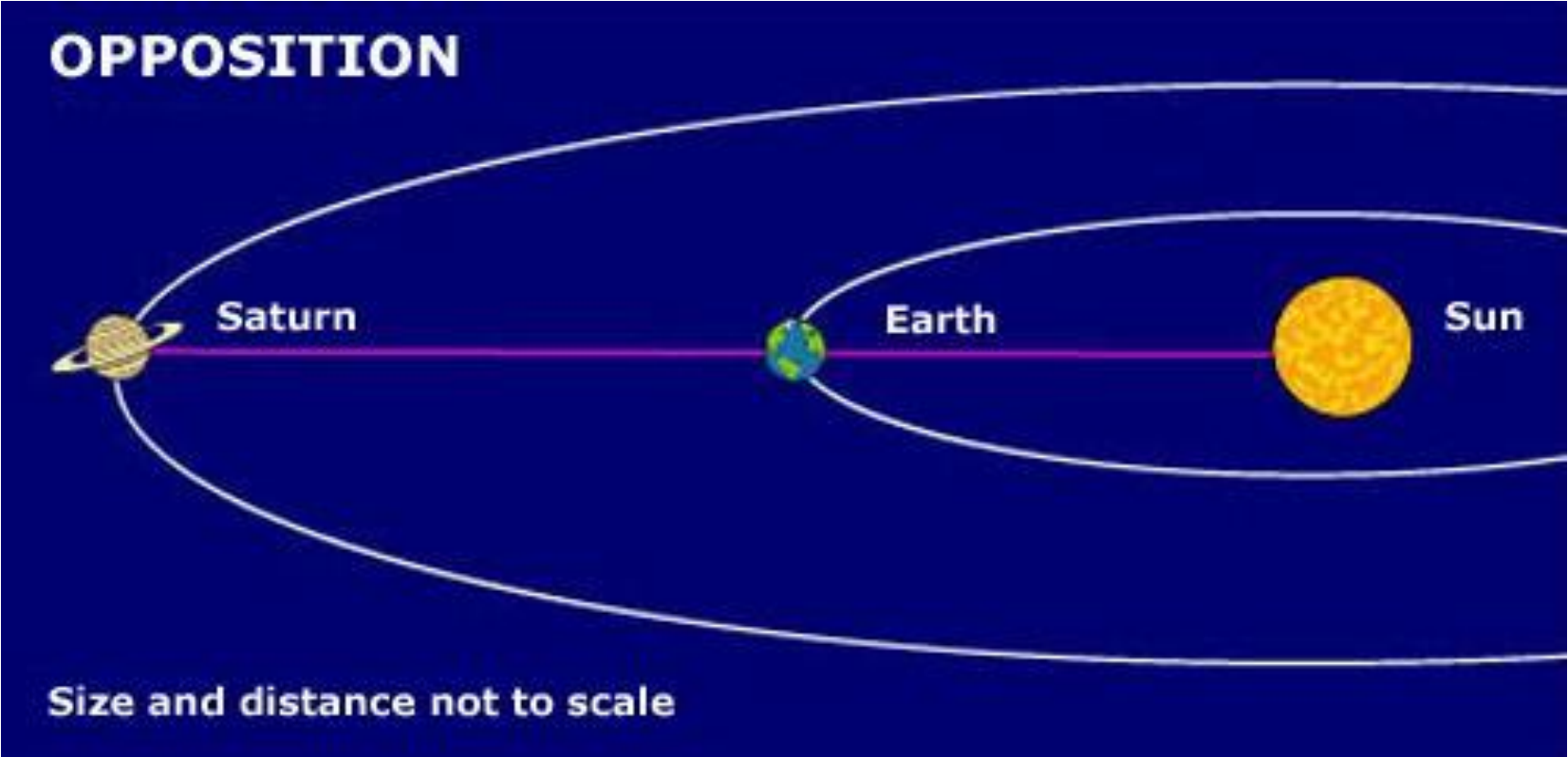


# August 2022 Sky Events

## Gas Giant Saturn Closest to Earth this Month

The planet **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 **August 14<sup>th</sup>**. At "opposition" Saturn will be a bright magnitude of +0.3!

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



## August 2022 Sky Events

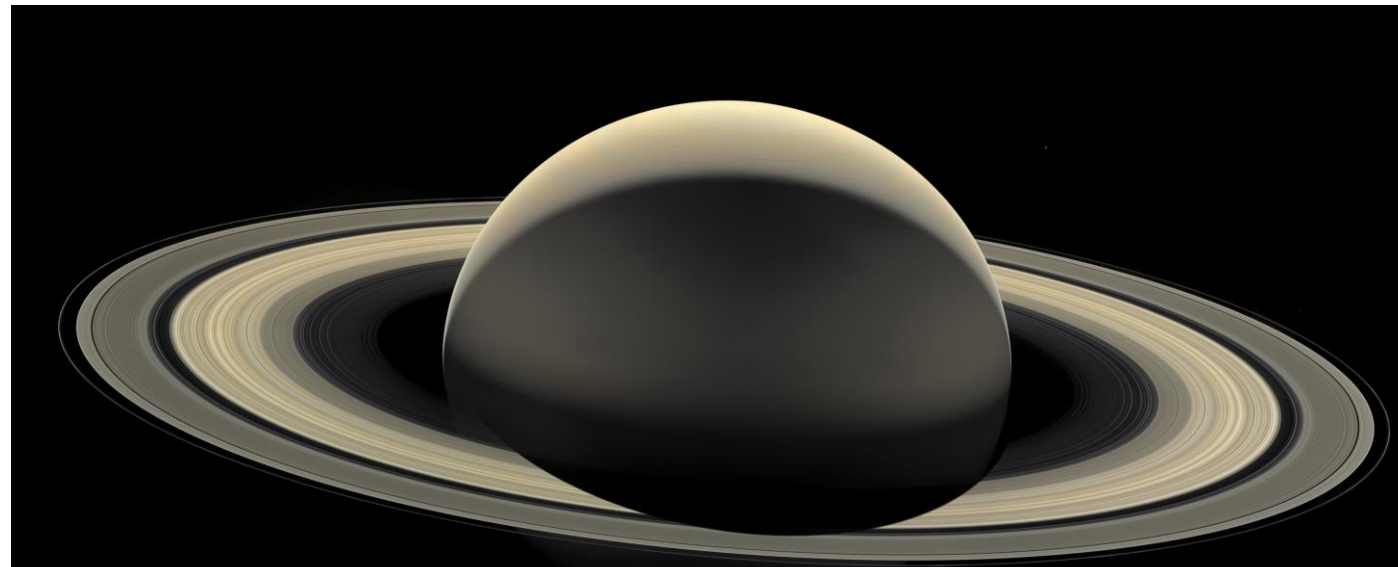
### Gas Giant Saturn Closest to Earth this Month

At this opposition, Saturn's ring system will be tipped at a  $13.9^\circ$  angle, with its northern hemisphere tilted our way, and its angular size, from one end of the rings to the other, at 42 arc seconds.

Saturn is a fast rotator, with only a 10.7-hour day, but its orbit about the Sun takes 29.46 Earth years. Its disk is about 75,000 miles in diameter, but its icy ring system is some 175,000 miles across, 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 83 known moons, including its largest and most famous moon – Titan.

NASA's Cassini Spacecraft image



# August 2022 Sky Events

## Gas Giant Saturn Closest to Earth this Month

August 14, 2022  
around 9:30 p.m. EDT  
from Asheville, NC



Located in the zodiac constellation Capricornus, the Sea Goat, Saturn is positioned some 824 million miles (or 74 light minutes) away from Earth at “opposition” on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Rising at dusk, in the E-SE, and setting at dawn, the planet Saturn is visible all night during much of the month of August.

*Illustration created with SkySafari and PowerPoint software*