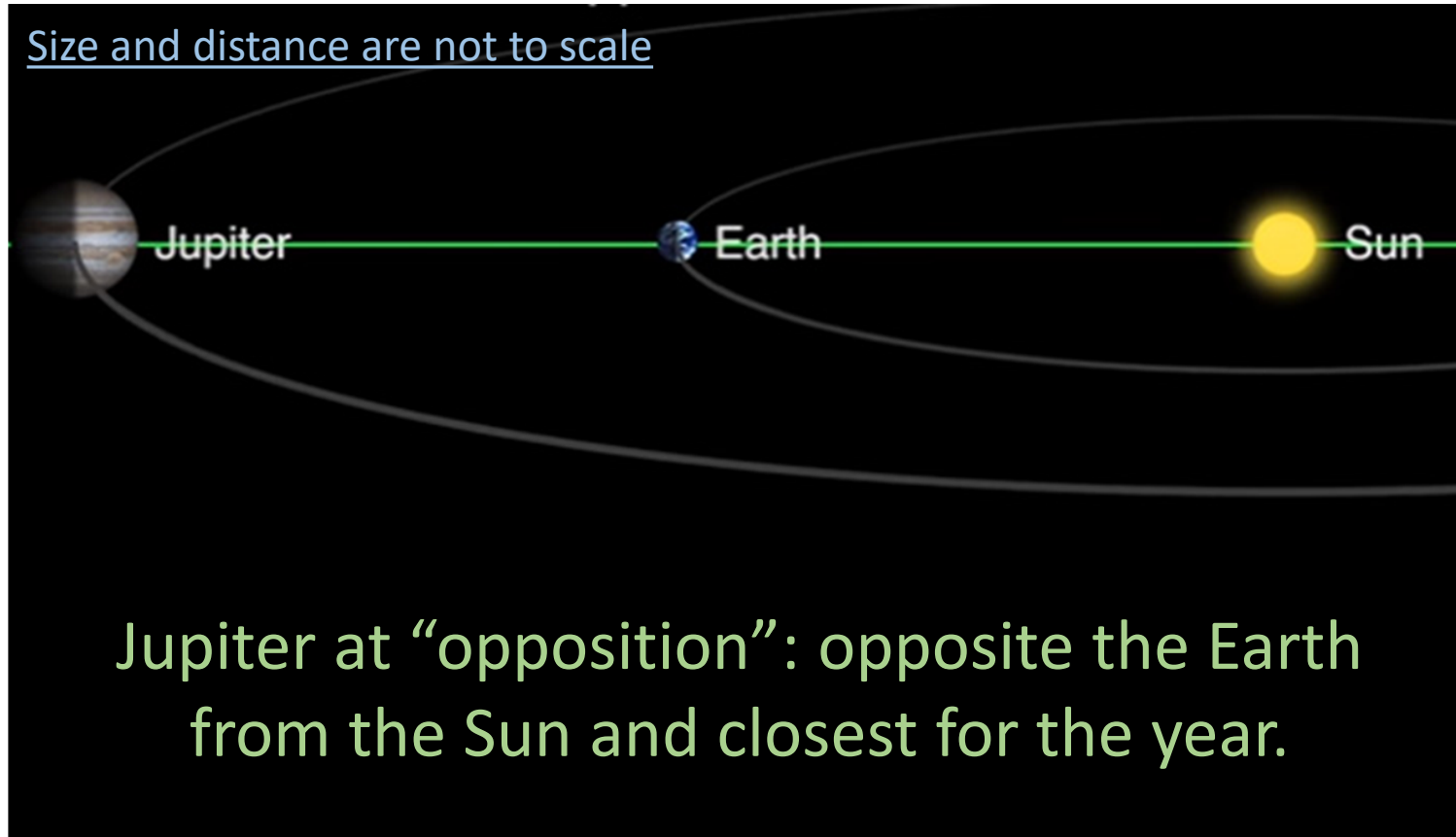


December 2024 Sky Events

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 **Dec. 7th**. At “opposition” Jupiter will be a very bright magnitude of -2.8!



December 2024 Sky Events

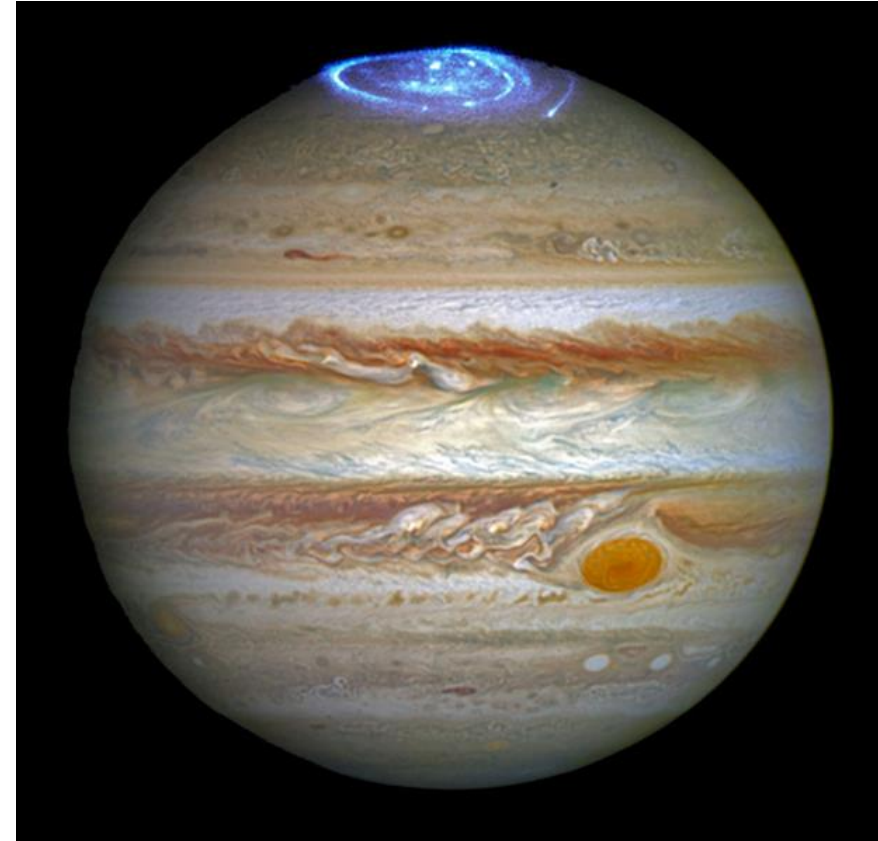
Gas Giant Jupiter Closest to Earth this Month

During December, Jupiter will shine more brightly than any star in the evening sky. Its disk will reach a peak diameter of about 48 arc seconds at opposition.

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.

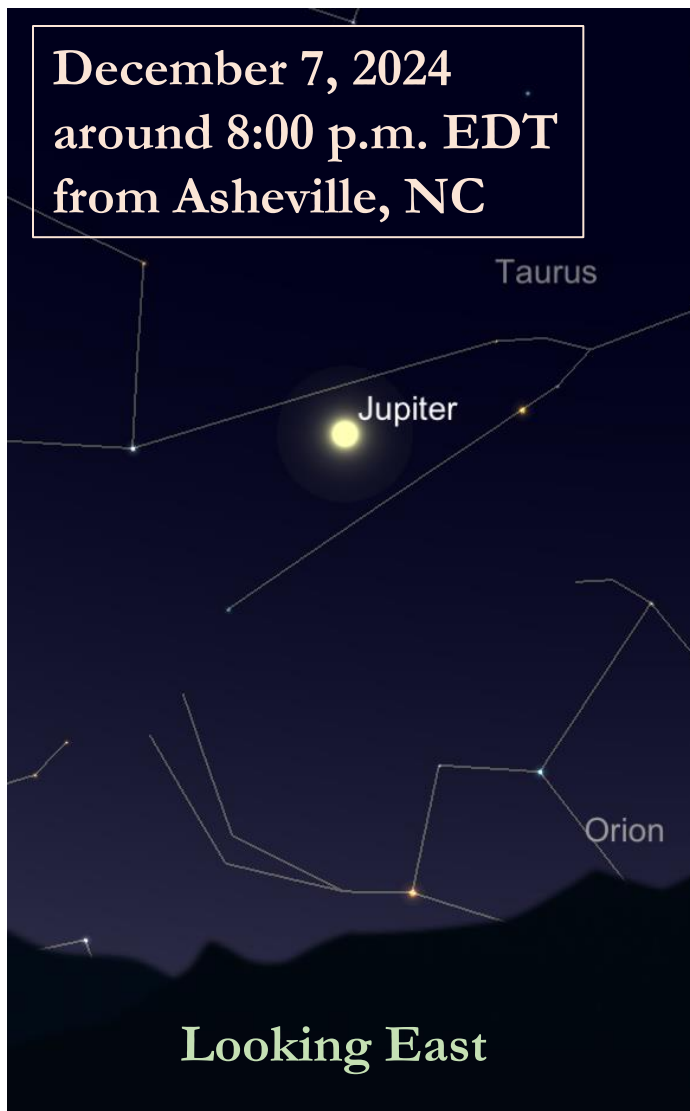
For an app on the positions of Jupiter's moons as well as the location timing for the GRS, [see this link](#).



NASA's Juno Mission Image

December 2024 Sky Events

Gas Giant Jupiter Closest to Earth this Month



Rising at dusk and setting at dawn, the planet Jupiter is visible all night during December.

Located in the zodiac constellation Taurus, the Bull, Jupiter is positioned some 380 million miles (or 34 light minutes) away from Earth at “opposition” on December 7th.

Jupiter is less than half as far from us as Saturn in December, and it also shines some 33 times brighter than Saturn in our night sky this month. Saturn can be found west of Jupiter in the constellation Aquarius.