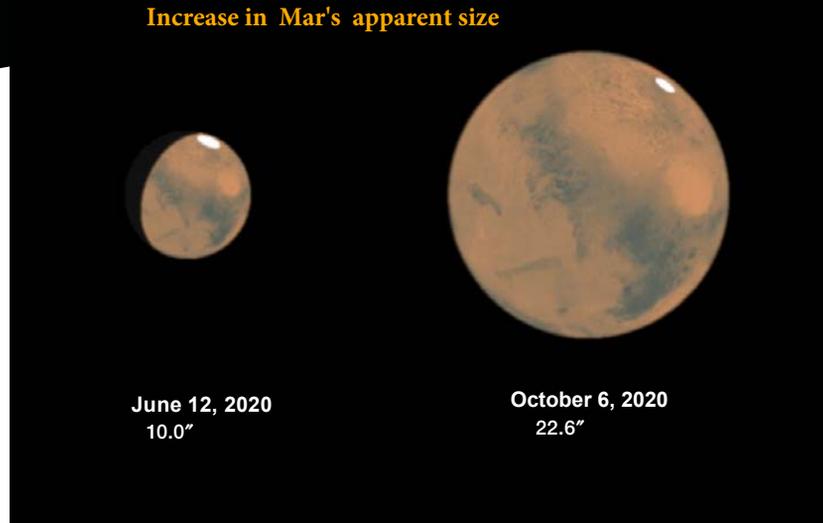


# Mars at its Best until 2035

- One of the best showings of  
the Red Planet in decades.



Grab all the Mars you can this apparition. The Red Planet won't be this close to Earth again until 2035. Closest approach during the current apparition occurs on October 6th, when the tiny orb will swell to 22.6" (arc-seconds). That's only 1.7" (arc-seconds) less than at its perihelic position in 2018, which was less favorable for Northern Hemisphere observers due to the planet's southerly declination. This time Mars stands 31° farther north, where atmospheric turbulence and poor seeing, typical of lower altitudes, should have much less affect on the view.

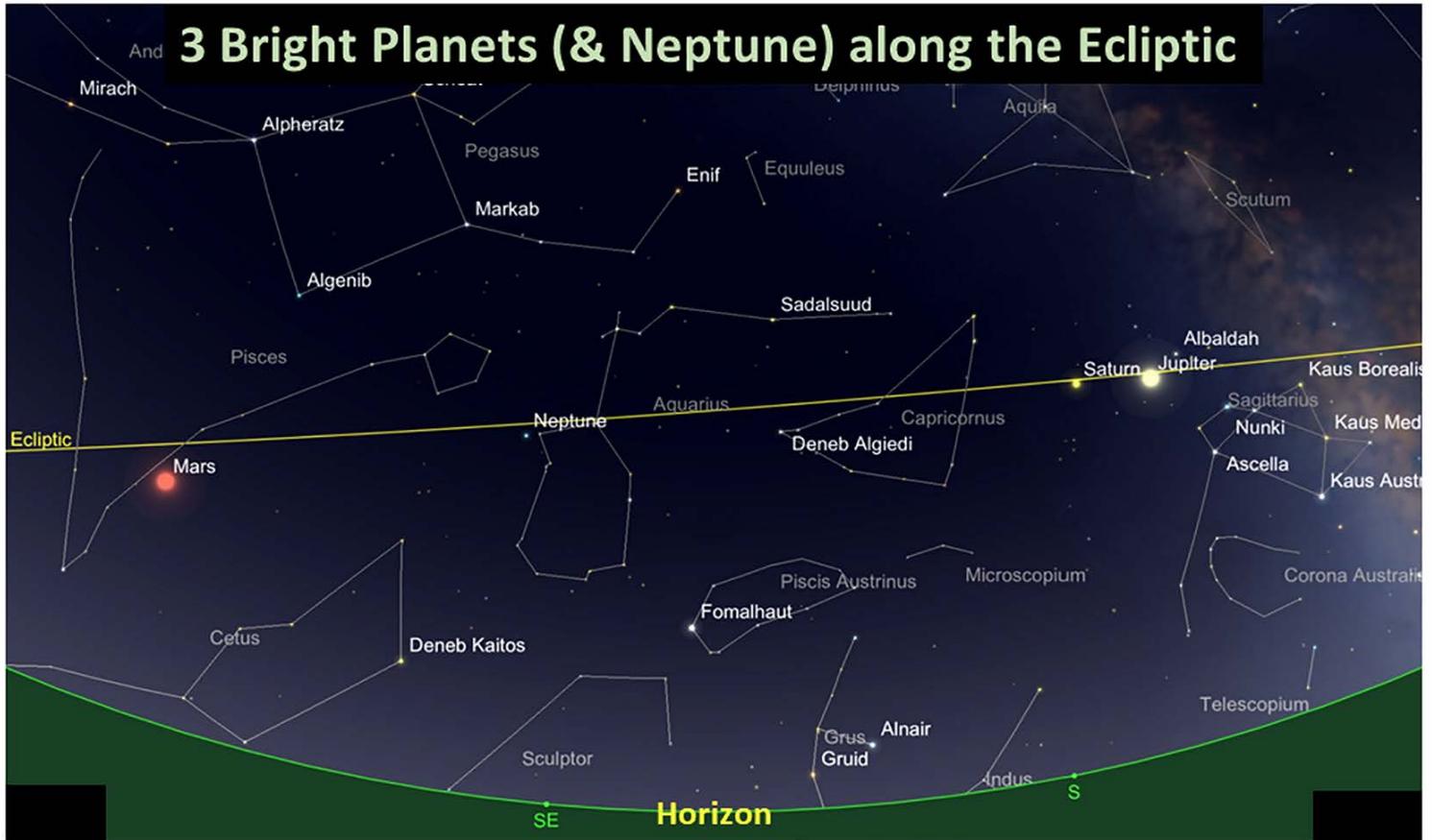
### [Additional comments and a sky chart from the Astronomy Club of Asheville:](#)

During October 2020, Mars will be located in the constellation Pisces, and, at magnitude -2.6, it will briefly beam more brightly than both Jupiter and Saturn. Those two gas giant planets (located in the constellation Sagittarius) will be simultaneously visible with Mars in October's early evening skies.

### **See the next page for a sky chart.**

Mars reaches "opposition", when Earth passes directly between the Red Planet and the Sun, on October 13. At opposition Mars is some 39 million miles away. At closest approach to Earth, a week earlier on October 6, Mars is 38.6 million miles away. **Read more about observing Mars and this close opposition at [this link](#).**

# 3 Bright Planets (& Neptune) along the Ecliptic



The view from Asheville, NC, on Oct. 13, 2020 at 8:30 p.m. EDT