<sup>th</sup>, about 9:40 p.m. EDT --  
looking SE at dusk



Rising at dusk and setting at dawn, the planet Saturn is visible all night during the month of July.

Located in the constellation Sagittarius, Saturn is positioned some 840 million miles (or 75 light minutes) away from Earth at opposition on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Jupiter is less than half as far from us as Saturn in July, and it also shines some 11 times brighter than Saturn in our night sky this month.