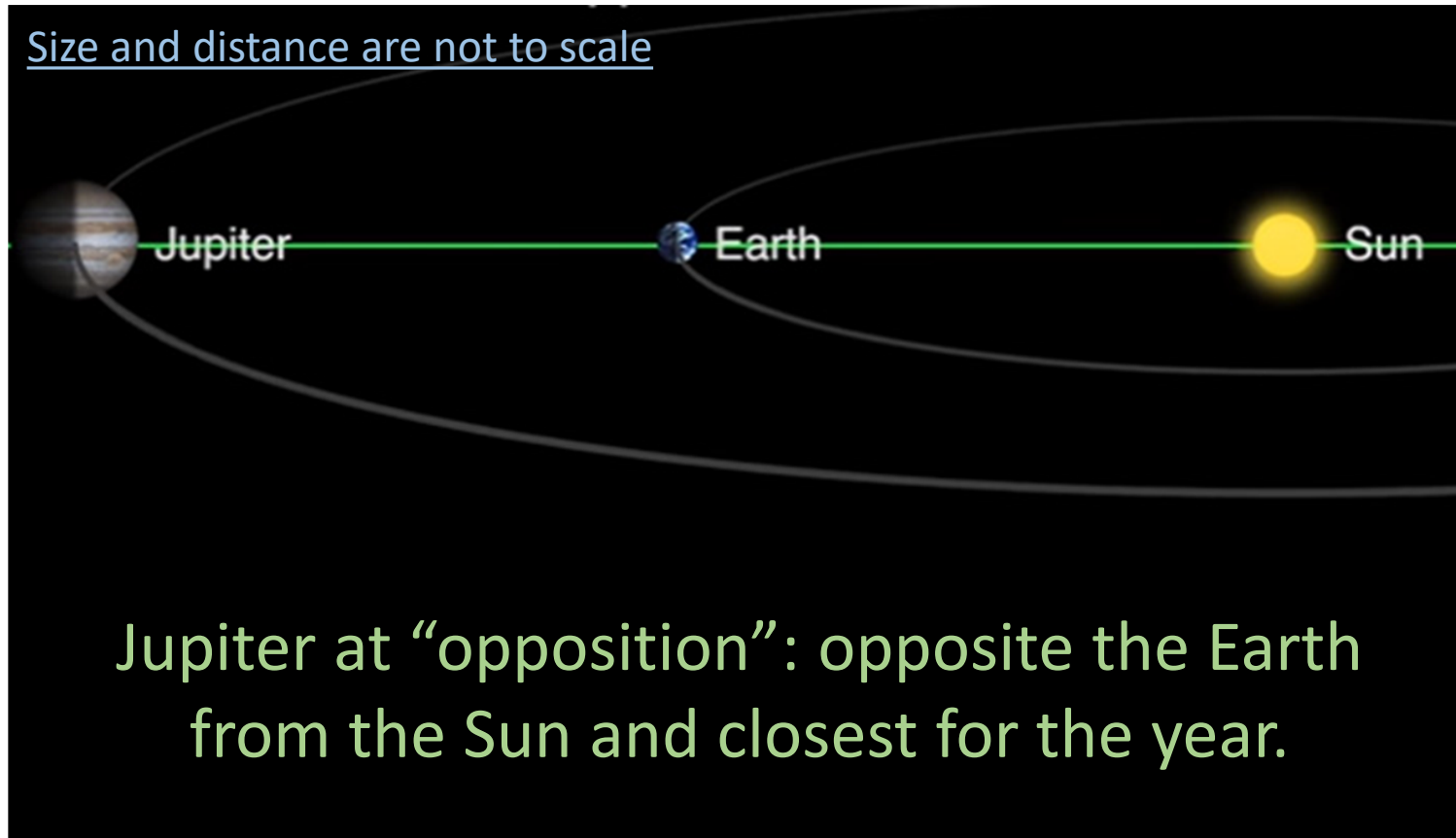


# August 2021 Sky Events

## Gas Giant Jupiter Closest to Earth this Month

**The planet Jupiter**, the largest planet in our solar system, **reaches “opposition”** (opposite the Earth from the Sun and closest for the year) on the night of **August 19<sup>th</sup>**. At “opposition” Jupiter will be a very bright magnitude of -2.9!



## August 2021 Sky Events

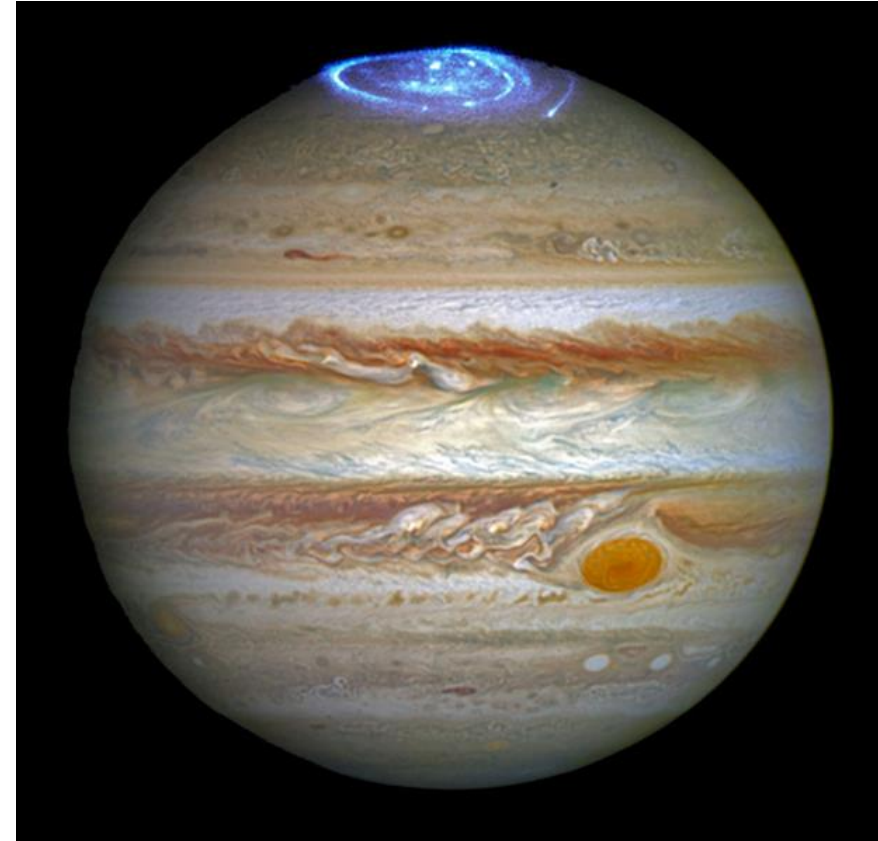
### Gas Giant Jupiter Closest to Earth this Month

During August, Jupiter (and Venus) will shine more brightly than any star in the evening sky. Its disk will reach a peak diameter of 49 arc seconds.

Jupiter is the fastest spinning solar system planet, completing a rotation in just under 10 hours.

Its striking cloud top bands and 4 bright Galilean moons are easy objects to observe with a small telescope. With steady, clear skies, Jupiter's Great Red Spot (GRS), if it is rotated toward Earth at the time, may also be observed in a telescope.

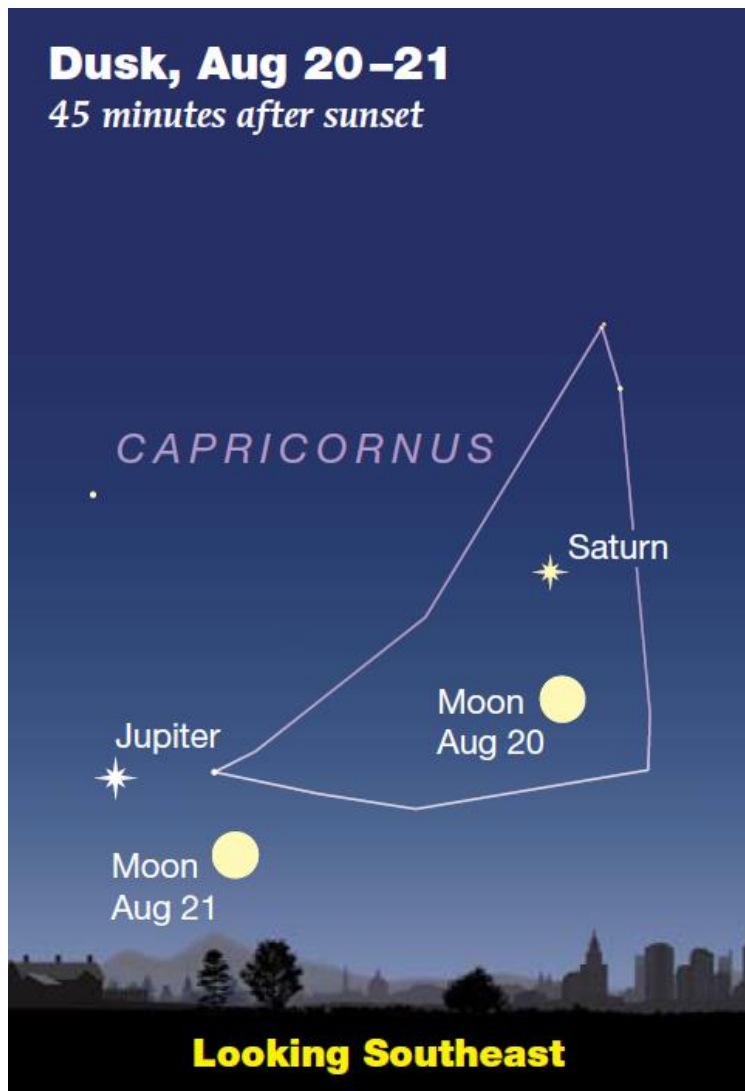
For an app on the positions of Jupiter's moons as well as the location timing for the GRS, [see this link](#).



NASA's Juno Mission Image

## August 2021 Sky Events

### Gas Giant Jupiter Closest to Earth this Month



Rising at dusk and setting at dawn, the planet Jupiter is visible, along with Saturn, all night during the month of August.

Located in the zodiac constellation Capricornus, the Sea Goat, Jupiter is positioned some 372 million miles (or 34 light minutes) away from Earth at “opposition” on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Jupiter is less than half as far from us as Saturn in August, and it also shines some 16 times brighter than Saturn in our night sky this month.

*Illustration courtesy of [Sky & Telescope](#)*